

Pathology Result Reporting Package

1 September 2008

Release Note

NEHTA is pleased to release the draft Pathology Result Reporting Package v1.0 comprising a collective suite of specifications and supporting material which will be used for the electronic communication of Pathology Result information.

The National e-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) is developing the foundational specifications that will enable a shared and secure e-health records system to be a part of Australia's future healthcare. The first specification, called the Pathology Result Reporting Package v 1.0, is for pathology result reporting between a pathology laboratory and a clinician working in a community healthcare setting (e.g. GP / Specialist). Electronic messaging is already well-established in the Pathology Sector. By standardising these messages, the value of the information contained in pathology results will increase for clinicians all across Australia.

Currently pathology result information is communicated to clinicians using a variety of formats and communication methods. This limits the ability of clinician support tools to present an overview of the patient's results and creates the opportunity for important information to be misinterpreted or overlooked.

NEHTA's Pathology Program standardises the way that electronic messages regarding pathology reports are created and sent, creating the following benefits:

- There is one set of standards used for the electronic exchange of information; and
- The pathology information being exchanged is consistently represented using uniform structure and terminology.

NEHTA has worked in conjunction with the pathology industry to draft specifications that make up the Pathology Result Reporting Package. Once formal review of the content is received, NEHTA will work through existing standards development processes required by relevant standards development bodies such as Standards Australia and National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC).

These documents are intended to be representative of the pathology industry's requirements.

What does the Pathology Result Reporting Package contain?

This draft release of version 1.0 of the package contains seven core package documents. These documents provide the business context around the package. The documents are:

- Purpose and Scope - defining a high-level vision for a national approach to Pathology Results Reporting, providing the background for the package;
- Business Architecture document - describing the business requirements and the way in which the solution will deliver these requirements;
- Technical Architecture document - describing the technical infrastructure of the solution;
- Information Architecture document - describing the information components of the solution and their interrelationships;
- Endpoint Specification - defining the technical services to be used for receiving a Pathology Results Report;
- Structured Document Template – Pathology Result Report - defining specific pathology related content, its structure and its links to relevant pathology terminology; and
- Interchange Format – Pathology Result Report to AS4700.2 (HL7 V2.4) – defining the linkage between the Structured Document Template and the current Australian standard for HL7.

The clinical terminology component is provided in the draft Australian release of SNOMED CT (SCT-AU) which is available on NEHTA's secure site (<https://nehta.org.au/aht/>). Please note that a licence is required to gain access to this material. Obtaining a licence is free and it also provides an opportunity to submit detailed comments on the proposed pathology terminology.

NEHTA recommends that health software vendors, researchers, government agencies and health care organisations obtain these licences to familiarise themselves with the content and standard distribution format of SCT-AU as well as the specific pathology related content. These files include the international release of SNOMED CT and have been extended to support the Australian healthcare setting. These files may be incorporated into software products for testing purposes.

Please note: the package material contents have been implemented within the NEHTA Reference Platform. This demonstrates that the specifications can be used in a Microsoft .NET and JAVA development environment. The NEHTA Reference Platform is available for demonstration - please contact the Reference Platform team at reference.platform@nehta.gov.au.

Feedback process

The package material has been provided for your review and comment. Together with the package material, NEHTA has provided feedback questions to (a) promote debate and stimulate conversation at the workshop and (b) to gain specific feedback. Your specific feedback can be provided to:

Pathology Program Lead
Level 2, 10 Browning Street
WEST END QLD 4101

Or by Email to pathology@nehta.gov.au

NEHTA has scheduled a feedback workshop to be held at the Stamford Plaza, Sydney Airport on the 29th September 2008. This full day workshop is intended to bring together the members of peak industry bodies (National Coalition of Public Pathology [NCOPP], National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council [NPAAC], Royal College of Pathologists Australasia [RCPA] and Australian Association of Pathology Practices [AAPP]), peak standards bodies (Standards Australia, HL7 Australia), software vendors (Medical Software Industry Association [MSIA] and Australian Information Industry Association [AIIA]) as well as other interested parties to discuss the package material and reach a consensus as a group on specific issues. The workshop content will be in four major areas; Package General, Connectivity, Clinical Information and Clinical Terminology. Should you wish to raise a topic for wider discussion, contact us before the **19th September 2008** to ensure the topic is included in the agenda.

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