



# COVID-19 Rapid Test Concessional Access (CRTCA) Program

## Purpose

The CRTCA Program is a temporary program to provide eligible concession card holders access to free rapid antigen tests (RATs), supplied through Participating Community Pharmacies.

Under the CRTCA Program, eligible concession card holders will be able to access up to twenty (20) RATs over a six-month period, with no more than five (5) RATs in any given month (as defined below).

## Duration

This Program will operate from Monday 24 January to Sunday 31 July 2022.

For the purposes of this Program, the months will be phased as follows:

- Month 1: 24 January 2022 to 28 February 2022
- Month 2: 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022
- Month 3: 1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022
- Month 4: 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2022
- Month 5: 1 June 2022 to 30 June 2022
- Month 6: 1 July 2022 to 31 July 2022

## Participation

### Pharmacy Eligibility and Process

Detailed information on how to become a Participating Community Pharmacy under this temporary Program, is available at <https://www.ppaonline.com.au/programs/covid-19-programs/covid-19-rapid-test-concessional-access>.

Community Pharmacies will be reimbursed a set amount for the unit cost of the tests. This means that Community Pharmacies must have their own stock available to use in the Program.

Only TGA-approved RATs are permitted.

When supplying RATs under the CRTCA Program, a Participating Community Pharmacy must:

- Sight, or have previously sighted, and record an eligible person's Commonwealth concession card and confirm that verbal positive consent to record these details into the ProjectCOVID module is provided
- Display, in a location prominent to where the free RATs will be accessed, the Privacy and Consent Notice for verbal positive consent to be obtained
- Provide RATs only on the pharmacy's physical premises, unless they are being supplied as part of a pre-existing home delivery service
- Confirm that the eligible concession card holder has not already been supplied either:
  - Five RATs in the current month (note: 24 – 31 January is included as month of February) or
  - The full allocation of twenty (20) RATs for the six-month period.

### ***No discretionary supply will be permitted under the CRTCA Program.***

- Where the concession card holder has not exceeded their allocation for the six month period or their monthly allocation, provide the individual(s) with a supply of RATs (either two RATs or five RATs per eligible concession card number) and record the supply details in ProjectCOVID.
- The Community Pharmacy must ensure that any supply under the CRTCA Program will be at **no charge** to the concession card holder. Where a patient has already received their allocation under the Program, a Community Pharmacy may provide additional tests outside of the Program at retail price to the patient.

## Patient Eligibility

Holders of the following eligible concession cards will be eligible for RATs under the CRTCA Program:

- Pensioner Concession Card;
- Commonwealth Senior Health Care Card;
- Health Care Card (including Low Income Health Care Card); or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, White or Orange Cards.

To access their allocation of RATs under the CRTCA Program, eligible concession card holders must provide their eligible concession card number to a Participating Community Pharmacy either in person, through their carer, or via their pre-existing home delivery service with the Participating Community Pharmacy.

Eligible concession card holders must also provide verbal positive consent either in person, through their carer, or via their pre-existing home delivery service with the Participating Community Pharmacy for the Participating Community Pharmacy to record relevant eligible concession card details into ProjectCOVID for supply, compliance and Community Pharmacy reimbursement purposes.

Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) have access to testing under applicable State and Territory arrangements. If an eligible concession card holder from residing in an RACF, or their carer/family, presents to a Participating Community Pharmacy and meets the criteria to access RATs outlined in these program rules, supply may occur if able.

However, RACFs or their representatives cannot collect on behalf of residents. A supply must not occur unless the resident, or their carer/family, who is an eligible concession card holder presents themselves to the Participating Community Pharmacy.

Patients with COVID-19 like symptoms, **should not** attend a pharmacy to collect RATs – instead, advise them to proceed directly to a testing centre for COVID-19 testing consistent with the jurisdiction's health advice and directions.

## Patient Consent

Eligible concession card holders must also provide verbal positive consent either in person, through their carer, or via their pre-existing home delivery service with the Participating Community Pharmacy for the Participating Community Pharmacy to record relevant eligible concession card details into ProjectCOVID for supply, compliance and Community Pharmacy reimbursement purposes.

Transactions must not be submitted into ProjectCOVID unless verbal patient consent has been obtained prior to data entry.

Community Pharmacies found to be recording transactions in ProjectCOVID without verbal patient consent may be subject to audit and compliance activities.

## Claiming and Payments

A Participating Community Pharmacy will receive the following reimbursement for each RAT supplied under the CRTCA Program from 24 January 2022 (CRTCA Program commencement date):

- Community Pharmacies will be reimbursed a set amount for the unit cost of the Rapid Antigen Tests (which will be \$10 plus GST per test initially, with ongoing review of unit prices). For each supply transaction processed for an eligible person under this program (either two tests or five tests per transaction), an Administration Handling and Infrastructure (AHI) fee of \$4.30 per transaction will be reimbursed to the Community Pharmacy.
- Only one handling and administration fee will be payable per transaction regardless of whether a two pack or five pack is provided. Only one transaction should be submitted in one day at the same Participating Community Pharmacy.

The first payment for the CRTCA Program was made into the Participating Community Pharmacy's registered bank account on 15 February 2022. Subject to an acceptable data file being agreed by the PPA, all involved will work to best endeavours to pay on a fortnightly payment cycle. The proposed payment schedule can be viewed under the Claims and Payment section of the CRTCA Program webpage.

Pharmacies may be requested by the Department of Health, or the PPA, to provide information in respect of its RAT purchase price (e.g. invoice or monthly statement) from the relevant wholesaler or supplier to inform appropriate adjustments to reimbursement calculations during the term of the CRTCA Program. This will assist in supporting the Australian Government's efforts to monitor market dynamics. If this information is requested, it must be provided within two weeks of the date of request unless disclosure of purchase price to third parties is prohibited under the commercial terms of purchase.