



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING PATHWAYS  
[www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au)

## ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

This brochure tells you about Acute Respiratory Illness and how it is diagnosed, including what Imaging tests you may need to have.

### What is Acute Respiratory Illness?

Acute Respiratory Illness affects the lungs and airways. Most acute respiratory illnesses are viral infections such as the common cold, which usually goes away without antibiotics.

Sometimes, you may develop a more severe infection, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. If this happens, your doctor may give you a prescription for antibiotics.

### Diagnosis:

Most people with acute respiratory illness do not need imaging tests for diagnosis. Sometimes, your doctor may request a chest x-ray to help decide whether you need further treatment and what treatment might be best.

### Results:

The amount of time it takes for you to get your results will differ depending on where you get your scans done. If you have a chest x-ray, a radiology doctor will look at the pictures and write a report for your doctor.

Further tests (e.g. a CT scan) may be necessary depending on the result of the chest x-ray, or if you do not respond to treatment within a reasonable time.

### Further Information

For more detailed information, please see [Inside Radiology](#), a resource produced especially for consumers by the [Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists](#).

If you would like to look at other relevant brochures, please see

- [Chest x-ray](#)
- [CT Scan](#)
- [Radiation risks of x-rays and scans](#)

Or log into the Diagnostic Imaging Pathways website - [www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/includes/consumer.html](http://www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/includes/consumer.html)

or

If you have questions or require any further information please contact your doctor or speak to the staff where you are going to have your procedure.

## Consumer Participation

This information has been reviewed by representatives from the following groups:

- Aboriginal people
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse)
- The Health Consumers' Council.

## Feedback

The Division of Imaging Services, Royal Perth Hospital is committed to providing a friendly and professional service. If you would like to provide feedback on this information sheet, please send to:

Quality Coordinator  
Imaging Services  
Royal Perth Hospital  
GPO Box X2213  
Perth WA 6000

## References

Encyclopedia of Public Health: Acute Respiratory Diseases, [www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com)

Respiratory illness – definition of respiratory illness,  
[www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com)

### Website

For more information go to [www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au)

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