



AUSTRALIAN PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

PATIENT CONSENT TO COLLECT & DISCLOSE INFORMATION

The **Privacy Act 1988** requires medical practitioners to obtain consent from their patients to collect, use and disclose that patient's personal information.

Collection

This means we will collect information that is necessary to properly advise and treat you. Such necessary information may include:

- Full medical history.
- Family medical history.
- Ethnicity.
- Contact details.
- Medicare / private health fund details.
- Genetic information.
- Billing / account details.

The information will normally be collected directly from you. There may be occasions when we will need to obtain information from other sources, for example:

- Other medical practitioners, such as former GPs and specialists.
- Other health care providers, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, pharmacists, dentists, nurses.
- Hospitals and day surgery units.

Both our practice staff and the medical practitioners may participate in the collection of this information. In emergency situations we may need to collect personal information from relatives or other sources where we are unable to obtain your prior express consent.

Use & Disclosure

With your consent, the practice staff will use and disclose your information for purposes such as:

- Account keeping and billing purposes.
- Referral to another medical practitioner or health care provider.
- Sending of specimens, such as blood samples or pap smears, for analysis.
- Referral to a hospital for treatment and/or advice.
- Advice on treatment options.
- The management of our practice.
- Quality assurance, practice accreditation and complaint handling.
- To meet with our obligations of notification to our medical defence organisations or insurers.
- To prevent or lessen a serious threat to an individual's life, health or safety.
- Where legally required to do so, such as producing records to court, mandatory reporting of child abuse or the notification of diagnosis of certain communicable diseases.
- Collation of information required by statutory and government bodies such as the Department of Health, National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU), Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee (RTAC) and the National Association of Testing Authorities – Australia (NATA).
- As part of our regulatory obligations, PIVET Medical Centre is required to send a summary of each treatment cycle to the University of New South Wales (Sydney) for inclusion in the Australian and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database (ANZARD) held at the University. The data will be used for national statistical reporting, regulatory review and population based research. The privacy of data in the ANZARD data is governed by the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth), and its various amendments.
- De-identified data may also be used for population based research in scholarly journals.
- RTAC wish to advise that their members have signed a confidentiality agreement and that they could be viewing patient files during inspections.
- Under the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 (HRT Act) some participant information is forwarded to the Reproductive Technology Register (RT) located at the Department of Health. The Registers are kept for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the procedures undertaken and there is no publication of information that identifies any individual

Access

You are entitled to access your own health records convenient to both yourself and the practice.

Access can be denied where:

- To provide access would create a serious threat to life or health.
- There is a legal impediment to access.
- The access would unreasonably impact on the privacy of another.

