

RAT Screening FAQs for VMO Practices

Patient Testing Requirements and RAT Results

How will my patients know what their testing requirements are?

We have created patient information flyers for various patient cohorts. Pre-Admission caregivers will provide these flyers to patients and they will also be provided with the RATs when collected. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with your patients' relevant flyer to ensure both yourself and your patients are aware of their testing requirements.

Please click on the links below to download the flyer relevant to your patients.

- [Maternity](#)
- [Oncology/Ivy Suite](#)
- [Surgical](#)
- [Endoscopy/Colonoscopy](#)
- [Paediatrics](#)

When should my patient conduct their RAT test?

In line with hospital screening and entry requirements, all patients must conduct a RAT at-home no greater than 3 hours prior to their arrival to the hospital. If a patient is unable to conduct a RAT at-home, a RAT can be organised for them on arrival to the hospital or service by contacting the number listed within their flyer. Additional RAT testing may be required for some patient groups. Please refer to the table below to understand your patients' testing requirements.

Pre-admission for surgery / day treatment	On the day of your procedure or treatment	Complete your RAT at-home no more than 3 hours before your arrival to the hospital
Maternity	Prior to each routine antenatal visit from 36 weeks AND On the day of admission	Please complete your RAT at-home no more than 3 hours before your arrival to the hospital
Chemotherapy / Dialysis	On the day of each treatment	Please complete your RAT at-home no more than 3 hours before your arrival to the hospital
Colonoscopy	Prior to commencing your final bowel preparation	Please complete your RAT at-home

Patient RAT Results

What do I do if a patient calls me with a positive RAT result?

Patients will be provided with relevant flyers to instruct them on what to do in the case of a positive RAT result. As outlined in the patient flyers, all patients who test positive to COVID-19 must isolate and let the hospital know.

- Surgical patients should call the Duty Nurse Manager (DNM) on (08) 9382 6212 to discuss next steps.
- Maternity patients should call their obstetrician if it is prior to an antenatal appointment or Birth Suite on (08) 9382 6259 if it is ahead of admission.
- Oncology patients should call their treating specialist and Ivy Suite on (08) 6465 9212.
- Diagnostic endoscopy patients should call Endoscopy on (08) 9382 9776.

If the surgery/treatment is urgent, we will manage their care through our COVID pathway. If their surgery/treatment is not urgent, our DNM will ask you to reschedule.

What do I do if a patient calls me with an invalid RAT result?

Patients will be provided with relevant flyers to instruct them on what to do in the case of an invalid RAT result. If a patient does not have a spare test available to them at home to conduct another test, a RAT will be organised for them on arrival to the hospital or service.

How will I know if my patient has a negative RAT result on the day of their presentation?

Patients will be required to show a photo of their negative RAT result and hand over the negative RAT test in a ziplock bag on admission to the hospital. This negative result will be sighted by a clinical caregiver and recorded on our COVID Admissions Screening Checklist then added to the patient's medical file.