

Update – Small Skin Lesion definition GP Level 1

Avant has included for a number of years in its Category Guide a list of procedures that are included in our acceptable procedure list for GP-Level 1 (non proceduralist) including:

“Excision of small superficial skin lesions including repair of small local flaps but excluding hair transplant flaps”.

Over the last three years a number of GPs have contacted us seeking better clarity on what we mean by “small”. We had resisted seeking to clarify what we mean by “small” until introducing a note in our Category Guide for 2011 as follows:

“Small superficial skin lesions – under this category the small lesion size should not exceed 1cm on the face (including nose, ears, eyes, eyelids) and fingers. On the remainder of the body the superficial lesion size should not exceed 2cm. Superficial means that the lesion should not include the deep dermis”.

These words were selected in consultation with expert members and were not written by insurance experts.

In introducing these words we had hoped to be helpful and not unhelpful.

After consultations with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Mutual Board we have determined to remove the additional words and return to the original position.

The original position is:

“Excision of small superficial skin lesions including repair of small local flaps but excluding hair transplant flaps”.

Small superficial skin lesions will not be defined.

This will be reflected in the next version of the Avant Category of Practice Guide which will be released at the end of 2011.

We otherwise note that if a GP wishes to undertake excisions that are not “small” they should apply to be in our Level 2A category in lieu of our Level 1 category.