

Investigations Header

Missing patient identifiers on attached eReferral investigations

November 2021 Version 2

Health services have identified an issue with pathology and radiology results being de-identified when sent/attached to electronic referrals (i.e. HealthLink SmartForms). This poses a potential risk as it is difficult to identify which patient these results are for, especially when exported or printed for further clinical care.

Here is an example:

```
          SERUM/PLASMA BIOCHEMISTRY
                    Ref. Range
Sodium :      143 mmol/L  (135-145)
Potassium :    4.3 mmol/L  (3.5-5.2)
Chloride :    112 mmol/L  (95-110)      *
Bicarbonate :  27 mmol/L  (22-32)
Urea :        7.7 mmol/L  (3.0-10.0)
Est.GFR(mL/min) : 45 per 1.73sqm (> 60)
Creatinine :   129 umol/L  (60-110)      *

Requested Tests : TFT*, GHB*, MBI, LIP, FRU*, FBE*
```

There is a function in both Best Practice and Medical Director for GPs to “exclude” the header by default i.e. patient identifier:

Exclude Header in Best Practice:

The screenshot shows the Best Practice interface for a histopathology report. The report text is as follows:

```

*****
*****
DIAGNOSIS
Biopsy from gastric antrum
- CHRONIC INACTIVE GASTRITIS OF MILD SEVERITY.
- POSITIVE FOR HELICOBACTER PYLORI.
*****
*****
CLINICAL DETAILS.
Antral biopsy. Histo/ H.pylori.
MACROSCOPY.
Labelled: Antral.
# of fragments: 2. Max./Aggregate diam. in mm: 3. All embedded in 1 block.
MICROSCOPY.
Tissue: antral mucosa.
Inflammatory activity: chronic inactive gastritis of mild severity.
Intestinal metaplasia: not identified.
Glandular atrophy: not identified.
    
```

In the 'Store for location' section, the 'Include header' checkbox is unchecked, indicating that the patient identifier is excluded from the report.

Include Header in Best Practice:

The screenshot shows the Best Practice interface for a histopathology report. The report text includes a patient header and the following diagnosis:

```

*****
*****
DIAGNOSIS
Biopsy from gastric antrum
- CHRONIC INACTIVE GASTRITIS OF MILD SEVERITY.
- POSITIVE FOR HELICOBACTER PYLORI.
*****
*****
    
```

In the 'Store for location' section, the 'Include header' checkbox is checked, indicating that the patient identifier is included in the report.

Include/Exclude Header in Medical Director:

Tools -> Options -> Investigations

The screenshot displays the MedicalDirector Clinical 4.1 interface for patient MICKEY MIDDLE MOUSE (40yrs 9mths). The patient's details, including DOB (30/01/1981), gender (Male), and address (1 Testing Street, Woonona, Nsw 2517), are visible. The main window shows a document with text: "After the 5 dots is an Ampersand.....", "After the 5 dots is a Pipe.....", and "After the 5 dots is a Bolded Line..... Healthlink Test Message to TEST Escap". A "Delivered securely to you by HealthLink Phone:1800 125 036" message is also present.

The "Options" dialog box is open, showing the "Investigations" tab. Under "Laboratories", "Sun Pathology" is selected. The "Options" section contains several checkboxes, with "Include patient header on printouts" highlighted by a red circle. Other checked options include "Default to direct bill for all requests", "Display results to staff", "Display default reason list", "Collected at surgery" box checked, "Default to eOrder service for ordering all pathology/cytology tests", and "Default to eOrder service for ordering all imaging tests".

This 'include header' is only available for plain text not PDF results. Please include the header of the required tests/investigations before attaching to the patient's electronic referrals.

For further details about this, please contact the Eastern Melbourne Primary Healthcare Network via email: digitalhealth@emphn.org.au OR contact HealthLink directly on 1800 125 036 or Helpdesk@healthlink.net.