

## Table 14 – Functions of the Skin

### Introduction to Table 14

- Table 14 is to be used to assess the functional impact of a diagnosed condition related to disorders of, or injury to, the skin.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment
- The diagnosis of the condition causing the impairment must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms must be supported by corroborating medical evidence.

Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a report from the person's treating doctor;
- a report from a medical specialist (such as dermatologist, burns specialist or oncologist) confirming diagnosis of dermatological conditions burns, or cancer (such as melanoma, graft versus host disease);
- assessments or reports from practitioners specialising in the treatment and management of these conditions (such as dermatologists, burn specialists, registered nurses, physiotherapists, pain management specialists or occupational therapists).
- When determining whether a descriptor applies that involves a person performing an activity, the descriptor applies if that person can do the activity when they would be expected to do so and not only once or rarely.
- When assessing episodic or fluctuating impairments and conditions (such as chronic pain), a rating must be assigned which reflects the overall functional impact of those impairments, taking into account the severity, duration and frequency of the episodes or fluctuations as appropriate.
- Assistance means assistance from another person rather than any aids or equipment the person may use, unless specified otherwise.
- The examples used in descriptors are not an exhaustive list and are to be used only as a guide.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is <b>no or minimal</b> functional impact on activities involving functions of the skin.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is able to perform normal daily activities (such as washing dishes, shampooing hair, household cleaning and participating in outdoor activities) with no or minimal difficulty.</p>

5	<p><i>There is a <b>mild</b> functional impact on activities involving functions of the skin.</i></p> <p>(1) Regarding the minor adaptations to some daily activities that the person has to make, at least one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="391 932 1471 1087">(a) the person has mild difficulties performing activities involving use of their hands due to minor skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring, skin ulcerations or chronic pain, such as mild allodynia, and may need to wear protective gloves for some tasks, apply protective cream to the hands, or limit repetitive tasks involving use of the hands;</li> <li data-bbox="391 1100 1471 1226">(b) the person has mild difficulties performing activities involving use of other parts of the body due to minor skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring, skin ulcerations or chronic pain, such as mild allodynia, and may need to apply protective cream to the body, or limit repetitive tasks;</li> <li data-bbox="391 1239 1471 1365">(c) the person has mild difficulties performing activities involving exposure to sunlight due to heightened sensitivity to sunlight, such as impacts of certain medications or past history of skin cancers, and needs to take higher than normal precautions to limit exposure to sunlight.</li> </ul>
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*There is a **moderate** functional impact on activities involving functions of the skin.*

- (1) Regarding the adaptations to several daily activities that the person has to make, at least one of the following applies:
  - (a) the person has moderate difficulties performing activities involving use of their hands due to skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring, skin ulcerations or chronic pain, such as moderate allodynia, and needs to wear protective gloves for most tasks, avoid contact with all detergents and soaps, or avoid repetitive tasks involving use of the hands;
  - (b) the person has moderate difficulties performing daily activities due to scarring from burns which restricts movement of limbs or other parts of the body, such as they may require additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks may need to be modified;
  - (c) the person has moderate difficulties performing daily activities due to lesions on skin which require creams or dressings and limit movement and comfort, such as they may require additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks may need to be modified;
  - (d) the person has moderate difficulties performing activities involving exposure to sunlight due to heightened sensitivity to sunlight, such as the impacts of certain medications, past history of skin cancers, albinism, or other genetic condition, and needs to take higher than normal precautions to avoid exposure to sunlight, such as having to wear sunscreen at all times, wear hat and other protective clothing at all times outside and has to limit time spent outside in sunlight.
  - (e) history of skin cancers, albinism, or other genetic condition, and needs to take higher than normal precautions to avoid exposure to sunlight, such as having to wear sunscreen at all times, wear hat and other protective clothing at all times outside and has to limit time spent outside in sunlight.

20	<p><i>There is a <b>severe</b> functional impact on activities involving functions of the skin.</i></p> <p>(1) Regarding the person's significant modification to, or inability to perform, daily activities, at least 2 of the following apply:</p> <p>(a) the person has severe difficulties performing activities involving use of their hands due to major skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring, skin ulcerations or chronic pain, such as severe allodynia, and has severe difficulty performing some tasks involving use of the hands;</p> <p>(b) the person has severe difficulties performing daily activities due to scarring from burns which restricts movement of limbs or other parts of the body, such as they may not be able to perform some tasks, requires additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks need to be modified;</p> <p>(c) the person has severe difficulties performing daily activities due to extensive or severe lesions on skin which require creams or dressings and limit movement and comfort, such as they may not be able to perform some tasks, requires additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks need to be modified;</p> <p>(d) the person has severe difficulties performing activities involving exposure to sunlight due to heightened sensitivity to sunlight, such as the impact of certain medications, past history of skin cancers, albinism, or other genetic condition, and can spend only a brief period of time in sunlight each day even when wearing sunscreen and protective clothing;</p> <p>(e) the person is not able to wear clothing or footwear likely to be required in their workplace, including items of personal protective equipment, such as protective glasses, ear defenders, safety jacket, gloves, safety boots, safe shoes or hard hat.</p>
30	<p><i>There is an <b>extreme</b> functional impact on activities involving functions of the skin.</i></p> <p>(1) The person has to make major modifications to most daily activities or is unable to perform most daily activities, requires repeated assistance throughout the day and could not attend a work, education or training session for a continuous period of at least 3 hours as at least one of the following applies:</p> <p>a) the person has such extensive damage or scarring of their skin that they are unable to perform most daily activities without extreme difficulty or discomfort;</p> <p>b) the person requires continual application or wearing of medically prescribed creams or dressings to most or all of the skin on the body;</p> <p>c) the person has extreme reactions to normal exposure to sunlight or skin contact with routine substances found in most households, requiring repeated urgent medical treatment and frequent hospitalisation.</p>