



American College of Mohs Surgery

*Fellowship trained skin cancer
and reconstructive surgeons*

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Dear Healthcare Executive,

The American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS) represents more than 1,500 Mohs micrographic surgeons who have successfully completed extensive fellowship training in Mohs micrographic surgery following their dermatology residency training. Mohs micrographic surgeons are experts in the most effective treatment option for advanced or difficult-to-treat skin cancers. In line with its mission, the ACMS sets and promotes the highest standards of patient care relating to Mohs surgery.

What is Mohs Micrographic Surgery?

Originally developed in the 1930s by Dr. Frederic Mohs at the University of Wisconsin, Mohs micrographic surgery has been refined into the most advanced, precise, and effective treatment for an increasing variety of skin cancer types. With the Mohs technique, physicians can precisely identify and remove cancerous tissue while leaving the surrounding healthy tissue intact and unharmed. This microscopically controlled removal of skin cancer offers the highest potential for cure (even if the skin cancer has been previously treated by another method) while sparing tissue for optimal functional and cosmetic results.

Mohs Micrographic Surgery: A Cost-Effective Option for Skin Cancer Treatment

- Cost comparable or less expensive than other skin cancer treatments
- 90% Mohs surgery performed in office without facility fee
- Bundled surgery, anesthesia, and pathology charges
- Highest cure rates achievable
- Low complication rates
- Published Appropriate Use Criteria
- Tissue-sparing surgery requiring less complicated reconstruction.

ACMS Leading the Way in Quality

Improving Wisely – The ACMS has spearheaded an effort in collaboration with Johns Hopkins to employ claims based analytics and direct feedback to members to reduce variations in care. In 2017, practice pattern changes from Improving Wisely resulted in significant savings in Mohs surgery for Medicare beneficiaries.¹

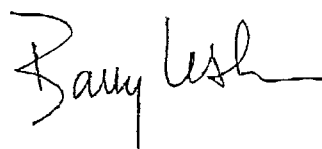
MohsAIQ Clinical Data Registry – In August 2018, the ACMS launched the first national Mohs surgery registry, called MohsAIQ (Mohs Surgery Advancing and Improving Quality). MohsAIQ is engineered with risk stratification, performance measures, and outcomes tracking and provides a rich source of data for research and quality initiatives. With MohsAIQ, ACMS members will be able to report a wide variety of skin cancer treatment specific quality measures and understand how their clinical outcomes compare to benchmarks of regional and national peers.

Appropriate Use Criteria² – ACMS Mohs surgeons utilize the Mohs Surgery Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) process which synthesizes evidence-based medicine, clinical practice experience, and expert judgment. The American Academy of Dermatology, in collaboration with ACMS and other dermatologic surgery associations, has developed appropriate use criteria for 270 scenarios for which Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) is frequently considered based on tumor and patient characteristics. The Mohs AUC forms the basis for Mohs surgery coverage policies for many insurers.

The American College of Mohs Surgery is your expert resource for information on skin cancer diagnosis; treatment and prevention; payment policy including coding issues; and coverage determination.

We look forward to working together and welcome questions and input on issues involving Mohs surgery and skin cancer treatment. Please contact Tammy O’Connell at (414) 347-1103 or toconnell@mohscollege.org.

Sincerely,



Barry Leshin, MD
ACMS President, 2018-2019



Howard W. Rogers, MD, PhD
Chair, ACMS Private Sector
Advocacy Committee

REFERENCES

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2. *JAAD*, October 2012 Volume 67, Issue 4, Pages 531–550, Mohs AUC Appropriate Use Criteria

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