



This health service participates in ACCESS
Australian Collaboration of Coordinated Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance

What is ACCESS?

ACCESS is a national initiative that collects information on the testing, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmissible infections and bloodborne viruses like chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV and hepatitis A, B and C. As part of participation, this clinic provides anonymous and confidential patient information to researchers at the Kirby Institute (UNSW Sydney) and the Burnet Institute. There are currently over 100 clinics and laboratories participating in the project nationally.

Why is ACCESS important?

Information collected by ACCESS is used to evaluate the effectiveness of patient care and clinical services to improve the health of people attending the health service. This information will be used to reduce sexually transmissible infections and bloodborne viruses in the community and to ensure that health resources are used efficiently.

How is my information protected?

ACCESS has a number of safeguards in place:

1. **All ACCESS data are completely anonymous.** No details that could identify you, such as name, phone number or date of birth are collected,
2. The ACCESS project uses leading encryption technology to protect all collected information, and
3. All reports and analyses present data in a summarised manner (e.g., *50% of people attending 30 clinics had an HIV test*), which ensures that individual privacy is protected and that marginalised communities are not further exposed to stigma.

Does this project have ethical oversight?

Conduct of ACCESS has been reviewed and approved by several ethics committees across Australia, including the lead committee of the Alfred Hospital (HREC/17/Alfred/100). If you have questions about this project, please contact the study coordinator (details below). If you have concerns about the conduct of this project, please contact the Alfred Health research office (research@alfred.org.au).

Where can I find out more information?

Please speak to your doctor if you have questions about ACCESS or if you would like to opt-out. More information on the project is also available on the study website (www.accessproject.org.au) or by contacting the study coordinator (accessproject@unsw.edu.au).

