

## **Skin lesion removal or closure under general anaesthesia or IV sedation - effective from 1 April 2026**

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost for skin lesion removal or closure services under general anaesthesia (GA) or intravenous (IV) sedation under a member's policy when the [skin lesion removal eligibility criteria](#) or [Mohs surgery eligibility criteria](#) has been met and then at least **one** of the below are met for that member.

### **1. Medical indication requiring GA or IV sedation**

- The member has been recommended for GA or IV sedation due to a documented medical condition that poses undue risk if the procedure were performed under local anaesthesia (LA) or non anaesthetic.
- The member has a surgical indication related to the skin lesion removal that poses undue risk if the procedure were performed under LA or no anaesthetic.
- The member is undergoing another eligible surgical procedure that requires GA/IV sedation, and the skin lesion removal is being performed during the same operation.

### **2. Patient-specific factors preventing safe management with LA or sedation**

The member presents with diagnosed and clinically documented behavioural, developmental, or psychological factors that significantly impair their ability to safely undergo the procedure under LA or no sedation.

Eligible patient factors include:

- Documented intellectual or developmental disabilities: eg autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome.
- Diagnosed neurological or psychiatric disorders: impairing cooperation or procedural tolerance, eg Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia. Confirmation from a treating clinician (eg GP, specialist, psychologist, or psychiatrist) may be requested where necessary to establish medical necessity.
- Children under age 16.
- Non-verbal patients: where communication barriers preclude safe treatment under LA or no sedation.

Supporting documentation must be retained for audit purposes, demonstrating compliance with the above criteria and, where applicable, providing justification that the comparative risk of LA or no anaesthetic is higher than that of IV sedation or GA.

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.

