

Australian Society of Dermal Clinicians Practice Standards Summary Document

This code of ethical practice applies to all Dermal Clinicians and Therapists. In applying to become a member of the Australian Society of Dermal Clinicians applicants accept to be responsible and accountable for abiding by the standards and expectations outlined in this code.

It is expected that Dermal Clinicians and Dermal Therapists will also exercise professional judgement to provide the best possible patient centred and evidence based care when providing skin health services.

Dermal health professionals should not rely solely on this code as compliance with commonwealth, state and territory or case laws. Where there is a conflict between the code and any law, the law takes precedence

Domain 1: Dermal health professionals conduct person centred consultations

Dermal health professionals are culturally competent and respect diversity within the Australian population. They develop therapeutic relationships and approach each person as an individual with their own unique experiences, preferences and needs. Dermal health professionals utilise a variety of communication techniques appropriate to the person to gather information relating to the presenting problem or concern, history, experience, expectations and desired outcomes of dermal (skin) therapy.

Domain 2: Dermal health professionals conduct thorough client assessment

Dermal health professionals conduct holistic physical examination of the person, maintaining personal privacy and professional boundaries as well as respecting their cultural, religious and personal needs. Dermal health professionals use a range of subjective and objective assessment techniques including clinical tools to visualise and understand how the presenting problem or concern impacts on the skin as well as the experience of the person.

Domain 3: Dermal health professionals identify, prevent and manage risk to provide safe skin health services

Dermal health professionals take all steps necessary to prevent adverse events. This includes processes for candidate selection, referral, education, risk assessment and risk minimisation strategies as well as timely and appropriate communication and management of adverse events.

Dermal health professionals must ensure that these processes are documented. Dermal health professionals ensure they have appropriate professional indemnity insurance

Domain 4: Dermal health professionals develop evidence based and patient centred skin health care plans.

Dermal health professionals must provide person focused, evidence based skin health education and services. Evidence based strategies are those that are supported by a scientific methodology or paradigm and/or have consensus within scientific literature to be best practice. The provision of person centred care respects the need for shared decision making between the Dermal health professional and the person, including their needs, preferences and other impacting factors such as health and psychosocial status

Domain 5: Dermal health professionals provide safe and appropriate skin health services in compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Dermal health professionals must ensure they are up to date and comply with all Commonwealth state and local council laws regulations and guidelines that pertain to their practice to ensure safe provision of skin health education and services. This includes all jurisdictional requirements for infection control and other risk minimisation requirements related to the provision of skin health services. Dermal health professionals will maintain currency and comply with work occupational health and safety and professional ongoing education requirements associated with the use of equipment or procedures in the provision of skin health services. Dermal health professionals provide skin services within their scope of practice

Domain 6: Dermal health professionals evaluate the treatment outcomes and review care plans to inform future practice.

Dermal health professionals take accountability for evaluating and documenting the progress and outcomes of skin health services in order to improve practice. Evaluation is based on negotiated needs, goals or priorities as well as clinical endpoints utilising appropriate subjective and objective assessment tools and techniques. Dermal health professionals will conduct appropriate evaluation at appropriate intervals discussed with the person in order to evaluate treatment safety and success to work toward achieving desired goals or endpoints. Dermal health professionals will revise plans or goals based on this information in partnership with the relevant person/s and their needs and goals.

Domain 7: Dermal health professionals are self reflective practitioners.

Dermal health professionals participate in self and peer reflective activities to continually learn and improve practice. They will critically evaluate and interrogate their actions, beliefs, values and behaviours and the impact these may have on safety and outcomes of skin health services.

Dermal health professionals will strive to implement changes to continually grow and improve based on learnings resulting from this process

Domain 8: Dermal health professionals participate in clinical governance and quality control processes to improve dermal practice

Dermal health professionals participate in activities and processes to improve the safety and quality of skin health services in order to improve outcomes for those with skin health problems and concerns..

Dermal health professionals will strive to implement changes to continually grow and improve practice based on learnings resulting from this process

Declaration

I, (printed name) agree to accept and uphold the values, behaviours and conduct outlined in the code of ethical practice as a dermal health professional and member of the Australian Society of Dermal Clinicians. I understand that not upholding these standards of ethical practice may result in disciplinary action should I be deemed in breach or have demonstrated professional misconduct.

Date (insert here)