

FAQ

What does this word or process mean?

1. Medsafe approved – Approved or accepted for use by Medsafe of the Rapid Antigen test (RAT) product means that brand of this product has been evaluated in NZ, determined, and approved as “fit for purpose.” There are limited uses for which medsafe approved rapid antigen tests may be used (see approval pending #2). There are currently only three such RAT products approved fit for purpose with more in the approval pipeline however the only purpose approved for use is by Ministry of Health funded healthcare organisations i.e., Hospital use, There was a special exemption granted in late October 2021 for a select group of 25 (now 29) businesses to import and use Medsafe approved rapid antigen tests and conduct this testing as a “pilot study”
2. Approvals pending- as detailed in this context means that use of COVID rapid antigen testing in that organisation, place or circumstance requires approval by MOH/NZ Government before a distributor or manufacturer may supply to those approved organisation, business, or person. An organisation or business may only use rapid antigen testing for covid testing if agreed to apply in compliance with strict guidelines for use (see FAQ #3) .
3. Professional use- In most countries, and certainly when first approved for use in Australia , rapid antigen testing was approved for professional use only. This was to ensure accurate specimen collection, accurate test process and accurate reporting of rapid antigen test results followup processs such as referral for PCR confirmation test is facilitated immediately and quarantine at home is arranged. This will require the business to have a plan in place and work with the qualified health professional. The test result is especially dependent upon accurate collection ie correct sampling for meaningful results. This may be self collection but relies upon expert oversight.
4. Pre-test- You may require a Policy in your workplace and training in place if you plan to perform testing inhouse. It will almost certainly require a health professional and suitably qualified expert health professional support and oversight of testing and for the facilitation of post positive actions. Pre-test will require determining symptomatic or close contacts for referral straight to PCR testing as it is recomended to concentrate Rapid antigen testing to asymptomatic vaccinated and unvaccinated persons Ask Inscience if you require access to a suitably qualified health professional.
5. Training for professional use- Inscience has training available for you to meet inhouse testing if that is what you choose to do. Zoom room or classroom , private or open using Inscience knowledge and experience in NZQA competency based training to develop a course based on these principles. We will be using manufacturers resources on how to perform a test as well covering essntial elements of pre-test requirements, customising process to your workplace, informed consent, coaching of self-collection, infection control, documentation and or use of the mobile app i.e. Navify , documentation and actions for reporting , records for proof of test and post positive follow up.