



Executive Summary

Electronic Transfer of Prescription Release 1.1 Draft for consultation

Introduction

Increases in chronic disease and in the use of pharmaceuticals for treatment have heightened the need for national improvements in medication management, both to promote the safety and quality of health outcomes, and also to control escalating costs. Adverse drug events place a substantial burden on the healthcare system and the broader community through additional treatment costs. Attempts to reduce medication-related readmissions or related interventions are constrained by gaps in clinical awareness of relevant information across the continuum of patient care.

Correspondingly, this Electronic Transfer of Prescription (ETP) Release 1.1 draft package includes national specifications designed to support the electronic transfer of prescriptions in all care settings making use of formal prescriptions, but particularly those involving the transfer of a prescription across an organisational boundary (i.e. from a prescribing organisation to a dispensing organisation).

This draft package supports mechanisms allowing patients to elect to have their prescription dispensed at the pharmacy of their choice.

The draft also provides for healthcare providers (such as private hospitals and residential care facilities) to obtain medication on behalf of their patients when acting with the patient's explicit consent.

Finally, the draft provides mechanisms to assist prescribers and dispensers in managing the urgent supply of medication in accordance with a prescriber's informal instruction, and the subsequent issue and reconciliation of a formal electronic prescription.

This draft for consultation incorporates previously-received feedback from key stakeholders.

It recognises the need for sustained and extensive consultation with the wider national health community to develop solutions that deliver compelling and timely benefits to patients and healthcare providers, and which also align with emerging national e-health initiatives.

Security and privacy requirements are included, helping to ensure that information exchange is conducted appropriately.

In short, this package delivers a foundational part of the e-health national framework, validated through stakeholder participation, and balances specific interests with the need for national consensus towards a sustainable healthcare future.

Purpose

This package is intended to build and foster the ongoing development of a series of national specifications and methods to support the structured electronic exchange of prescriptions and dispensed medication information between prescribers and dispensers.

Following this round of consultation, NEHTA will release a final set of specifications in late 2010 for initial implementations.

Structure

The ETP Release 1.1 package is built upon a series of interlocking national infrastructure services, developed by NEHTA's e-Health Foundations program, specifically designed to support the appropriate exchange of clinical and administrative information between participating healthcare providers.

The relevant e-Health Foundations include Clinical Terminology, Healthcare Identifiers and Secure Messaging.

NEHTA's e-Medication Management is available via the 'e-Communications in Practice' section of the NEHTA website, also including e-Discharge Summaries, e-Pathology and e-Referrals.

Benefits

The ETP package aims to establish an agreed set of specifications providing for the timely, secure and consistent transfer of medication information between prescribers and dispensers, in order to:

- Improve the quality and safety of medication provision
- Improve efficiency, particularly in pharmacies
- Reduce the potential for errors of transcription and/or interpretation
- Build a technical foundation for improvements in the quality and safety of medication management.

Content

This draft release is currently composed of nine documents, as follows.

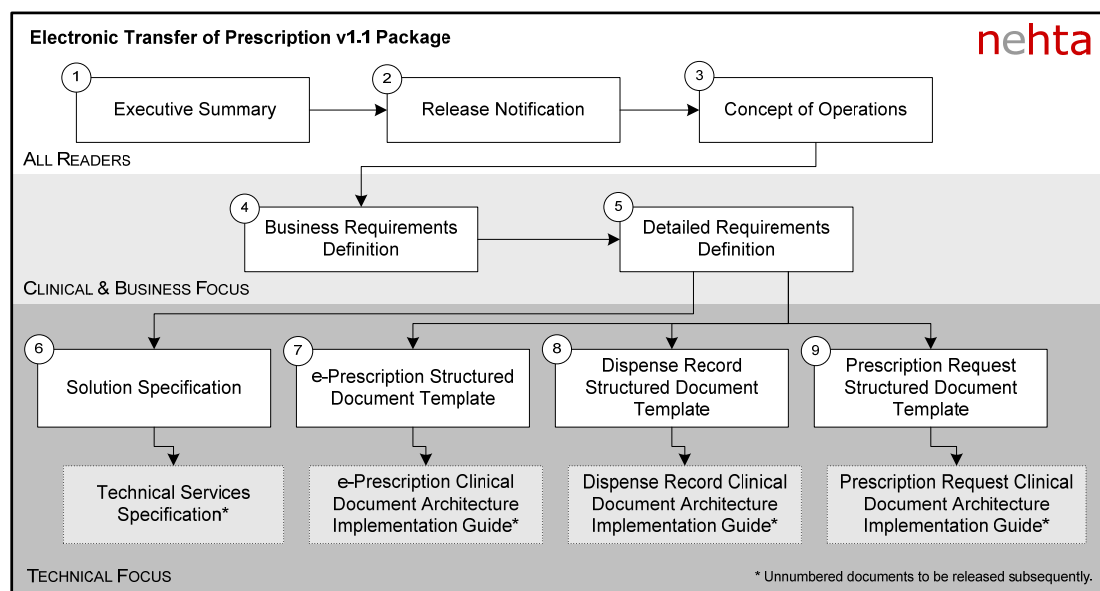


Figure 1 ETP Release 1.1 Package Document Map

Feedback

Feedback on this release is requested before 15 October 2010 and can be emailed to medication.management@nehta.gov.au as can any questions relating to this package.

Priority areas for feedback include errors of omission or commission, and issues that would adversely impact consumer choice and the timely provision of prescription and dispensed medication information.

Specification Development and Implementation

With the release of this draft package, NEHTA will continue to develop the specifications in consultation with the health sector. The approach taken will be direct engagement with key stakeholders and analysis of feedback from the broader health sector.

NEHTA will also be seeking implementation partnerships.

This consultation and analysis will result in a final specification scheduled for Q4 2010 which is designed to support a national approach to ETP.

In parallel, Standards Australia is commencing the development of standards based upon the Structured Document Templates and the Solution Specification.