SECTION 1 – PROCEDURES REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL

Procedures in Section 1 will still require prior approval through the ‘Individual Funding Request Process’ even if the restricted access criteria outlined below are met.

xi) Dermabrasion (Chemical Peel)
OPCS 4 Procedure codes S601 S602
This procedure is not available for skin rejuvenation. It does have a place in the treatment of severe scarring following acne or sometimes following trauma.

xvii) Scar Revision
OPCS 4 Procedure codes S604
This procedure is not available on cosmetic grounds. An exception may be made with certain scars, eg those which interfere with function following burns or for treatment of Keloid and post-surgical scarring.

xviii) Tattoo Removal
OPCS 4 Procedure codes S091 S092 S065 S068 S069
This procedure is not available on cosmetic grounds.

xvix) Removal of Birthmarks
ICD 10 diagnostic code Q825
Available for children up to the age of 18 for permanent large or prominent lesions on face or neck.

xx) Other Benign Skin Lesions
ICD 10 diagnostic codes D170 D171 D172 D173
Other benign skin lesions eg skin tags, fibroepithelial polyps, dermatofibromata, seborrhoeic warts will not be removed on cosmetic grounds. However, if symptomatic and inflamed at the time of consultation, removal will be considered.

ICD 10 diagnostic codes D23 D230 D231 D232 D233 D234 D235 D236 D237 D239 L720 L721 L722 L728 L729
Epidermoid (Sebaceous) cysts are always benign and are not removed in the Dermatology Department. Some may become infected and symptomatic and referral to General Surgeons is indicated in these cases.
xxi) Viral Warts and Molluscum Contagiosum in Children under 16 Years of Age  
ICD 10 diagnostic codes B07X  
These are self-limiting viral infections. Warts are appropriately treated in Primary Care by topical Keratolytics. Cryotherapy is too painful and no other treatment is offered in Secondary Care for either condition.

xxii) Viral Warts in Adults  
ICD 10 diagnostic codes B081  
Properly compliant treatment with Keratolytics is as effective as Cryotherapy.

SECTION 2 – PROCEDURES NOT REQUIRING PRIOR AGREEMENT  
The following procedures do not require prior agreement providing the restricted access criteria are met. An audit of these procedures will be undertaken routinely.

2.1 EXCISION OF OTHER SKIN LESIONS

General Remarks  
If a GP or consultant is concerned that any skin lesion may be malignant the patient should continue to be referred and treated promptly. The general remarks about other cosmetic procedures also apply to the excision of benign skin lesions. Some benign skin lesions will continue to be excised in the acute sector for differential diagnosis. Some GPs also offer these procedures as part of their general practice, although not all patients currently have access to these services.

i) Pigmented Lesions  
ICD 10 diagnostic codes L810 L811 L812 L813 L814 L815 L816 L817 L818 L819  
Removal of obviously clinically benign moles is not available on cosmetic grounds. In most cases the distinction between suspicious and purely benign moles is clear cut but suspicious pigmented lesions should always be subjected to excision biopsy.

All people with suspected skin cancer should be referred urgently on the “Two week wait” pathway.