Fact sheet

Your pathology and radiology reports in My Health Record

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My Health Record provides you and your healthcare providers with safe and secure access to your key health information, including your pathology and diagnostic imaging reports. You can access it through myGov (my.gov.au) or the 1800MEDICARE app (digitalhealth.gov.au/1800MEDICAREapp). You can control access and see when it is accessed.

When can I access my pathology or radiology reports in My Health Record?

The time it takes for a report to become available in My Health Record depends on:

- How long it takes for the report to be prepared and finalised
- When the report is uploaded
- Whether a delay applies before a report can be reviewed.

When are results available?

After you visit your pathology or diagnostic imaging provider, they will review and analyse the results. They may also need input from a specialised pathology laboratory or radiology provider. It can take days, or even weeks, for a report to be finalised, depending on the type of test.

When the report is ready, it is sent to the healthcare provider that requested the test. Generally, it will be uploaded to My Health Record within 24 hours of being shared with the requesting provider.

Pathology reports

- Most pathology reports (like blood and urine tests) are available to view as they are uploaded.
- Some types of reports are viewable after a 5-day delay, regardless of the result.

Diagnostic imaging reports

- Some X-ray reports for limbs (arms and legs) are viewable as soon as they are uploaded.
- Other X-rays and diagnostic imaging reports (for scans like CT, MRI and PET scans, mammograms and ultrasounds) are viewable after 5 days, regardless of the result.

For both pathology and diagnostic imaging reports, if there are multiple results in the same report, where different delay periods apply, the 5-day delay period will apply to the entire report.

Will all my test results be uploaded?

No – reports may not be uploaded where:

- you or your representative ask that a report is not uploaded
- details on the request form do not match your details in My Health Record
- a system or technical issue prevents the upload
- the pathology or diagnostic imaging provider has applied for an extension of time to comply with the upload requirements
- the report is written by a specialist who is not a pathologist or radiologist (for example, a cardiologist, gynaecologist or gastroenterologist)

- you do not have a record, or you have hidden your entire record from view so that healthcare providers don't know you have a record – this can prevent uploads from occurring.
- a healthcare provider reasonably believes uploading the report could pose a risk to your health, safety or wellbeing
- the type of report is not required to be uploaded (such as workplace drug and alcohol testing, court-ordered testing, or testing for law enforcement purposes)
- a state or territory law prevents the upload from occurring in certain circumstances.

I don't know what my result means – what should I do?

Your results will be sent directly to your GP or other healthcare provider who requested the test.

Healthcare providers are an important source of advice and support for understanding your results, discussing treatment options and determining next steps in care. For this reason, you should always make a follow-up appointment with your provider to discuss your results and next steps.

You can also visit Pathology Tests Explained (www.ptex.au) to learn more about pathology tests.

I can't open my report – is there a problem with my result?

No. If access to a result is delayed this doesn't mean there is anything wrong. Some results won't be available for 5 days after they are uploaded, this is because of the type of test, not the result.

Can I choose not to have information uploaded?

Yes – you can ask your healthcare provider not to upload a particular report. Your nominated or authorised representative can also make this request for you. If a report isn't uploaded, you and your healthcare providers won't be able to see it in your record.

What if I change my mind?

If you choose not to upload a report, you may not be able to change this in the future. Only some providers have computer systems that allow them to upload a report after it was created.

If a report is uploaded and you decide later that you don't want it in My Health Record, you can remove it, hide it from view, or restrict who can see it by using the privacy and access controls.

How is my privacy protected?

My Health Record has strong privacy and security protections:

- You decide who can see your information
- You can see who has accessed your record
- There are penalties for unauthorised access or misuse
- Audit trails and access history are available to you
- Emergency access is tightly controlled.

Learn more about
your results in My Health Record