

## Part B - Health Facility Briefing and Planning

### 550 PATHOLOGY UNIT

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#### INTRODUCTION

##### General

550 .2.00	The Pathology Unit provides facilities and equipment for the examination of body tissues and fluids, involving receipt of patient specimens, testing and issue of reports.
550 .3.00	Dependent upon the Role Delineation and the Operational Policy of the facility, it may be necessary to provide a dedicated on-site Pathology Unit.

#### PLANNING

##### Functional Areas

550 .4.00	If the Pathology service is based in the hospital, the following facilities shall be provided for the Pathology Unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A separate, purpose built Pathology Laboratory Room to provide a pathology service; must be capable of secure isolation and cannot be shared</li><li>- A laboratory workbench with space for equipment such as microscopes, appropriate chemical analysers, incubator/s and centrifuge/s</li><li>- Access to vacuum, gas and electrical services at the workbench</li><li>- Sinks with hot and cold water; may be used for the disposal of non-toxic fluids</li><li>- Refrigerated blood storage</li><li>- Basin or bench sink for staff hand-washing</li><li>- Storage facilities for reagents, standards, supplies, and stained specimen microscope slides including refrigeration, as needed.</li></ul>
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Note: The size of the laboratory and workroom/s shall be appropriate to the function and provide a safe working environment.

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### Functional Areas

- 550 .5.00 For a hospital based Pathology Service, the following facilities shall also be provided:
- A blood collection area that shall have a workbench, space for patient seating and hand washing facilities
  - A urine and faeces collection room which shall be equipped with a toilet and handbasin
  - Chemical safety provisions including emergency shower, eye flushing devices and appropriate storage for flammable liquids
  - Facilities and equipment for terminal sterilisation (autoclave or electric oven) of contaminated specimens before transport; (terminal sterilisation is not required for specimens which are incinerated on site).
- 550 .6.00 Provision shall also be made for collecting and processing specimens. This can be mobile equipment for bedside or Consulting Room collection, or a dedicated Specimen Collection Room.

### Functional Relationships

- 550 .7.00 The Pathology Unit, if in-house, is best located adjacent to the areas that utilise the service the most such as the Operating and Obstetric Units.

## DESIGN

### Environmental Considerations

- 550 .8.00 If radioactive materials are employed, facilities shall be available for long-term storage and disposal of these materials. No special provisions will normally be required for body waste products from most patients receiving low level isotope diagnostic material.
- If the hospital based Pathology Service utilises radio-active materials, the facility may need to be considered for possible registration under the relevant State Radiation Safety Act. The appropriate Australian Standards for laboratories shall apply.

### Fixtures & Fittings

- 550 .9.00 The Operational Policy shall describe the type and location of all special equipment that is to be wired, plumbed, or plugged in, and the utilities required to operate each.

### Safety and Security

- 550 .10.00 Chemical safety provisions including emergency shower, eye-flushing devices, and appropriate storage for flammable liquids shall be made.

## COMPONENTS OF THE UNIT

### Introduction

- 550 .11.00 The Emergency Unit will consist of a combination of Standard Components and Non-Standard Components.

Standard Components must comply with details in Standard Components described in these Guidelines. Refer also to Standard Components Room Data Sheets.

### Standard Components

- 550 .12.00 Provide the Standard Components as identified in the Schedule of Accommodation.

### Non-Standard Components

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550 .13.00 Provide the Non-Standard Components as identified in this section and in the Schedule of Accommodation, according to the Operational Policy and Functional Brief.

#### 550 .14.00 BLOOD STORE

##### DESCRIPTION AND FUNCTION

The Blood Store provides for the secure, temperature controlled storage of blood and other blood products for access by authorised staff only.

The Blood Store should be a minimum of six m2.

#### 550 .15.00 LOCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Blood Store should be located with ready access to Pathology Unit, Emergency Unit, Operating Unit and Critical Care areas. Consideration shall be given to blood storage location in relation to external after-hours access and security.

#### 550 .16.00 CONSIDERATIONS

The blood storage refrigerators shall be secured, accessed by authorised staff only, and equipped with temperature monitoring and alarm signals. Alarms and controls should be located to ensure easy staff control.

The blood refrigerators / freezers will require an essential power supply.

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### APPENDICES

#### Pathology Generic Schedule of Accommodation

550.17.00 Schedule of Accommodation for a Pathology Unit in a Level 4 Hospital of 120 Beds:

ROOM / SPACE	Standard Component			Level 4 Qty x m2			Remarks
BLOOD STORE				1 x 6			
CLEAN-UP / STERILISATION				1 x 12			
LABORATORY - PATHOLOGY				1 x 25			
OFFICE - SINGLE PERSON 9 M2	yes			1 x 9 optional			Manager
OFFICE - SINGLE PERSON 9 M2	yes			1 x 9 optional			Pathologist, according to staffing establishment
RECEPTION	yes			1 x 10			
SPECIMEN COLLECTION				3 x 8			
SPECIMEN RECEPTION / SORTING				1 x 12			
STORE - FILES	yes			1 x 10			Located adjacent to Reception
STORE - GENERAL	yes			1 x 9			
CIRCULATION %				25			

#### 550.18.00 SHARED AREAS

ROOM / SPACE	Standard Component			Level 4 Qty x m2			
PROPERTY BAY - STAFF	yes			1 x 6			
SHOWER - EMERGENCY				1 x 2			Dependent on Operational Policy
TOILET - PATIENT	yes			1 x 4			
TOILET - STAFF	yes			1 x 2			
WAITING	yes			1 x 15			

#### References and Further Reading

- 550.19.00
- American Institute of Architects, Guidelines for Design & Construction of Hospital & Healthcare Facilities. 1997.
  - Health Department Western Australia, Private Hospital Guidelines, 1998.
  - NSW Health, Design Series 21, Health Building Guidelines - Pathology Unit, 1992.

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### FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS DIAGRAM - PATHOLOGY UNIT

