



## **e-Discharge Summary**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Release 1.1 - Final**

#### **Introduction**

As part of the emerging e-health infrastructure currently taking shape across Australia, this package release is the result of stakeholder consultation, and gathers up-to-date intelligence and expertise from participating clinical, administrative and analytical communities. Using an incremental release schedule, it provides infrastructure partners with testable specifications and methods, offering clinical advantages for patients and healthcare professionals, while also providing a basis for improved coverage and sophistication into the future. Extensive consultation with the wider national health community has facilitated the development of a solution that delivers compelling and timely benefits to health care providers and their patients. Security and privacy considerations are included, helping ensure that information coding and exchange is conducted appropriately.

#### **Purpose**

This package is intended to initiate and foster the ongoing development of a series of national specifications and methods to support the structured exchange of discharge summary information between clinicians.

#### **Structure**

The e-Discharge Summary 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 the Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI), the Healthcare Provider Identifier (HPI), the National Authentication Service for Health (NASH) and Secure Messaging (SM). These foundation services are at varying stages of readiness, and it is therefore acknowledged that local or interim infrastructure services will need to be commissioned in order to support the initial exchange of e-health information. NEHTA's e-Discharge Summaries are part of NEHTA's 'e-Communications in Practice', also including e-Medication Management, e-Pathology and e-Referral.

#### **Approach**

As several jurisdictions and health care providers are currently working toward state-based discharge summary systems, a repeatable implementation strategy has been adopted to allow for the iterative uptake of NEHTA specifications over time.

Participating stakeholders are able to shape the development of the national discharge summary standard and its implementation within their specific clinical context. Consequently, participants will be better able to ensure that discharge-related change is enabling and meaningful.

## Benefits

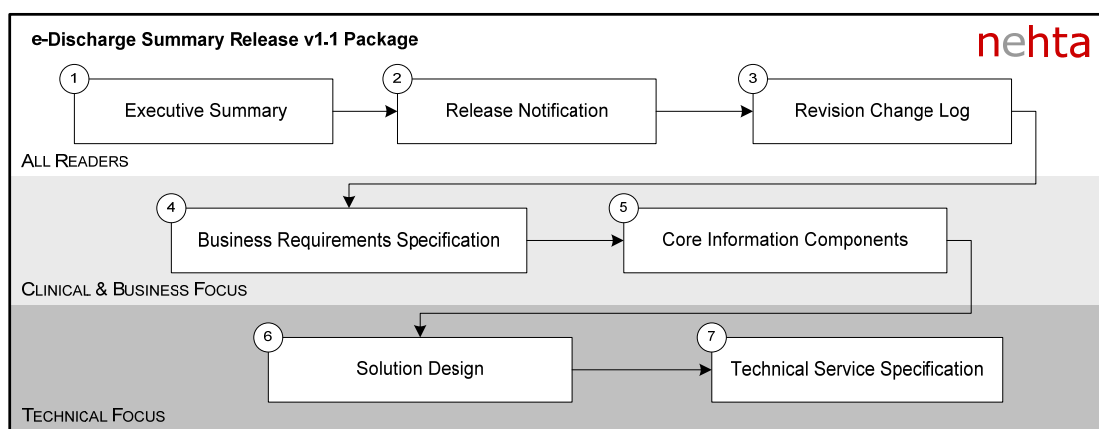
The first is error-reduction, particularly in the encoding and transfer of clinical data. Improvements in the timely delivery of clinical information also help with error reduction.

The second is the reduction of readmission rates for patients experiencing adverse events, particularly those caused by delays in the exchange of relevant patient information.

In combination, these promote the meaningful and enabling integration of medical data at the clinician's desktop, providing support for the reliable exchange of information, reductions in avoidable readmissions, as well as improved opportunities for appropriate therapies and interventions.

## Content

The release is composed of two introductory and five key documents:



**Figure 1 e-Discharge Summary Package Document Map**

The Change Log provides a summary of updates and changes made to the e-Discharge Summary Release 1.1 package.

The Business Requirements Specification describes the high level requirements for the creation, delivery and receipt of discharge summaries for admitted patients from hospitals or clinics to general practitioners.

The Core Information Components document defines the information components being recommended for use when exchanging Discharge Summaries within Australia.

Additionally, the Solution Design defines national guidelines and specifications that implementers should adopt when developing discharge solutions in order to allow future interoperability.

Finally, the Technical Service Specification defines the logical interfaces required for implementing the package. It includes mapping of the logical interfaces to the web service interfaces and endpoints specified by Standards Australia.

## Feedback

Feedback or questions relating to this package can be emailed to [dischargesummary@nehta.gov.au](mailto:dischargesummary@nehta.gov.au).