



## Social Security (Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension) Determination 2011

**Table 14 – Functions of the Skin**

### Introduction to Table 14

- Table 14 is to be used where the person has a permanent condition resulting in functional impairment related to disorders of, or injury to, the skin.
- The diagnosis of the condition must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms alone is insufficient.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- 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 (e.g. dermatologist or burns specialist) confirming diagnosis of dermatological conditions or burns;
  - assessments or reports from practitioners specialising in the treatment and management of these conditions such as dermatologists, burn specialists, clinical nurse consultants or nurse practitioners.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is <b>no</b> functional impact on activities requiring healthy, undamaged skin.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is able to perform normal daily activities (e.g. washing dishes, shampooing hair, household cleaning and participating in outdoor activities) with no difficulty.</p>
5	<p><i>There is a <b>mild</b> functional impact on activities requiring healthy, undamaged 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>(a) the person has minor difficulties performing activities involving use of their hands due to minor skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring or nerve pain (e.g. 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>(b) the person has minor difficulties performing activities involving use of other parts of the body due to minor skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring or nerve pain (e.g. mild allodynia);</li> <li>(c) the person has minor difficulties performing activities involving exposure to sunlight due to heightened sensitivity to sunlight (e.g. as a result of certain medications or past history of skin cancers) and needs to take higher than normal precautions to limit exposure to sunlight.</li> </ul>

10	<p><i>There is a <b>moderate</b> functional impact on activities requiring healthy, undamaged skin.</i></p> <p>(1) Regarding the adaptations to several daily activities that the person has to make, at least one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the person has moderate difficulties performing activities involving use of their hands due to minor skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring or nerve pain (e.g. 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;</li> <li>(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 (e.g. may require additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks may need to be modified);</li> <li>(c) the person has moderate difficulties performing daily activities due to lesions on skin which require creams or dressings and limit movement and comfort (e.g. may require additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks may need to be modified);</li> <li>(d) the person has moderate difficulties performing activities involving exposure to sunlight due to heightened sensitivity to sunlight (e.g. as a result 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 (e.g. must wear sunscreen at all times, wear hat and other protective clothing at all times outside and has to limit time spent outside in sunlight).</li> </ul>
20	<p><i>There is a <b>severe</b> functional impact on activities requiring healthy, undamaged skin.</i></p> <p>(1) Regarding the person's significant modifications to, or inability to perform, daily activities, at least two of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the person has severe difficulties performing activities involving use of their hands due to major skin lesions, dermatitis, skin allergies, scarring or nerve pain (e.g. severe allodynia) and is unable to perform some tasks involving use of the hands;</li> <li>(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 (e.g. may not be able to perform some tasks, requires additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks need to be modified);</li> <li>(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 (e.g. may not be able to perform some tasks, requires additional time to perform some tasks, or some tasks need to be modified);</li> <li>(d) the person has severe difficulties performing activities involving exposure to sunlight due to heightened sensitivity to sunlight (e.g. as a result 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;</li> <li>(e) the person is not able to wear clothing or footwear likely to be required in their workplace, including items of personal protective equipment (e.g. protective glasses, ear defenders, safety jacket, gloves, safety boots, safe shoes or hard hat).</li> </ul>

30	<p><i>There is an <b>extreme</b> functional impact on activities requiring healthy, undamaged 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the person has such extensive damage or scarring of their skin that they are unable to perform most daily activities without significant difficulty or discomfort;</li> <li>(b) the person requires continual application or wearing of medically prescribed creams or dressings to most or all of the skin on the body;</li> <li>(c) the person has severe reactions to normal exposure to sunlight or skin contact with routine substances found in most households, requiring repeated urgent medical treatment and frequent hospitalisation.</li> </ul>
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