

Representatives of IVD Companies are often required to enter hospitals and other health care facilities (HCFs) for many different reasons, including: training pathologists and diagnostic professionals on the safe and effective use of diagnostics, demonstrating new and advanced technologies that can improve outcomes and increase system sustainability, or servicing vitally important diagnostic equipment.

The members of Pathology Technology Australia operate in the Australian healthcare system in partnership with the medical and diagnostic communities based on the strong foundation of the Industry's Code of Conduct and are deeply committed to ethical behaviour and patient safety.

### **Pathology Technology Australia Position on Vendor Credentialing**

Pathology Technology Australia understands the desire by some HCFs to implement credentialing requirements in order to coordinate admission to certain areas of their facilities by suppliers and external contractors. However, some healthcare organisations have chosen to implement vendor credentialing programs, and are utilising third party companies to manage these programs. The credentialing process used by these companies is complicated, irrelevant, and may incur unwarranted cost of no benefit to either healthcare institutions or their healthcare solution partners. Additionally, these companies are not aligned to a standard, nor do they have consistent requirements.

### **Pathology Technology Australia Position on Vendor Credentialing in Australia**

The system of third party hospital vendor credentialing is relatively new in Australia, but has existed in the US for a number of years. Although there is no clear evidence of the benefits of vendor credentialing, in the US it is clear that the inconsistency of credentialing requirements across various HCFs, as well as the cost of implementation has created an unnecessarily large burden on the healthcare system.

In Australia, the process of collecting and storing data for any credentialing system is influenced by a number of laws in the areas of privacy and human rights. These legal considerations, as well as the awareness of the aforementioned issues involving the vendor credentialing experience in the US, led to the effort to establish a vendor credentialing standard in Australia through Standards Australia.

For Vendor Credentialing to be useful to all healthcare organisations and companies, there needs to be:

- A Standard for requirements
- Consistency of obligations
- Privacy for Individuals
- A nationally recognised Credential
- An equitable playing field for all, not just those who can pay

### Pathology Technology Australia Position on the Australian National Standard

Pathology Technology Australia endorsed the development of the Australian National Standard for Vendor Credentialing (AS 5182:2018). The following organisations were represented on the committee responsible for the now published Australian Standard:

- Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
- Australasian College for Infection
- Prevention and Control Australian & New Zealand
- College of Anaesthetists
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation
- Day Hospitals Australia
- Health Purchasing Victoria
- IVD Australia (now Pathology Technology Australia)
- Medical Technology Association of Australia
- Medicines Australia
- Pathology Australia

The Standard will provide consistency and ensure that the privacy and human rights of supplier representatives are respected, while allowing IVD Companies to achieve their credentialing objectives without unnecessary costs. It is for these reasons that Pathology Technology Australia endorses the Australian National Standard for Vendor Credentialing.

### Pathology Technology Australia Position on the Use of Third Party Credentialing Companies

Many third party credentialing companies require extensive information about insurance, and workplace health and safety, however these should already be covered by the procurement contract in place between the HCF and their vendors. Pathology Technology Australia's position is that HCFs not engage with third party credentialing companies.

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**About Pathology Technology Australia:** Pathology Technology Australia is the peak body representing the innovative providers of pathology solutions in Australia. The power of our technologies, diagnostic tests, and our industry are the drivers of innovative healthcare strategies and outcomes. Our solutions are most often found in public and private pathology laboratories across Australia, and increasingly at the point-of-care, for HIV, diabetes and home pregnancy tests. Our Members adhere to the Pathology Technology Industry Code of Practice, engaging in ethical corporate conduct with healthcare professionals and organisations.