



# Hospital patients pre-admission advice

## WHAT IS PATHOLOGY?

Pathology is the branch of medicine that involves studying and diagnosing diseases. By looking at changes in tissue, blood and other body fluids, it is possible to find the causes of disease or show a condition's severity. During your stay in hospital, you may require pathology tests to provide your treating doctor with a diagnosis, or to monitor your progress.

## YOUR TEST

While you are in hospital, your doctor may request some pathology tests. Sometimes you may be unaware that a sample will be collected, perhaps during your operation, 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 during your stay.

In the laboratory, our expert team of pathologists and scientists will work around the clock to report results in the shortest possible time – mostly within 24 hours, sometimes in less than 1 hour.

A pathologist may examine your tissue sample, either during and/or following your surgery. In each case the pathologist will report the diagnosis to your referring doctor and in some instances consult with your doctor about the diagnosis. The full laboratory investigation of tissue samples involves specially trained scientific teams and can take longer than the operation itself.

Clinical pathology tests may also be performed on blood and/or other body fluids.

## OUR TEAM

Our pathologists are doctors who have undergone many years of additional specialist training. They are leaders in their field and are called on for expert opinion by their local and international colleagues. Our specially trained scientific team is supported by a network of collectors, couriers and administrative staff to ensure that your tests are handled efficiently and your report is delivered to your doctor and hospital staff as rapidly as possible.

Southern.IML Pathology is fully accredited by NATA in conjunction with The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

Pathology underpins modern medicine. More than 70 per cent of all diagnoses are made in a pathology laboratory. Every single case of cancer, in Australia, is diagnosed by a pathologist.



**SOUTHERN .IML**  
**PATHOLOGY**

*"Your local Laboratory with national resources, serving our community"*

# Your Account and Your Medicare Rebate

## YOUR ACCOUNT

If you have pathology tests performed during your stay in hospital, you may receive an account for the tests that have been performed.

Fees for pathology tests and ancillary tests are separate from the fees charged by other doctors who may treat you during your hospital stay.

We limit our fees, so that your out-of-pocket expenses are kept to a minimum. Your maximum out-of-pocket payment for Medicare-eligible pathology tests performed by us, while you are in hospital, is \$390\* per account.

## PAYING YOUR ACCOUNT



**Australia Post Office** The receipt you will receive may be used to claim your Medicare rebate.



**BPay Internet Banking** The reference number is unique, so you will need to change this number for each new account. Your receipt will be mailed to you.



**Phone Credit Card 1300 135 139** Phone facility 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Your receipt will be mailed to you.



**Website** You may access our website to pay your account. [www.southernpath.com.au](http://www.southernpath.com.au)

You may pay by cash, cheque or credit card, at any of our collection rooms. Please refer to our website for a convenient collection centre.

## CLAIMING YOUR REBATE

When the account is paid, you may submit the receipt to Medicare and your private health insurer in order to claim your rebate.

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 Accounts department on **1300 552 512**.

\* Correct at time of printing, subject to change without notice.

For further information, visit our website [www.southernpath.com.au](http://www.southernpath.com.au)