

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Sharing by Default framework



Giving patients better and faster access to their health information

New legislation has been introduced for mandatory uploading of pathology and diagnostic imaging reports under the 'Sharing by Default' framework.

The change aims to give patients better and faster access to their own health information.

Rather than a seven-day delay, pathology results (blood and urine) will appear in My Health Record directly after being uploaded and patients will be able to view x-ray reports for limbs (arms and legs).

Some tests and imaging, such as anatomical pathology, cytopathology, genetic tests and CT scans, MRIs and ultrasounds will be reduced from a previous seven-day delay to five-days.

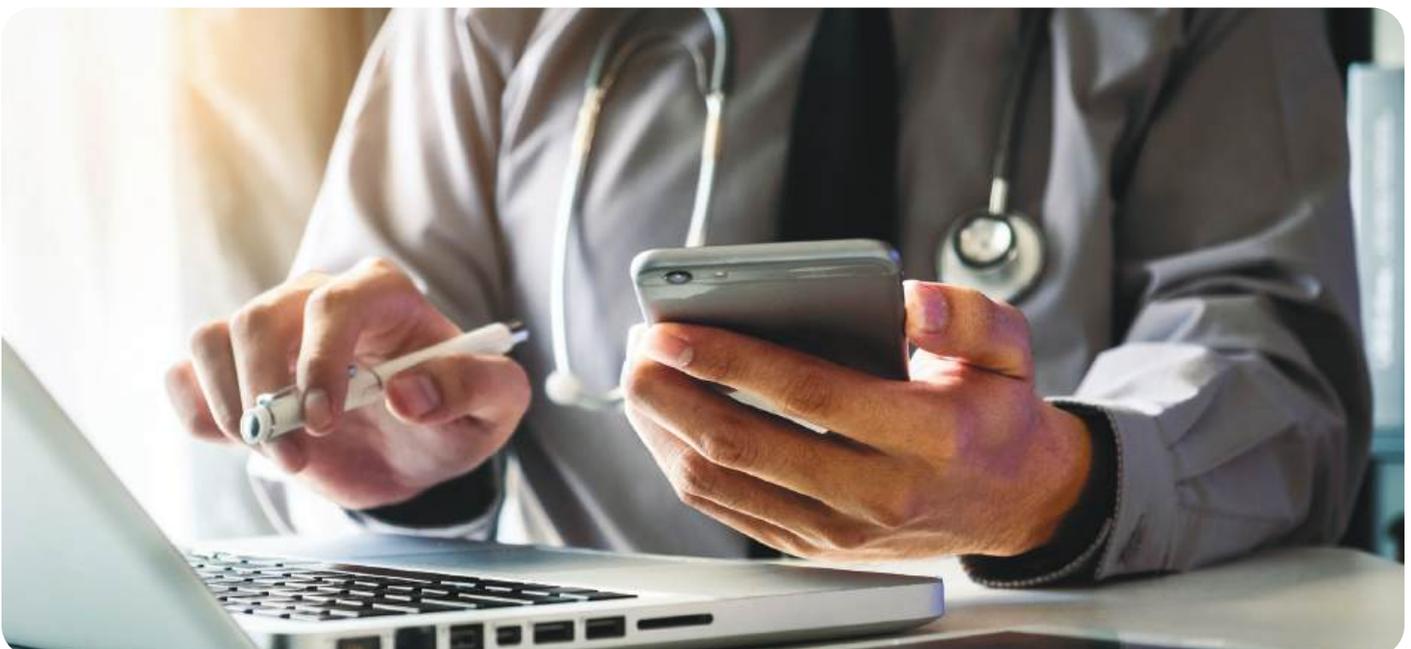
While some changes are already in place the legislation officially comes into force in July 2026.

For more, visit: <https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/better-and-faster-access>

What does Share by Default mean?

Historically, healthcare providers were not required to upload health information to My Health Record. That is now changing. [The Health Legislation Amendment \(Modernising My Health Record—Sharing by Default\) Act 2025](#) was passed into law in February 2025 and provides a framework for key health information to be shared to My Health Record by default.

The requirement to upload information to My Health Record by default applies to healthcare services and record types that are prescribed in the [Health Insurance \(Share by Default\) Rules 2025](#) and the [My Health Record \(Share by Default\) Rules 2025](#) - collectively referred to as the Share by Default rules.



KEY DATES	13 October 2025	Faster access to pathology results in My Health Record (immediate or five-day delay for sensitive tests) or the 1800MEDICARE App.
	Early 2026	Draft of mandatory upload rules.
	March 2026 (expected)	Enforcement of mandatory uploads for pathology and imaging.
	July 2026	Legislation to come into force.
BENEFITS OF THIS CHANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves continuity of care and patient access to results. • Compliance will be linked to Medicare benefits in the future. • May reduce duplicate testing and minimise delays in treatment. • Supports the coordination of care, with information accessible to all providers involved in a person's care. 	
EXCEPTIONS	<p>Uploads are not required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients do not have My Health Record • Patient requests information to not be uploaded or it may harm patient safety • Technical issues prevent upload • Providers must document exceptions for at least two years. 	
PREPARING YOUR PRACTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure system readiness for automatic uploads including access to My Health Record via compatible software • Create scripts to help staff manage patient enquiries • Provide patient education about changes to immediate result information • Advise patients that they can access Pathology Tests Explained • Monitor compliance and maintain audit trails. 	
GP RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that your practice is registered for My Health record • Practice management software is compliant and supports the secure upload of documents and enables the viewing of pathology and imaging reports uploaded by other providers • Train staff on new workflows, how to handle exceptions and ensure privacy and security policies comply with My Health Records Rule 2016 • Update to the latest version of your software to enable automatic upload workflows. • Be prepared for patients to see their results earlier and manage questions about results sooner, along with providing clinical interpretation and reassurance. • Follow up results even when the tests have been ordered by other providers and coordinate follow-up care. 	
RESOURCES AND SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Health Record official site: myhealthrecord.gov.au • Australian Digital Health Agency Helpdesk: 1800 723 471 • RACGP digital health resources 	

For further information and support, visit the [Murray PHN Digital Health webpage](#) or contact the [Digital Health team](#).