

MEDIA STATEMENT

04 JULY 2017

**PATHOLOGY TEST REQUESTING BY PRACTITIONERS
OTHER THAN MEDICAL OR NURSE PRACTITIONERS**

[The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia](#) (RCPA) would like to clarify its formal policy on non-medical and nurse practitioner requesting of pathology, as approved in February 2013. The RCPA does not endorse or have any partnership or alliance with any programs in relation to the non-medical requesting of pathology tests.

Dr Michael Harrison, President of the RCPA, said,

“Irrespective of whether a pathology test is requested by a medical or non-medical practitioner, all test results provided by the pathology profession are utilised to assist in the diagnosis or management of a patient’s health in order to deliver the highest levels of care. Pathology testing in Australia is usually performed in an environment described by the Request-Test-Report cycle (Walmsley RN & White GH 1985). This cycle consists of: a request made by a medical practitioner; a test performed in an accredited laboratory; and a report given to the requesting doctor who is best placed to then decide on appropriate further action.”

“However, tests may be requested by a wide range of people who are not registered medical practitioners. These may include those who are part of current health care services, such as pharmacists, dieticians, physiotherapists, podiatrists and dentists. In these circumstances the RCPA Policy requires the laboratory and the requestor understand the importance of oversight by a medical practitioner.”

To review the RCPA’s full policy on non-medical and nurse practitioner requesting of pathology, please visit the College website - <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/getattachment/6f15e4de-4069-4fd4-b250-4c39c842b60b/Pathology-Test-Requesting-by-Practitioners-other.aspx>.

The RCPA has a separate policy in relation to pathology test requesting by nurse-practitioners and midwives. This policy can also be viewed on the College website - <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/getattachment/41960a8f-df80-4f44-a7e2-8245d2ff6d73/Pathology-Test-Requesting-by-Nurse-Practitioners.aspx>

References:

Walmsley RN, White GH. Pocket Diagnostic Clinical Chemistry, Blackwell Scientific, Melbourne 1985.

About the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA):

The RCPA is the leading organisation representing pathologists in Australasia. Its mission is to train and support pathologists and to improve the use of pathology testing to achieve better healthcare.



For more information, visit our website www.rcpa.edu.au or see our updates on Twitter - @PathologyRCPA - and Facebook #MedicineIsPathology #RCPA #pathology.

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