



Pathology reports are being shared with the My Health Record

From April 2017, pathology reports will start being shared to the My Health Record.

You, your patient, and any other healthcare professionals involved in their care will be able to access these pathology reports via the My Health Record, wherever and whenever they are needed.

Sharing pathology reports with the My Health Record will help:

- Improve access to information;
- Reduce duplicate testing; and
- Save time trying to locate or request copies of results.

It will also help your patients:

- Keep track of the tests they have had; and
- Allow a comparison of test results over time.

When and where is this happening

Over the next 12 months, pathology reports will be shared in the My Health Record for inpatients from public hospitals in New South Wales Health, Northern Territory Department of Health, Tasmanian Health Service, ACT Health and Queensland Health. The Northern Territory Department of Health are already uploading diagnostic imaging reports to the My Health Record. Other pathology and diagnostic imaging providers are also working to participate in sending reports to My Health Record. This means, you may not find pathology or diagnostic imaging reports in the My Health Record just yet. However, within the next year or so, you will start to see more of these reports becoming available.

Please contact your local Primary Health Network to obtain the latest information regarding which pathology laboratories in your region are uploading to the My Health Record.

What you need to know

Pathology and diagnostic imaging reports will still be sent directly to you via the usual process.

If your patient has a My Health Record:

- The pathology report will be uploaded to their My Health Record and will be immediately available to members of their healthcare team; and
- The pathology report will be available for your patient to view **after seven days**. This enables you to review the report and contact your patient to discuss the results, if need be, before they can see it in their My Health Record.

Consent

When a patient chooses to participate in the My Health Record, **standing consent** allows all pathology and diagnostic imaging reports to be uploaded to the My Health Record.

You do not need to gain consent from your patient each and every time a document is uploaded to the My Health Record. However, if you believe the results of a pathology test may be considered sensitive, you



may wish to discuss whether or not to have a report uploaded with your patient. If you or your patient do not want a pathology report uploaded to the My Health Record, **please specify “Do not send to My Health Record” on the request form.**

The pathology laboratory will not upload a report to the My Health Record where:

- the patient/consumer or requester has requested the information not be uploaded, or
- the provider believes that the information should not be uploaded – for example, the information is particularly sensitive such as STIs, or
- State or Territory legislation prohibits the disclosure of sensitive information (e.g. AIDS or HIV status) without the express consent of the individual.

Viewing a pathology report in the My Health Record

Some GP clinical information systems already have a Pathology View built into the software. In other software packages, where a dedicated Pathology View is not yet available, pathology reports can be found and accessed in the same way that you can access other clinical documents in the My Health Record via your clinical information system.

It may be useful to consider checking a patient’s My Health Record if:

- They are a new patient;
- They are travelling from inter-state;
- After hospital discharge, or
- In an emergency situation.

Patients who have been in hospital may have a long list of pathology reports available. You may find it useful to utilise the filters in your clinical information system when viewing patients My Health Record to show:

- Only tests within a specified timeframe;
- By document type e.g. Pathology Reports, or
- By test type [coming soon].

My Health Record legislation

In using the My Health Record, all healthcare providers must comply with the legislative requirements that support it. Under the My Health Record legislation:

- A healthcare provider (e.g. pathology laboratory) must not upload information to the My Health Record where the patient has advised the provider not to upload that information.
- The serious penalties relating to the misuse of information do not apply to accidental misuse. The unauthorised collection, use or disclosure of information *will only incur a penalty if the person knows or is reckless as to whether that action is unauthorised*. This means that if a person accidentally collects, uses or discloses this information they are not liable for a civil or criminal penalty (although there may still be an interference with privacy and the Australian Information Commissioner may still be able to investigate).

For more information see <https://myhealthrecord.gov.au/internet/mhr/publishing.nsf/Content/legislation>



About the Australian Digital Health Agency

The Australian Digital Health Agency commenced operations on 1 July 2016 and is tasked with improving health outcomes for Australians through the delivery of digital health services and systems. The Agency is responsible for all national digital health services and systems, with a focus on engagement, innovation and clinical quality and safety. Our focus is on putting data and technology safely to work for patients, consumers and the healthcare professionals who look after them. Established as a statutory authority in the form of a corporate Commonwealth entity, the Agency reports to State and Territory Health Ministers through the COAG Health Council.

For more information or help:

- call our Help Centre on 1300 901 001, 8am-6pm Monday to Friday
- email help@digitalhealth.gov.au
- visit our website www.digitalhealth.gov.au
- contact your local Primary Health Network (PHN)