

Position Statement

Subject: **Supervision of individual components of the Request-Test-Report cycle**
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Pathology testing is a medical service. While referring doctors/Nurse Practitioners) may collect a pathology specimen, the responsibility for its transportation to the laboratory usually lies with the laboratory to which the test has been referred. The conditions of transportation should be specified by the quality system of that laboratory.

The validity of results can be compromised anywhere along the Request-Test-report cycle. Therefore, all elements must be under the same quality system and the supervision of a pathologist, including:

- advice to the referring clinician as to appropriate investigation and test selection
- provision of information as to appropriate patient preparation sample collection, preservation and transport
- verification of specimen suitability
- collection and transport of the sample where required
- recording of specimen collection time and laboratory processing time.
- all elements of the analytical and reporting processes
- transmission and delivery of the pathology report
- consultation, interpretation and availability for further advice as required.

Participation in appropriate Quality Assurance activities and programs should be undertaken to assess, manage and assure the performance of each critical step in this pathway.