



Cessation of temporary Approved Collection Centre measures in response to COVID-19 – Factsheet

Last updated: 10 December 2020

- On 27 March 2020, the Australian Government implemented a package of measures to bolster the pathology sector in Australia to ensure the sector was able to support the community's need for fast and accurate pathology testing during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- These measures were introduced in addition to the Government's economic support packages and were aimed at addressing viability concerns in the pathology sector.

What are the changes?

Following an upswing in usual pathology services after a sharp decrease in March and April 2020 as a result of COVID-19 lockdown measures, the Government decided to bring forward the end date of two temporary pathology viability measures. These two temporary viability support measures, previously planned for removal from 30 September, concluded on 30 June 2020.

The following Approved Collection Centre (ACC) measures that came into effect from 27 March 2020 ceased as of 30 June 2020:

- Extending the period of approval for ACCs due to expire between 27 March 2020 and 30 September 2020 (inclusive) for a further two years, without the need to submit an application or pay a \$2,000 tax.
- A moratorium on the opening of new pathology ACCs where an existing collection centre closes, due to low service volumes associated with COVID-19.

What does this mean for providers?

Approved Pathology Authorities (APAs) with an ACC due to expire from 1 July 2020 will have to submit an application and pay the required tax as per normal processes.

Services Australia will process all applications for new ACCs in accordance with normal procedures. Temporary arrangements for relocation and ceasing operation that existed from March to September 2020 where a new application was not required to be lodged are no longer applicable.

How will these changes affect patients?

These changes will not impact the provision of Medicare funded pathology services for patients.

Where can I find more information?

If you have a query relating to these measures you can email covidpathology@health.gov.au.



If you are seeking advice in relation to applying, renewing, varying or cancelling an ACC, please visit the Health Professionals page on the Services Australia website or contact Services Australia on the Pathology Registration Enquiries Line – 1300 721 546.

For information on pathology accreditation measures please see the [Pathology Accreditation Measures in Response to COVID-19 – Fact sheet](#)

Information on the changes was provided in the Budget 2020-21 [Fact Sheet on Strengthening Primary Care –COVID-19 pandemic response – Pathology](#).