



Pathology and your account 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 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 an 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 another operation. Our team of expertly trained scientists prepares 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 working 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 may include 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 ACCOUNT

Pathology fees are separate from the fees charged by other doctors that may treat you during your hospital stay. Southern.IML Pathology has agreements with most Health Funds operating in NSW and these agreements mean that you will have no out of pocket expenses for tests that are eligible for Medicare rebates during your hospital stay. Additionally, if you have eligible private health insurance cover with a private health fund that is affiliated with Southern.IML Pathology, your account will be billed directly to Medicare Australia and the private fund for full payment (i.e. You may not even receive an account from Southern.IML Pathology). If you are uninsured, you may receive an account for the pathology tests. When the account is paid, the receipt may be submitted to Medicare to claim the associated rebates. The following fees apply per hospital stay regardless of the number and complexity of tests.

Medicare Eligible Pathology Tests

Privately insured patients - No out of pocket expenses for eligible funds (non-eligible funds to a maximum of \$500 per hospital stay).

Non Concession Patients NOT privately insured - A fee may be incurred up to \$500 out of pocket per hospital stay.

Concession patients (Pension or Health Care Card Holders) - Medicare Schedule fee with no out of pocket gap for patients in an eligible Health Fund.

Department of Veterans Affairs (Gold Card Holders) not in an eligible Health Fund - No out of pocket expenses.

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.humanservices.gov.au or contact Medicare on 132 011.

ACCOUNT ENQUIRES

If you need assistance please contact our Accounts Team on 1800 015 973.

Correct at time of printing (March 2015), subject to change without notice. Further information visit our website www.southernpath.com.au