

# Pathology during your hospital stay



During your stay in hospital you may need to have pathology tests to provide your treating doctor with a diagnosis or to monitor your progress.

## YOUR SAMPLE

Sometimes you may not even be aware that you have been referred to a specialist pathologist or that a sample has been collected. This is the case when your sample is collected during an operation by a surgeon or when a nurse collects blood from your IV line during recuperation. However, it is most likely that you will meet one of our highly trained pathology specimen collectors who will collect your blood and take it to the laboratory for testing.

## YOUR TEST

**Tissue Sample Histopathology** involves a complex process of examining tissue samples collected under anaesthetic to diagnose your condition. Your sample may be a small biopsy taken during a procedure such as a colonoscopy or a much larger sample collected during an operation. Our team of expertly trained scientists prepare your sample (which can take more than 12 hours) so that the pathologists can examine it and make the diagnosis. Sometimes the pathologists and scientist work in theatre alongside the surgical team to provide a diagnosis during the operation. This is known as "Frozen Section Histopathology". The pathology diagnosis guides the surgeon and is pivotal to the success of the operation. In certain cases the pathologist needs to perform additional tests for diagnosis and to provide your treating doctor with valuable information about treatment. These are genetics tests for which there is no Medicare or private health fund rebates.

**Clinical pathology** is the term used to describe pathology tests that involve blood and other bodily samples. Clinical pathology tests are used both as diagnostic tests and to monitor your progress.

After your sample is collected it is taken to the laboratory where teams of highly skilled scientists and technicians perform your tests.

Your diagnosis is made by a pathologist who is a doctor with extensive medical training.

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# Your Account for Pathology Tests During Your Hospital Stay

## YOUR ACCOUNT

Pathology fees are separate from the fees charged by other doctors that may treat you during your hospital stay. We limit our fees so that your out of pocket expenses are kept to a minimum.

Patients who have eligible private health insurance cover with a private health fund that is affiliated with North West Pathology may have their account billed directly to Medicare Australia and the private fund for full payment. They may not incur any additional out of pocket expenses for tests that are eligible for Medicare rebates.\*

All patients who are uninsured or whose private fund is not affiliated with North West Pathology will receive an account for their pathology tests. When the account is paid the receipt may be submitted to Medicare and your private fund to claim the associated rebates.

The following fees apply per hospital stay regardless of the number and complexity of tests.

### Medicare Eligible Pathology Tests\*

**Non-concession patients** – Australian Medical Association (AMA) rates with an out of pocket gap up to a maximum of \$390 per hospital stay.

**Concession patients (Pension or Health Care Card Holders)** – Medicare Schedule fee with no out of pocket gap for patients with private health insurance.

**Department of Veterans Affairs (Gold Card Holders)** – direct billed to the Department of Veterans Affairs with no out of pocket fee per hospital stay.

## PAYING YOUR ACCOUNT



Australia Post Office



Phone Credit Card 131816 Biller Code 2172



BPay Internet Banking



Mail cheque to PO Box 1535 Hobart TAS 7001

## MEDICARE REBATE ELIGIBILITY

\*Your Medicare rebate is the subsidy provided by the Australian government for services that are included in the Medicare Benefits Schedule. If any of your tests are not covered in this Schedule you will not receive a rebate. You will need to pay for these tests in full. For more information about personal and test eligibility visit the Medicare Australia website [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or contact Medicare on 132 011.

## ACCOUNT ENQUIRES

If you need assistance please contact our Patient Services Support Team on **1300 735 476**.

\*Correct at time of printing (Nov 2009), subject to change without notice.  
Further information visit our website [www.northwestpath.com.au](http://www.northwestpath.com.au)



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