



# Statewide Research Pricing

Version 3.0

July 2025

[pathology.health.nsw.gov.au](https://pathology.health.nsw.gov.au)





## Acknowledgement of Country

[Click here to enter the Department or Agency name, for example, The Department of Customer Service] acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contributed to the development of this pricelist.

We advise this resource may contain images, or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

<b>Document title</b>	Statewide Research Pricing V3.0
<b>Published by</b>	NSW Health Pathology <a href="https://pathology.health.nsw.gov.au/">https://pathology.health.nsw.gov.au/</a>
<b>First Published</b>	May 2025

This artwork was created by Aboriginal artist, Elsie Randall, a proud Yagel/ Bundjalung woman from Maclean and Yamba on the NSW Far North Coast.

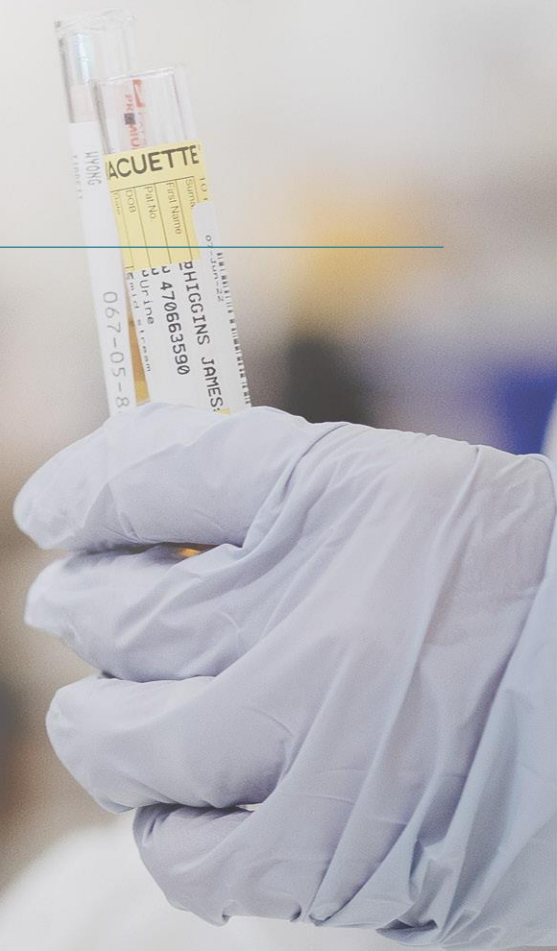
# Table of contents

Introductions.....	2
Definitions .....	2
Descriptions of inclusions in pricing .....	4
Statewide pricing .....	8
NSW Health Pathology Research Service Coordinators.....	16
Version history .....	16



# 1

## Introduction & Definitions



## Introduction

In ensuring NSW Health Pathology continues to deliver better services and outcomes, NSW Health Pathology has developed a standardised approach to pricing pathology services for external research, across all NSW.

The following is indicative pricing for NSW Health Pathology services to non-NSW Health Pathology research. The pricing is broken down into:

1. Non-commercial research – unavoidable cost recovery.
2. Commercial research – full cost recovery for all activity surrounding the service.

In cases where NSW Health Pathology is a **collaborating partner**, or NSW Health Pathology **employees are involved as an investigator in a research project**, NSW Health Pathology views this as a research collaboration, not services for research.

For research collaborations, a NSW Health Pathology investigator must be added to the research ethics application (through REGIS) listing the site as NSW Health Pathology. This will create a site-specific assessment form for NSW Health Pathology's research governance office. For further information please go to our [Research Governance website](#).

## Definitions

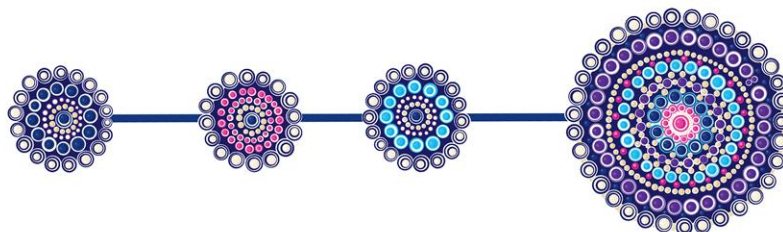
**Research Sponsor** means the company, institution or organisation, body or individual that takes overall responsibility for the conduct of the research undertaken for Non-Commercial or Commercial Research Purposes and usually initiates, organises and supports the research.

**Commercial Research Purposes** means the use of a product/process/subject matter for research or scholarly purposes under a commercial contract for commercial benefit or exploitation of Intellectual Property rights that includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) consulting arrangements;
- (b) contract research for government, non-government and/or private sector entities; or
- (c) collaborative research with government, non-government and/or private sector entities.

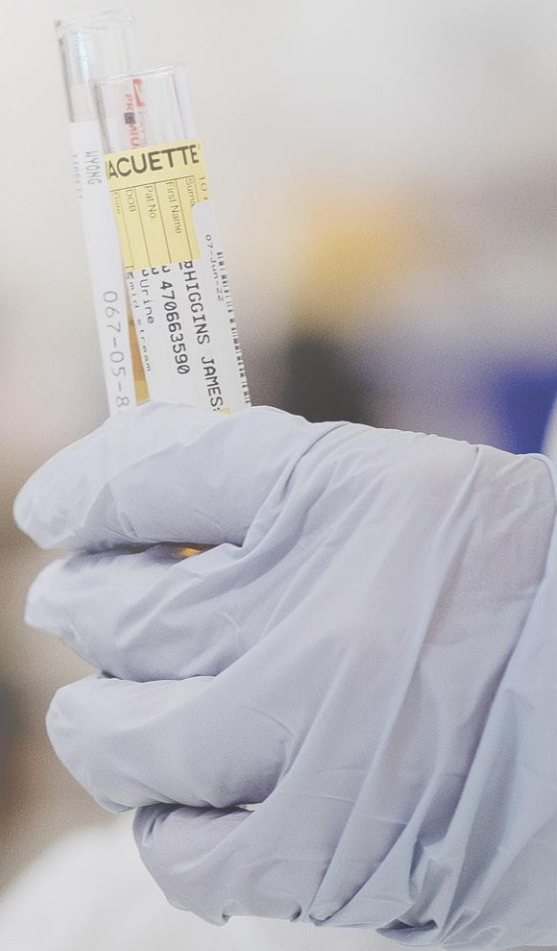
Please note in referring to 'Commercial' and 'Non-commercial' costings it is the Research Sponsor not the Funder that is being referred to.

**No research activity** can be funded in any part by the MBS.



# 2

## Descriptions of inclusions in pricing



## Description of inclusions in pricing

Description	Inclusions
<b>PROJECT START-UP</b>	
Site project establishment fee	Protocol, ethics and laboratory manual review, discussions with clinical directors and lab managers, request form development, billing system setup. Ongoing administration including access to current Accreditation documents (NATA, Medicare, IATA), access to current Reference Interval documentation, monitoring and troubleshooting, as well as laboratory access for site visits & audits.
<b>PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES</b>	
Central lab – Kit supplied; collection, processing & storage (may be additional charges for PK sampling)	This is the total cost for specimen collection, processing, and storage.
Data analytics/informatics	Includes data extraction and cleaning of test results.
Data entry & processing	Administration costs involved in tracking sample from collection to supply and return (if appropriate), including putting in place a MTA. Also includes any routine processing such as a spinning or aliquoting.  Non-routine is when the protocol involves more complex or time critical processing.
Data Management	Includes data extraction, collation, and cleaning of test results.
Handling	Sample handling that is not processing.
Histological	Microscopic anatomy of biological tissue; the study of tissues and cells under a microscope.
Non-Histological	Samples other than biological tissue and cells, i.e., blood, urine, microbes, etc.
Processing	The performance of a mechanical or chemical operation on a sample in order to change or preserve it.
Specimen collection	Blood collection by NSW Health Pathology phlebotomists. Other sample collections e.g., swabs, urine or stool samples including directing patients to collect samples.
Specimen testing	Cost to perform the test and is based on the MBS item rebate.
Specimen collection, data entry & transport to NSW Health Statewide Biobank	Specific to the Statewide Biobank collections. Samples to be collected by NSWHP collection staff, tracked, and transported to the Statewide Biobank.

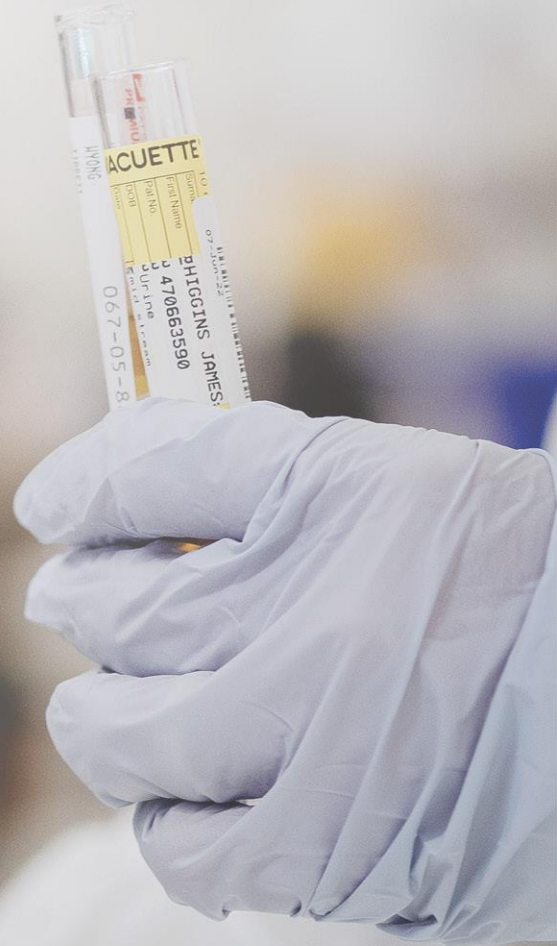
Description	Inclusions
Toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring	The cost to conduct toxicology testing or therapeutic drug monitoring in urine, blood, serum, or oral fluid samples.
<b>MICROBIOLOGY/VIROLOGY</b>	
Microbic isolation	Separation of a strain from a natural, mixed population of living microbes as present in a patient sample.
Retrieval of isolates	Retrieval of isolates for patients on a research project (based on estimated hours required to retrieve results).
<b>TISSUE PATHOLOGY</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	
Block & slide retrieval (on-site or off-site)	<p>This includes the time it takes to locate and retrieve a block or slide.</p> <p>Off-site means from a location different to where you are requesting the service from.</p>
<b>Processing</b>	
Cryo sectioning	Cutting of frozen tissue sections.
Cytology processing	<p>Processing of non-gynaecological samples onto glass slides, stained and covered or cytology samples for cell block.</p> <p>May be direct smears from samples or smears prepared via cytocentrifugation or centrifugation.</p>
Bone marrow in formalin	Bone marrow is placed in formalin for preservation.
Microtomy	Cutting thin sections of tissue from the block
Snap freezing of tissue	Selection of fresh tissue and snap freezing via individual laboratory processes e.g., liquid nitrogen, CO2 etc. To include short term storage until collection arranged.
Time-critical sample	Means a sample that has requirement so important that if it is not met immediately, the outcome will become or approach a state of material risk.
Tissue processing & embedding	The process to prepare and embed tissue into a paraffin block.
<b>Staining</b>	
H&E Staining	Hematoxylin and eosin stain includes cutting and mounting thin sections of tissue from the block and staining with haematoxylin and eosin stain. H&E is the most used stain.
IHC Ab Optimisation additional slides	Immunohistochemistry (IHC) involving anything outside standard IHC staining requires specialised skills for optimisation / value-add. This is time it takes a specialist to optimise the antibody.



Description	Inclusions
IHC staining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- including Ab</li> <li>- excluding Ab</li> </ul>	Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is dependent on antibody/clone repertoire. The costs in the pricing are only for a standard test repertoire.
ISH staining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- including probe</li> <li>- excluding probe</li> </ul>	In situ hybridization (ISH) staining preparation depends on the probe being used. The probe is a high-cost consumable and in some cases, researchers may supply their own probe. This price enables with or without NSWHP probes.
Special Staining	Includes staining of tissue as part of slide preparation with a non-routine stain
<b>Slide Scanning</b>	
Whole Slide Imaging (at NSW Health Statewide Biobank)	Imaging of clean, good quality slides. Note: additional costs apply if slides are poor quality (e.g., dirty, broken cover slips etc).
<b>Reporting</b>	
Assessment of adequacy by pathologist	For a pathologist to review the block or slide to ensure there is adequate tissue available for the research project and is charged per hour.
Macroscopic dictation (Project-based no images)	Cut-up of the fresh tissue and dictation of the description of the collected sample including measurements etc.
Microscopic report (Project-based)	Review of the tissue slide, and description of the pathology present at the cellular level. This may include microscopic photography at extra costs.
<b>PROJECT CLOSE</b>	
Packaging & preparation for dispatch	Costs to package the sample and prepare it for transport. Does not include courier fees.
Storage	Storage of research samples for a maximum of 6 months after which time there is an annual fee to hold the samples.  NSWHP has limited space available to store samples in local laboratories. If long-term storage is required NSWHP encourages sample storage within the Statewide Biobank.
Transport (Local Courier)	Cost to courier the sample(s) to the research group.

# 3

## Statewide Pricing



The below costs are to be used for indicative pricing only. For a formal quote please contact your local NSW Health Pathology research service coordinator listed on the website.

Description	Unit	Commercial	Non-Commercial
<b>PROJECT START-UP</b>			
Single establishment fee	Per application	\$1000	\$300
Governance fee (SSA applications only)	Per application		OHMR recommended pricing
<b>PROJECT RELATED ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>A. Specimen collection<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Non-Commercial</b>
<b>Simple</b>	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$30	\$25
<u>All</u> the following must be met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All participants are 5 years or older</li> <li>- Total number of tubes to be collected from each participant is 4 or less</li> </ul>			
<b>Intermediate</b>		\$40	\$35
The same as Specimen collection – simple except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total number of tubes to be collected from each participant is 5 or more</li> </ul>			
<b>Complex</b>		\$75	\$60
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One or more of the participants is less than 5 years old</li> </ul>			
<b>B. Specimen retrieval</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Non-Commercial</b>
Non-histological specimen retrieval:	Per sample	\$6	\$5
Bloods (or other)			
Histological specimen retrieval (tissue):			
Block and slide retrieval <sup>4</sup>	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$10	\$7.5
Block & slide retrieval Access fee (off-site)	Per visit	\$90	\$50

C. Data Entry, Handling and Processing	Unit	Commercial	Non-Commercial
Data entry and handling only <sup>5</sup>	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$20	\$15
Local Lab processing; Data entry, handling, and processing			
Block and slide retrieval <sup>4</sup>	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$10	\$7.5
Block & slide retrieval Access fee (off-site)	Per visit	\$90	\$50
Non-histological specimens:	Per case <sup>2</sup>		
- Simple		\$30	\$20
- Intermediate		\$40	\$30
- Complex		Minimum \$50	Minimum \$40
Central Lab Data entry, handling, and processing			
I. Bloods (or other)	Per case <sup>2</sup>		
- Simple (routine)		\$36	\$24
- Intermediate (non-routine) (includes >5 tubes)		\$50	\$30
- Complex (includes >9 tubes)		Minimum \$72	Minimum \$54
- PBMC Processing as specified in study lab manual		Contact local research service coordinator	
II. Data entry, handling and processing of microbial isolates		\$50	\$40
- Retrieval of microbial isolates		\$10	\$5
- Retrieve, culture, and supply microbic isolates	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$132	\$42
III. Histology specimen processing			
Histology embedding	Per block	\$9	\$5
Histology (time-critical)	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$96	Negotiable



Microtomy	Per slide/scroll	\$9	\$5
Cryo sectioning	Per slide/scroll	\$36	\$20
Snap freezing of tissue	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$18	\$10
Fresh specimen triage	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$42	\$30
<b>Histology staining (including microtomy)</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Non-Commercial</b>
H&E Staining (including microtomy)	Per slide	\$12	\$7
Special Staining	Per slide	\$36	\$20
IHC staining			
- Excluding Ab	Per slide	\$48	\$25
- Including Ab	Per slide	\$120	\$70
IHC Antibody (Ab)			
- Optimisation	Per Ab	\$240	\$100
- Additional slides	Per Ab	\$48	\$25
ISH staining			
- Excluding probe	Per slide	\$120	\$70
- Including probe	Per slide	\$240	\$120
<b>Specimen Testing</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Non-Commercial</b>
Specimen testing <sup>6, 7, 8,</sup>	MBS	120%	100%
As per test catalogue : <a href="https://pathology.health.nsw.gov.au/tests/">https://pathology.health.nsw.gov.au/tests/</a>	Non-MBS	Contact local research service coordinator	

D. NSW Health Statewide Biobank <sup>10</sup>	Unit	Commercial	Non-Commercial
Collection and transport to the NSWHSB	Per case	\$40	\$25
Collection, simple local processing and transport to the NSWHSB	Per case	\$76	\$59
Collection, complex local processing and transport to the NSWHSB	Per case	\$132	\$94
For other charges researchers are referred to the NSWHSB price list:	<a href="https://biobank.health.nsw.gov.au/researchers/biobanking-services/">https://biobank.health.nsw.gov.au/researchers/biobanking-services/</a>		
Whole Slide Imaging	Per image	\$5.22	\$2.90
<b>PROJECT CLOSE</b>			
Storage <sup>11</sup>	Per case <sup>2</sup>	\$18	\$10
Transport (Local Courier)	Per case <sup>2</sup>	At cost	At cost
Central Packaging and Dispatch Fee	Per shipment	\$30	\$20
Ambient temperature			
Frozen	Per shipment	\$40	\$30
Batched shipment (ambient or frozen)		\$80	\$60
Internal Dispatch Fee	Per shipment/per lab	\$36	\$20
Local lab send away		\$15	\$10
Transport on dry ice incurs an additional cost for the provision of dry ice to the packaging site.	Per shipment/per lab	Contact local service coordinator	

## SPECIALISED RESEARCH SERVICES

### FORENSIC

Forensic toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring on urine, blood, serum, and oral fluids.

Environmental testing in water and other environmental samples.

Drug and pharmaceutical screening, identification, and purity.

Per test

Contact local research service coordinator

Chemical and unknown materials identifications and comparisons.

Biological fluid and DNA testing, and expert systems.

Forensic medical imaging

Other forensic & analytical science services for research

### CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY

Toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring on urine, blood, serum, and oral fluids

Per test

Contact local research service coordinator

GENOMICS			
Whole Exome Sequencing (WES)	Per case <sup>2</sup>	Contact Clinical Genomics Operations Manager	
Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)	Per case <sup>2</sup>	Contact Clinical Genomics Operations Manager	
Genomics Panels undertaken by Statewide Sequencing Service	Per case	Contact Clinical Genomics Operations Manager	
Data Storage and Transfer	Per case or project	Contact Clinical Genomics Operations Manager	
Other genomics services		Contact local research service coordinator	
POINT OF CARE TESTING (PoCT)			
New or established technology: technology verification, validation, and pilot evaluation		Contact local research service coordinator	
DATA RETRIEVAL SERVICES		Commercial	Non-Commercial
Project establishment fee	Per application	\$600 (initial operational area) \$120 (each additional operational area)	\$100 (each operational area)
Data management		A quote will be provided upon request	
Data analytics/informatics		A quote will be provided upon request	
ADDITIONAL SERVICES	Unit	Commercial	Non-Commercial
Reporting			
Assessment of adequacy by pathologist	Per case <sup>5</sup>	\$70	
Macroscopic dictation (Project-based, no images)	Per case <sup>5</sup>	\$90	\$50
Microscopic report (Project-based)	Per case <sup>5</sup>	\$540	\$300



Staff time (consultation, analytical work and/or administration)	Unit	Commercial	Non-Commercial
Senior Staff Specialist	Per hour	\$264	\$220
Senior Scientist	Per hour	\$180	\$150
Scientific Officer	Per hour	\$120	\$100
Technical Officer	Per hour	\$60	\$50
Technical Assistant	Per hour	\$48	\$40
Out of hours (where possible)	Per hour	Contact local research coordinator	

<sup>1</sup>Collection fee is for NSWHP to collect samples regardless of whether collected as part of standard of care or not.

<sup>2</sup>Per case refers to a specific patient episode.

<sup>3</sup>Only available at a few sites.

<sup>4</sup>If AP blocks are supplied for research it is expected that they will be returned at the cost of the applicant.

<sup>5</sup>Should you require data entry and handling out of normal business hours, please contact local research coordinator to discuss fees and possibility for this.

<sup>6</sup>Costs outlined in this table *'for research tests only'*.

<sup>7</sup>Tests for research activity that are part of standard of care (including the frequency of testing) are billable to MBS and will not be charged back to the applicant (not applicable to research activity initiated by commercial companies).

<sup>8</sup>Trials may include tests not defined in the MBS. These tests will be assigned non-MBS item numbers (NSWHP assigned numbers) with fees based on actual cost recovery.

<sup>9</sup>NSW Health Statewide Biobank offers a range of additional research services incl. slide imaging, PBMC preparation & DNA extraction, please see contact [NSWPATH-biobanking@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NSWPATH-biobanking@health.nsw.gov.au) for further information.

<sup>10</sup>Storage is only available in some laboratories. For laboratories where storage is available, the annual fee for storage of samples held past 6 months are up to the discretion of local laboratory manager.

Pricing may be negotiable at local level, to cater for large scale opportunities with discounts for economies of scale. Batched studies can also be negotiated at local level. Any discounts require approval in writing from the senior operations manager.

#### 4. NSW Health Pathology Research Service Coordinators

Our Research Coordinators process online [Access Request](#) forms which have to be submitted for NSW Health Pathology to provide you with access to biospecimens, data and/or research services. If you need to contact any of them, please check out their contact details on our website [here](#).

#### 5. Version History

The approval and amendment history for this document must be listed in the following table.

Version No	Effective Date	Approved By	Approval Date	Document Author	Risk Rating	Sections Modified
1.0	01/01/2021	Roger Wilson	01/07/2020	Amanda Koegelenberg	Low	New pricing model for research services
2.0	05/09/2022	Robert Lindeman Paul Dunn	12/08/2022	Bente Talseth-Palmer	Low	Updated pricing guideline
2.1	03/01/2023	Shaun Roman	31/03/2023	Bente Talseth-Palmer	Low	Minor updates to section 3 and 5
2.2	09/01/2024	Shaun Roman	09/01/2024	Bente Talseth-Palmer	Low	Minor updates in section 4 and 5
3.0	05/05/2025	Tammy Boone	01/05/2025	Shaun Roman	Medium	Pricing updates Removal of data pricing

## NSW Health Pathology Corporate Office

Level 5, 45 Watt Street, Newcastle 2300

T 02 4920 4000

E [nswpath-news@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nswpath-news@health.nsw.gov.au)

W [pathology.health.nsw.gov.au](http://pathology.health.nsw.gov.au)

---

connect with us    

NSW Health Pathology | for all of us NSW Health Pathology | for all of us NSW Health Pathology | for all of us