



Executive Summary

Electronic Transfer of Prescription 1.1 Final

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 medications-related readmissions or related interventions are constrained by inconsistent clinical awareness of relevant information across the continuum of patient care.

This Electronic Transfer of Prescription (ETP) 1.1 package includes national specifications designed to support the electronic transfer of prescriptions in all care settings that make 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 package supports mechanisms allowing patients to elect to have their prescription dispensed at the pharmacy of their choice. It also provides for healthcare organisations such as private hospitals and residential care facilities to obtain medication on behalf of their patients when acting with the patient's explicit consent.

The package also 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.

Finally, the package provides strong security mechanisms as well as policies and access controls that ensure that healthcare provider organisations can only access prescription information with the patient's consent.

Purpose

The purpose of the Electronic Transfer of Prescription 1.1 package is to define the goal-state solution for the transfer of e-prescriptions in Australia.

Structure

The ETP 1.1 package is built upon a series of foundational 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, Secure Messaging and the National Authentication Service for Health (NASH).

NEHTA's e-Medication Management documentation 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 release is composed of thirteen documents, as follows.

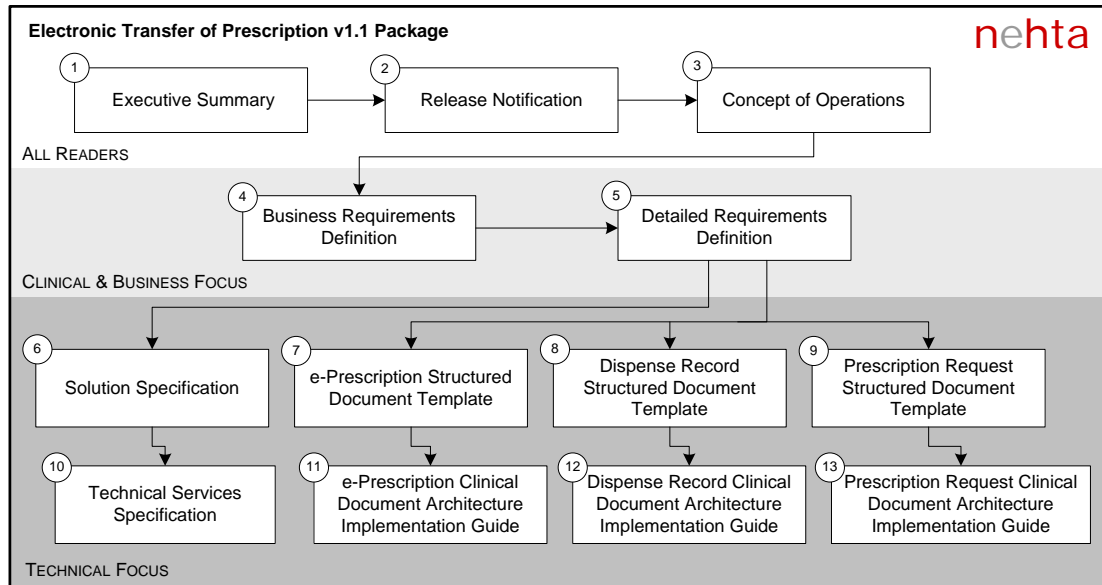


Figure 1 ETP - Document Map

Feedback

NEHTA continues to welcome feedback on the ETP package. Feedback 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 final package, NEHTA's ETP-related stakeholder engagement will turn to the development of guidance for the implementation and use of the ETP solution along with compliance, conformance and governance. NEHTA will also be actively seeking implementation partnerships.

In addition, Standards Australia has commenced consideration of the ETP package as a basis for the development of Australian Technical Specifications relevant for electronic prescriptions.