

Advisory

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| Title | Structured reporting of COVID-19 text message results |
| Advisory number | PA22/02 |
| Version number | 1.0 |
| TRIM number | D22-1615 |
| Publication date | 22 March 2022 |
| Replaces | Not applicable |
| Compliance with this advisory | It is mandatory for National Pathology Accreditation Scheme accrediting agencies and pathology laboratories and service providers |
| Information in this advisory applies to | All approved pathology accrediting agencies Pathology laboratories and service providers seeking accreditation to the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) pathology standards under the National Pathology Accreditation Scheme |
| Key relationship | Requirements for medical pathology services (Third Edition 2018) |
| Attachment | |
| Notes | Not applicable |
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| To be reviewed | March 2023 |

Advisory

PA22/02: Structured reporting of COVID-19 text message results

Purpose

To clarify the expected requirements (data elements) for structured reporting of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test results to consumers via text message.

Issue

State and territory health departments have set out a number of public health initiatives on the prompt reporting of COVID-19 PCR test results in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Australia. This includes using text messaging services to communicate these results to consumers.

Pathology laboratories in the health system continue to work closely with state and territory governments to support and implement these initiatives.

The reporting of COVID-19 PCR test results via text message has become routine across Australia. However, guidance on the structure of the reporting varies between states and territories and public and private pathology laboratories.

This may be due to:

- variabilities in information and communications technology infrastructure
- concerns about maintaining security and privacy of consumers
- workforce capability and capacity limitations
- the rapidly evolving nature of jurisdictional priorities and strategies.

NPAAC's *Requirements for medical pathology services (Third Edition 2018)* sets out the expected data elements for recording and structured reporting of pathology tests. The expected data elements have been adapted for the use of text messaging to report COVID-19 PCR test results to consumers.

All pathology laboratories and service providers are responsible for ensuring systems and processes are in place to meet the expected data elements for structured reporting of COVID-19 PCR test results via text message, including maintaining the security of these services and the privacy of consumers.

Advisory

Requirements

From 4 April 2022, the expected data elements for structured reporting of COVID-19 PCR test results are:

| Data element | Expected content |
|--|--|
| Patient demographic data | First name Date of birth Mobile phone number {As indicated by the number provided to the pathology laboratory from the consumer} |
| Sample collection date and time | {Required by the pathology laboratory} |
| Validated result data | Standardised test name – for example, COVID-19 virus or SARS-CoV-2 Sample result – POSITIVE or NEGATIVE |
| Identity of the pathology laboratory issuing the report | {Required by the pathology laboratory} |
| Unique testing identifier number for traceability | {Required by the pathology laboratory} |
| Comments from the pathology laboratory | {Required by the pathology laboratory} |
| Contact number of pathology laboratory sending the text message | {Required by the pathology laboratory in the event a text message is sent in error} |

Pathology laboratories may choose to report other data elements in addition to the seven expected data elements outlined above.