**Title: Photodynamic therapy for skin and mucosal cancer (PDT) May 1999**

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**Aim**

To assess the safety and effectiveness of the service and under what circumstances public

funding should be supported for the service.

**Conclusions and results**

*Safety* PDT is safe.

*Effectiveness* Trials undertaken have been too small or lacked sufficient controls to

provide firm evidence relating to the effectiveness of PDT relative to current treatment options. Long-term follow up is necessary to resolve uncertainties pertaining to:

the precise role of PDT in the management of non-melanoma skin

cancers and related skin lesions; appropriate indications for PDT; selection of patients for PDT; where to treat patients; and

unresolved issues associated with the physics and diosmetry of PDT.

*Cost-effectiveness* No cost comparisions with other treatment are available. However, PDT has the potential to be very cost-effective.

**Recommendations**

PDT not be supported for public funding due to lack of sufficient evidence.

**Method**

MSAC conducted a systematic review of medical literature via Medline, EmBase, and

HealthSTAR from 1993-98.

**Further research**

PDT trials are underway in Brisbane and at the Skin and Cancer Foundation in Melbourne. Research is continuing into the most appropriate light delivery system and photosensitiser for PDT.