

## Pathology Terminology Cover Note

29 August, 2008

NEHTA is committed to ensuring that quality assurance processes are in place and that our deliverables are reviewed by those in the health sector with operational domain relevant expertise. It is for this reason that NEHTA is pleased to announce the release of 'Pathology Terminology – draft for comment'.

The 'Pathology Terminology – draft for comment' gives the opportunity for the health care community, and especially for persons from within the Pathology industry to provide their feedback on the clinical terminology deliverables. NEHTA believes this feedback is critical to ensure that their deliverables satisfy the requirements of the end users. NEHTA invites you to participate in this process.

The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) within NEHTA, has been tasked to develop terminology to support the requirements of the Pathology community. NCTS develops and delivers terminology reference sets that define and contain the terminology concepts that support the use cases for a given data element within a specification. These reference sets will assist with standardised data capture and data representation within information systems and subsequent electronic information exchange that facilitates interoperability.

### Pathology Terminology

The Pathology Terminology comprises existing SNOMED CT1 concepts that meet the data specification requirements outlined in the Structured Document Template – Pathology Result Report v0.04 08/08/2008. The scope of the Pathology terminology contained in this release has been defined by the Pathology Results Reporting Package v1.0.

The purpose of this Pathology Terminology release is to:

- obtain feedback from the clinical community to NEHTA;
- describe Pathology Terminology reference sets;
- detail the guiding principles used in the creation and development of the pathology reference sets;
- describe the terminological alignment of the pathology reference sets with the Structured Document Template – Pathology Result Report v0.04 08/08/2008;
- identify potential issues and make recommendations; and
- provide refined naming conventions for Australian Reference List v3.0.

The Pathology terms comprising this release are not for clinical use at this stage but are made available as a Draft for Comment.

### Release Files

SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT) has been selected as the preferred national terminology for Australia. For the purpose of the release for comment process, Pathology terminology is presented in a Microsoft Excel® file and reference sets. The terms included in this release represent a constrained list of pathology terms that are suitable for the NEHTA Pathology Result Reporting Package v1.0.

Supporting documentation is also provided to describe the approach adopted in the development of Pathology terminology, the rationale behind the approach and how the terminology is designed to align with clinical and laboratory pathology practice.

It is recommended that the SCT-AU Reference Set and the Implementation Guide SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide is read in conjunction with these files to assist with understanding the terminology structure.

---

<sup>1</sup> This material includes SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) which is used by permission of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO). All rights reserved. SNOMED CT®, was originally created by The College of American Pathologists. "SNOMED" and "SNOMED CT" are registered trademarks of the IHTSDO.

### Next Steps

The next step in the development of Pathology terminology is to obtain feedback on the Pathology terminology provided in this release. It is intended that issues identified from this feedback will guide subsequent releases of Pathology Terminology. Terminology development will be an iterative process of development followed by review.

### Feedback

NEHTA is committed to ensuring that quality assurance processes are in place and that content is reviewed by those in the health sector with operational domain-relevant expertise. It is for this reason that we ask for your feedback on this deliverable. Priority areas for feedback include errors of omission or commission, inconsistent descriptions and editorial rule concerns.

Please provide your feedback by 1st of October 2008.

Email your feedback to:

[pathology@nehta.gov.au](mailto:pathology@nehta.gov.au)

or by mail to:

Pathology Terminology  
National Clinical Terminology Service  
NEHTA  
Level 25, 56 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Should you have any questions in relation to this draft for comment, please do not hesitate to contact the National Clinical Terminology Service on the email listed above or by calling (07) 3023 8400.