

PRIVACY POLICY

GI Pathology regards the privacy of health information as vitally important. This policy outlines the principles we follow to protect your privacy.

This policy follows the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cwlth) and the Requirements for Information Communication published by the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC). Links to these can be found at the end of this document.

GI Pathology will only collect health information where it is necessary for the operation of our pathology service. This will only be done with the consent of the individual concerned, except in some circumstances (such as an inability to give consent or for legal reasons), as specified in NPAAC's Requirements for Information Communication.

Individuals have the right to request access to any of their health information held by GI Pathology. The request should be in writing to the laboratory, at the address at the end of this document. Individuals may also request further information about the way personal information is handled.

An individual's health information will not be disclosed by GI Pathology except where directly related to the purpose for which the information was collected or produced. For example, we may consult a colleague at another laboratory over a particular case; we also refer any non-histopathology tests to another laboratory (generally PathWest). There are limited circumstances in which health information may be used for non-directly related secondary purposes, such as reporting of notifiable diseases or other legal reasons, for research in the public interest or as otherwise specified in NPAAC's Requirements for Information Communication. In these circumstances, all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the confidentiality of information.

GI Pathology will take reasonable steps to ensure that any health information we hold is accurate and relevant. If you establish that any such information is inaccurate, we will incorporate the correct information into our records.

GI Pathology takes reasonable steps to ensure the security of health information. Data are held on a secure server managed by a locally owned IT company. We retain all records long-term as required by legislation and NPAAC. Access to information is only available to authorised users and is trackable by electronic audit trails. Electronic pathology results are sent securely using encryption technology.

If you wish to make a complaint about a breach of privacy, you may do so by contacting GI Pathology in writing or by email using the contact details below. We undertake to investigate any complaint and take appropriate steps to remedy any issues identified.

Privacy Act 1988 – Federal Register of Legislation
www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2019C00025

Requirements for Information Communication (Third Edition 2013). National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council.
www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-npaac-docs-InfoComm.htm