
Privacy Notice

Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL)

The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL), operated by the University of Melbourne, receives and processes personal, sensitive and health information to perform diagnostic testing, public health surveillance and pathology reporting functions.

What information do we receive?

MDU PHL generally receives information from healthcare providers, hospitals, pathology laboratories and other authorised organisations rather than collecting it directly from individuals.

The information provided may include:

- patient identifiers, such as name, date of birth and Medicare number;
- clinical and pathology request information;
- pathology samples and associated metadata;
- pathology test results; and
- information required to support public health and statutory reporting obligations.

Why do we use this information?

MDU PHL uses this information to:

- perform diagnostic and reference laboratory testing;
- validate and report pathology test results;
- support public health surveillance and outbreak investigations;
- meet reporting obligations under applicable Commonwealth and Victorian legislation; and
- maintain laboratory quality, accreditation and compliance requirements.

How is information managed?

Information received by MDU PHL is managed through laboratory information management systems used to support sample management, diagnostic testing, reporting, quality assurance and laboratory operations.

MDU PHL may also use secure clinical messaging services, including HealthLink and Medical Objects, to exchange pathology requests and results with authorised healthcare providers, pathology laboratories and government agencies.

Who may receive this information?

Information may be disclosed to:

- referring healthcare providers and pathology laboratories;
- Victorian and Commonwealth health authorities;
- the Australian Digital Health Agency and My Health Record, where required by law; and
- other authorised recipients where permitted or required by law.

Access and correction

Individuals seeking access to or correction of their personal information should contact their healthcare provider in the first instance. Requests may also be made to the University of Melbourne in accordance with applicable privacy and health records legislation.

Further information

For more information about how the University of Melbourne manages personal information, including how to make a privacy enquiry or complaint, please refer to the University's Privacy Policy and privacy information available on the University website.

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