

# QCR Notifier Guidelines

## Public and Private Medical Imaging Practices

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Queensland Cancer Register  
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## Definition of terms

| Term                    | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Approved form</b>    | Accepted messaging format for cancer notifications.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>BCC</b>              | Basal Cell Carcinoma                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>HL7</b>              | An internationally recognised standard for exchanging healthcare information electronically. Within medical imaging, HL7 messages are used to transmit patient, procedure and report information between healthcare organisations and the Queensland Cancer Register. |
| <b>MedTex Radiology</b> | Semantic text-analysis software developed in partnership with CSIRO that assists the QCR in identifying and flagging medical imaging reports that meet cancer notification criteria.                                                                                  |
| <b>Notification</b>     | The submission of cancer-related information to the Queensland Cancer Register in accordance with legislative requirements.                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Notifier</b>         | Organisations required to report to the Queensland Cancer Register. Includes hospitals, day surgeries, pathology laboratories, medical imaging and treatment centres.                                                                                                 |
| <b>Procedure</b>        | A diagnostic imaging examination, test or investigation performed on a person by a medical imaging practice, including procedures such as X-ray, CT, MRI, ultrasound, mammography, PET and nuclear medicine imaging.                                                  |
| <b>PHA</b>              | <i>Public Health Act 2005</i> (Qld)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>QCR</b>              | Queensland Cancer Register                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Report</b>           | The validated clinical interpretation of a diagnostic imaging procedure that documents the findings, conclusions and recommendations arising from the examination.                                                                                                    |
| <b>SCC</b>              | Squamous Cell Carcinoma                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

# 1. Purpose

This document aims to support notifiers by providing guidelines on:

1. The reporting requirements to the Queensland Cancer Register, including which cancers are to be notified.
2. The steps required to register a cancer.
3. The definitions of each data element within a notification of cancer to assist in accurately completing registrations.

If there is uncertainty about whether a cancer case should be notified or confusion regarding the information required, the Queensland Cancer Register team is available for support. Contact details can be found below, and our team is always happy to provide guidance, ensuring accurate and timely reporting of cancer diagnoses across Queensland.

## Queensland Cancer Register contact details

**Email:** [QCR@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QCR@health.qld.gov.au)

**Website:** [cancerallianceqld.health.qld.gov.au](http://cancerallianceqld.health.qld.gov.au)

## 2. Overview of the Queensland Cancer Register

The Queensland Cancer Register (QCR) operates under the *Public Health Act 2005 (QLD)*, to receive information on cancer in Queensland. The Cancer Register is a population-based register and maintains a Register of all cases of cancer diagnosed in Queensland since the beginning of 1982. Cancer is a notifiable disease in all States and Territories and is one of the only major disease category from which an almost complete coverage of incidence data is available. Cancer is a leading cause of disease burden in Australia. Through the National Cancer Statistics Clearing House – a collaborative enterprise of the Australian Association of Cancer Registries and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Queensland data is used in the compilation of Australia-wide figures and can be compared with cancer statistics from other States.

### 2.1. Aims of the Register

The main aim of the Register is to collect data to describe the nature and extent of cancer in Queensland. This can be combined with related data to assist in the control and prevention of cancer. Queensland Cancer Register data is available for use:

- in monitoring trends in cancer incidence, mortality and survival times of persons with cancer,
- in supporting health service planning and policies for cancer prevention and treatment,
- in research on the causes, treatment and prevention of cancer,
- for the education of health professionals and members of the general public.

### 2.2. The Public Health Act and Regulations

All cancers as defined in Part 2 Division 1, Section 229 of the [PHA](#) are to be notified.

The Act defines cancer as:

- a) *a neoplasm of human tissue—*
  - i. *in which cell multiplication is uncontrolled and progressive; and*
  - ii. *that, if unchecked, may invade adjacent tissues or extend beyond its site of origin; and*

- iii. *that has the propensity to recur, either locally or remotely in the body;*
- b) *skin cancer and non-invasive carcinoma, other than skin cancer and non-invasive carcinoma of a type prescribed under a regulation.*

## 2.3. Non-notifiable cancers

Under Division 3, Section 45 of the [Public Health Regulation 2018](#), the following cancers are **not notifiable**:

- (a) *basal cell carcinoma (BCC) of the skin*
- (b) *squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the skin*
- (c) *benign neoplasm; unless present in central nervous system or brain.*

### **Exception:**

As of May 2025, BCC and SCC of the skin are notifiable only when **perineural invasion, lymphovascular invasion, or metastasis** are present. Assessment of these features is undertaken by **pathology and medical imaging** (metastases only) **providers**; therefore, notification in these cases will be provided by these notifiers.

The legislation may be viewed on the following website(s):

[Public Health Act 2005 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government](#)  
[Public Health Regulation 2018](#)

## 2.4. Compliance Monitoring

Under Section 235(3) of the *Public Health Act 2005*, the QCR is responsible for conducting regular compliance monitoring of cancer notifications submitted by all notifiers. Any breach of the Act must be reported to the Director-General of Queensland Health.

As part of this function, the QCR undertakes routine audits and prepares compliance reports to identify and address instances of non-compliance.

In accordance with Section 236, the QCR may also request additional information from notifiers to verify the accuracy, completeness, and integrity of cancer notifications and to ensure the ongoing quality of the register.

## 2.5. Confidentiality and privacy

All QCR employees are bound by an obligation of confidentiality and must not disclose any individual's confidential or personal information except where authorised statutory, regulatory, or organisational obligations.

A patient's information whether it be; confidential, personal, sensitive or health, must be managed in accordance with the *Public Health Act 2005*, Part 2 and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

## 2.6. Enquiries

If you would like more information about the Queensland Cancer Register you may contact the:

Senior Director  
Cancer Alliance Queensland  
Level 1, B2, 2 Burke St  
Woolloongabba Q 4102

PH (07) 3176 4400  
Email [QCR@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QCR@health.qld.gov.au)

Further information about cancer may also be obtained from the following web sites:

<https://cancerallianceqld.health.qld.gov.au/>

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/>

## 3. Reporting requirements

### 3.1. Entities required to notify cancer

Notifications about cancer are required to be submitted to the Queensland Cancer Register (QCR) by the following services:

1. Public and private hospitals (including day hospitals and hospices)
2. Treatment centres
3. Pathology laboratories
4. **Medical imaging practices\***

\*This document applies specifically to **medical imaging practices** that report cancer notifications. Reporting guidelines for hospitals, treatment centres and pathology laboratories can be found on our website.

#### Medical imaging

Medical imaging plays a crucial role in early detection, diagnosis, staging and monitoring of cancer. Cancer-related notifications from medical imaging practices are essential to the QCR for improving the completeness and quality of cancer data.

### 3.2. When a notification should be completed

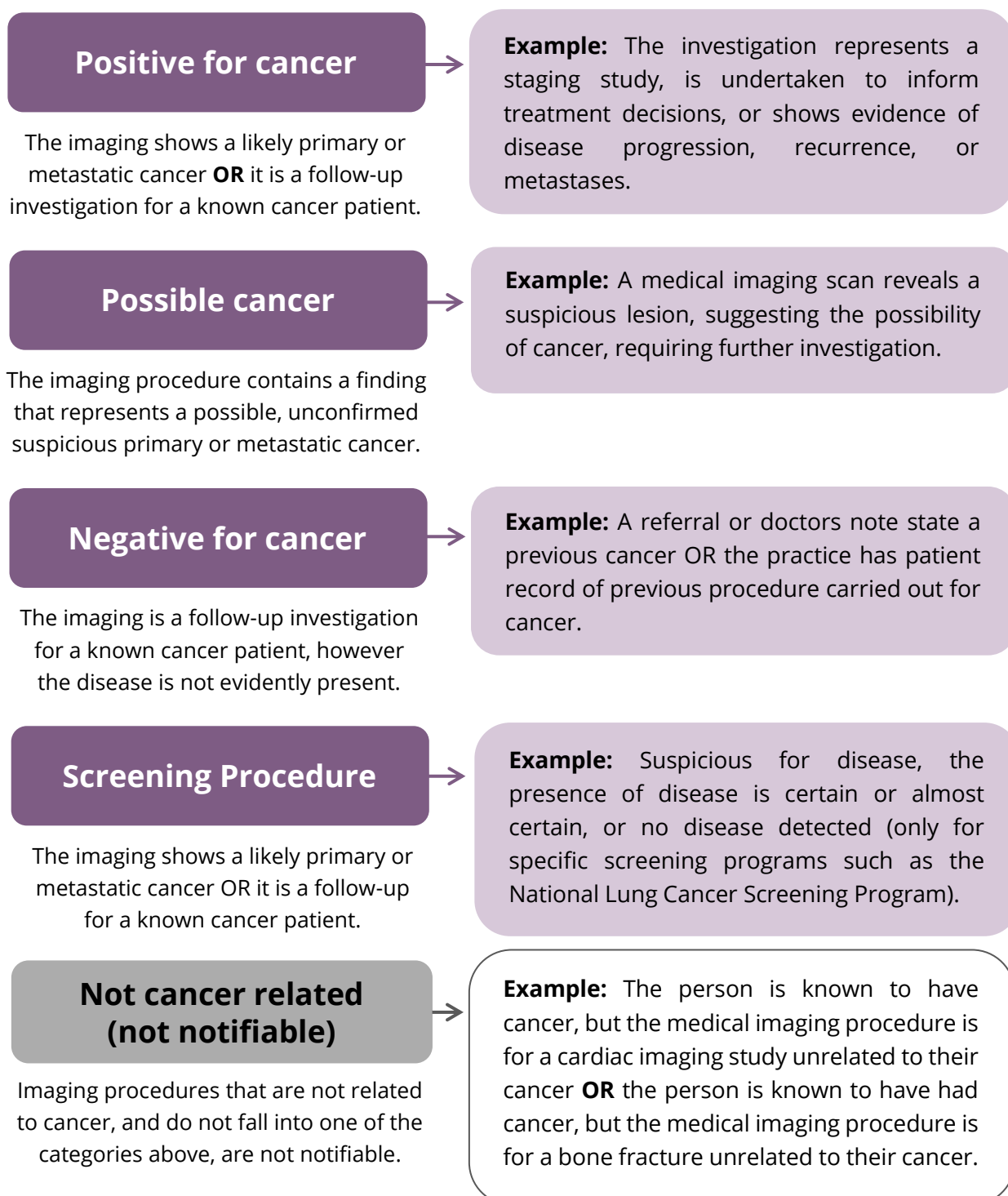
According to the [Public Health Act 2005](#), the Director of a diagnostic imaging practice is required to submit a notification for a diagnostic imaging procedure 30 days once validated if-

- a) a diagnostic imaging procedure is carried out on a person at the practice; and
- b) either—
  - i) the procedure indicates the person **has, or has had, or may have had, cancer**; or
  - ii) the director reasonably suspects the procedure is a **cancer-related follow-up** procedure.

### 3.3. Medical imaging notifiable categories

Medical imaging procedures must be reported to the QCR if they are found to fall into any of the following categories:

*Figure 1: Medical Imaging notifiable categories*



## 4. Data submission

### 4.1. Approved form

Medical imaging practices are required to submit notifications for procedures that suggest a patient **has cancer, had cancer, may have cancer;** or is **reasonably suspected to have undergone a procedure related to cancer**. These notifications must be submitted once validated within 30 days in the **Approved form**. Medical imaging practices must notify reports within a message file that conforms to the current [HL7 Australia Diagnostic Messaging standard](#).

The QCR requires submission of the validated report text only. Diagnostic images, scanned documents and PDF versions of reports should not be submitted. The format and content of the message file are specified in the [Approved form: Medical Imaging Notifiers](#).

### 4.2. Transfer

Various secure transfer options are available. Please contact the QCR team at [QCR@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:QCR@health.qld.gov.au) to discuss the method most suitable for your practice.

## 5. FAQs

**Q.** What is the timeframe for notifying a medical imaging procedure to the QCR?

**A.** Practices must submit the notification in the **Approved form** within **30 days once finalised**. The QCR accepts reports either individually as they become available or in batches, depending on what best suits a practices workflow. However, all batched reports must still be submitted within the 30-day timeframe.

**Q.** What security measures are in place to prevent unauthorised access to submitted reports?

**A.** The QCR utilises robust security measures to protect the confidentiality of cancer-related data, including secure access controls, data encryption, and regular system updates.

All reports submitted to the QCR are protected by these safeguards to prevent unauthorised access. These measures align with industry best practices and relevant legislation to ensure data integrity and security.

**Q.** Is there a risk of non-cancer reports being sent to the QCR?

**A.** Yes, there is a possibility that the QCR may receive reports that are not cancer-related. All submitted reports are processed through **MedTex Radiology** within QCR's internal environment to identify cancer related notifiable reports.

Reports that are found to be not cancer-related, will be managed in accordance with the QCR Records Retention and Disposal Policy. This process aligns with the requirements of the Queensland Government Records governance policies.

**Q.** What are the consequences of non-compliance?

**A.** As reporting is mandated by law, failure to comply may result in regulatory action under the [PHA](#). However, the QCR is committed to working with each notifier to ensure compliance.

## References and Resources

Australian Digital Health Agency. *Health Level Seven (HL7)*. Digital Health Implementer Hub.

<https://implementer.digitalhealth.gov.au/standards/organisation/health-level-seven-hl7>

Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. *About diagnostic imaging in Australia*.

<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/diagnostic-imaging/about>

HL7 Australia. *Australian Diagnostics and Referral Messaging - Localisation of HL7 Version 2.4 (HL7AUSD-STD-OO-ADRM-2021.1)*.

<https://hl7v2wgau.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/OOADRM20211/pages/721244/Australian+Diagnostics+and+Referral+Messaging+-+Localisation+of+HL7+Version+2.4>

Queensland Government. (2025). *Public Health Act 2005 (Qld)*. Queensland Legislation.

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2005-048>

Queensland Government. (2025). *Public Health Regulation 2018 (Qld)*. Queensland Legislation.

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/sl-2018-0117>

Queensland Health. *Provision of Diagnostic Imaging Reports Guideline (QH-GDL-017-2015)*.

[https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0029/147386/qh-gdl-017.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0029/147386/qh-gdl-017.pdf)

## Version control

| Version no. | Date       | Created/modified by | Modifications made                               |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1.0         | 28/01/2026 | Courtney Jurd       | Inclusion of <a href="#">PHA 2005</a> amendments |
| 1.1         | 26/08/2026 | Julie Moore         | Amendments                                       |

## Appendices

### Appendix A – Medical Imaging Cancer Notification Example

The following is a sample [HL7 Version 2.4](#) message that meets the standards outlined in this guideline as well as the **Medical Imaging Notifiers Approved form**. It is provided for illustrative purposes only and demonstrates the format, structure, and content expected when submitting notifications to the QCR. Individual messages may vary depending on the facility, report type, system, and notification transfer method.

```
MSH|^~\&|RadiologyIS|Sunshine Imaging Clinic|CancerRegister|QCR|202510220930||ORU^R01|MSGID20251022A|P|2.4
PID|1|8003601234567890^NH^IHI~2951234567^MC^Medicare~A1234567^^^Sunshine Imaging Clinic^MR
|Brown^Olivia^^^Ms|19751201|F||789 Health St^Brisbane^QLD^4000|0412345678||AUS
PV1|1|O|RadiologyDept^Room3|||54321^Nguyen^Linh^Dr|||||A1234567
ORC|RE||REQ123456|||||202510210800|54321^Nguyen^Linh^Dr|Sunshine GP Clinic
OBR|1|RAD567890|RAD567890|MAMMO^Mammogram Bilateral^L||202510210800|||||54321^Nguyen^Linh^Dr|Sunshine GP
Clinic|||||V1
OBX|1|FT|REPORT_TEXT^Validated Report Text^L||Bilateral mammogram performed. No suspicious masses identified. Dense breast tissue
noted.|||||F
OBR|2|RAD567891|RAD567891|US^Breast Ultrasound Bilateral^L||202510211000|||||54321^Nguyen^Linh^Dr|Sunshine GP
Clinic|||||V1
OBX|1|FT|REPORT_TEXT^Validated Report Text^L||Bilateral breast ultrasound performed. Left breast shows a 1.2 cm hypoechoic lesion with
irregular margins. Right breast unremarkable. BI-RADS Category 4. Recommend biopsy.|||||F
```