

Guideline

Subject: Pathology Test Requesting by Patients
Approval Date: July 2010, November 2014
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Review By: BPPQ
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Patients requesting of pathology tests can lead to inappropriate or unnecessary testing, or failure to undergo more appropriate tests that would have been requested by a trained practitioner. The greatest concern, however, relates to patients interpreting test results, as a lack of medical knowledge can result in misinterpretation and compromise subsequent care. Furthermore, if patients request tests there could be issues with duty of care when critical results are generated and there is a need for urgent interpretation and treatment, yet no treating practitioner has been identified.

It is the College's position that pathology tests should be requested by a medical practitioner or other approved requestor. All results should be sent to a medical practitioner for interpretation and determination of subsequent patient management.