



Australian Government

Department of Health

Dear Stakeholder

Transfer of pathology and diagnostic imaging accreditation functions to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Further to a request from the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Department has been working with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission), and consulting with key stakeholders, to transfer functions that support the pathology and diagnostic accreditation programs to the Commission.

The Department and the Commission now have a formal arrangement in place to give effect to the transfer. This arrangement commenced on 1 July 2021. The initial period will be an establishment phase, followed by the Commission providing:

- continued support of the expert accreditation committees in the development and maintenance of accreditation standards and guidance,
- operational oversight of accrediting agencies, and
- advice related to accreditation standards.

The Department will work closely with the Commission to ensure minimal disruption to the transferred functions and to the respective accreditation programs more broadly. No change is expected to the accreditation programs as a consequence of the transfer, including no changes to access to Medicare funding. Any future opportunities to better support safety and quality and/or increase administrative efficiency will be done in consultation with stakeholders.

The Department will retain policy and regulatory responsibilities associated with the accreditation programs and will work collaboratively with the Commission on accreditation issues. Further information on the relevant Commission enquiry phone line, email address, and webpage, will be provided as soon as practical.

For pathology, Services Australia will continue to manage the administration of pathology application processes for collection centres, Approved Pathology Authorities, Approved Pathology Practitioners and Accredited Pathology Laboratories. For diagnostic imaging, Services Australia will continue to administer the Location Specific Practice Number Register.

I look forward to your continued support and contribution to the pathology and diagnostic imaging accreditation programs

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renaye Lucchese".

Renaye Lucchese
Assistant Secretary
Diagnostic Imaging and Pathology Branch
Medical Benefits Division

8 July 2021