



Your Views on Pathology Requesting



All participants will be paid

To compensate you for the time involved in completing this questionnaire, the research company managing this survey will pay each respondent \$25 for basic completion and a further \$25 for agreeing to release a sample of your Medicare pathology utilisation statistics. Simply complete the GST invoice at the back of this questionnaire once you have answered all questions. Your cheque will be posted on the day of receipt at IRIS Research.

Your privacy is guaranteed

IRIS Research is a quality accredited member of the Market Research Society of Australia and operates under strict confidentiality codes. In addition, recently introduced federal privacy legislation and the Secrecy Provisions of the Health Insurance Act (1973) specifically apply to this research.

Participation in this study is open to all General Practitioners.

Questions covered will seek your professional opinions and behaviours. The survey will ask about pathology requesting and, where applicable, use of computerised practice management systems.

The outcomes will influence government policy

The study is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing under the auspices of the Quality Use of Pathology Committee (QUPC), with the support of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Investigations will lead to better patient care.

Supported by the Quality Use of Pathology Committee

The Quality Use of Pathology Committee (QUPC) is responsible for overseeing the Quality Use of Pathology Program (QUPP) which aims to improve the health and economic outcomes of the use of pathology in healthcare, through the pursuit of better practice amongst requesters and providers of pathology services. The QUPC comprises representatives from peak professional medical bodies, the Consumers' Health Forum and the Department of Health and Ageing.

**This form will
take 5 minutes
to complete and
will earn you
\$25 to \$50**

Section I *First, we need to know a little about you and your practice to ensure we have a good sample.*

1. How many years have you been practising medicine?

2. Place a tick in the box that best describes the situation in which you most frequently deal with pathology reports

- Sole practitioner
- Partnership or Enterprise up to four practitioners
- Larger Private medical centre
- Public Hospital or facility
- Private hospital or facility
- Nursing home

Section 2 *This section asks about whether and how you make use of a computerised system. Please place an 'X' in the appropriate box or write the answer requested.*

3. Do you personally make use of a computerised practice management system to request pathology?

- Yes - Medical Director**
- Yes - Other system (Please specify _____)**
- No - I do not personally use such a system (If answer is No, go to Section 3 on next page)**

4. What proportion of the pathology orders you personally generate is done using your computerised system?

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------|
| Paper Used | | Computer Used | | Total Pathology Orders |
| <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/> % | + | <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/> % | = | 100% |

5. How would you rate your proficiency at using your computerised system for producing pathology requests? (Please use a five point scale where 1 means 'Not at all proficient' and 5 means 'Highly proficient')

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Not at all Proficient | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Highly Proficient | 6 | Not Applicable or Don't Use |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|

6. Do you use your computerised system to generate short-cuts to multiple tests, 'Panels' or 'Test Groups'? (Again, using a five point scale)

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Never | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | On every occasion | 6 | Not Applicable or Don't Use |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|

7. When did you first begin using a computerised system (be it the current one or another) to request pathology tests? (Please indicate the month on the time line below with an arrow) ↓ You may also choose to write the date in the box below.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| Jan | 1999 | | | | | | | | | | Dec | 2000 | | | | | | | | | | Dec | 2001 | | | | | | | | | | Dec | | |

| | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------------|
| | | |
| Month | Year | <i>Write date if preferred</i> |

8. At what stage did you feel proficient at using your computerised system (be it the current one or another) to request pathology tests? (Please indicate the month on the time line below with an arrow) ↓ You may also choose to write the date in the box below.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| Jan | 1999 | | | | | | | | | | Dec | 2000 | | | | | | | | | | Dec | 2001 | | | | | | | | | | Dec | | |

| | | |
|-------|------|--------------------------------|
| | | |
| Month | Year | <i>Write date if preferred</i> |

Not yet proficient

9. Compared to using paper requests how would you rate the ease of using your computer based system to generate pathology requests? *(Please use the five point scale below to indicate relative ease)*

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Computer is <i>Much Harder</i> | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | Computer is <i>Much Easier</i> | <input type="text" value="6"/> | Not Applicable or Don't Use |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

10. Would you say that you now request more or less pathology work using your computerised system?

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Significantly Less Ordered | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | Significantly More Ordered | <input type="text" value="6"/> | Not Applicable or Don't Use |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

11. Have you noted evidence of improved patient management arising from your use of computerised pathology requesting?

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| No Evidence Noted | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | Significant Evidence Noted | <input type="text" value="6"/> | Not Applicable or Don't Use |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Section 3 *This section asks about factors that may influence pathology requesting practice. Please place an 'X' in the appropriate box.*

Aside from the management of patient health, a number of factors have been hypothesised to have impacts on an individual GP's approach to pathology requesting. Please rate each of the following factors as they relate to your requesting behaviour.

| | Very Little Impact | | A great Deal of Impact | | | Don't Know or Can't Say |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Medico - Legal considerations | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Patient demand | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Practice approach | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Business and marketing considerations | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Health bureaucracy & administrative requirements | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Ease of ordering | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Promotion or advice from pathology practices | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |
| Other <i>(Please Specify)</i> | <input type="text" value="1"/> | <input type="text" value="2"/> | <input type="text" value="3"/> | <input type="text" value="4"/> | <input type="text" value="5"/> | <input type="text" value="6"/> |

Section 4 *This section allows you to claim your compensation and to elect to release some data to the researcher.*

Returning and claiming your compensation

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter and our research company will forward your cheque for the appropriate amount on the day your questionnaire is received.

Simply fill in the appropriate GST invoice below and return this questionnaire in the pre paid envelope provided.

If you choose to release a sample of your Medicare pathology utilisation data, the data will be included in an analysis that looks at trends across groups of practitioners over time. Nothing that can identify you will be kept with the data and no individual will be identified in any report.

Please note that the professional code of conduct governing IRIS Research prohibits any reporting of the identity or any other identifying detail provided by a respondent . Further, our contract with the Commonwealth provides you with protection under the Secrecy Provisions of the Health Insurance Act (1973)

Consent

I consent to the release of Medicare pathology utilisation statistics covering the period of 01 January 1999 to 31 December 2001 inclusive to IRIS Research for the purpose of statistical analysis.

Provider Number/s

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

Signature _____

Date _____

GST Invoice

Name of your Business Entity _____

Your ABN Number _____

Address for posting cheque _____

To: **IRIS Research**
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522

For services rendered
GST

Total payable immediately

| Strike out that which does not apply | |
|---|-----------------------|
| No Consent | Consent Signed |
| \$22.73 | \$45.45 |
| \$2.27 | \$4.55 |
| \$25.00 | \$50.00 |

| HRS | MINS |
|---|-------------|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div> | |
| <small>Please estimate the time taken to complete this questionnaire. Include the time taken to collect any information</small> | |