

Discharge Summary Terminology Cover Note (Beta release)

15th October, 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 'Discharge Summary Terminology – draft for comment'.

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

Terminology Services within NEHTA, has been tasked to develop terminology to support the forthcoming Discharge Summary Structured Document Template which is based on the Discharge Summary Data Content Specification V1.0 21.12.06. Terminology Services 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.

Discharge Summary Terminology

This Discharge Summary Terminology release comprises existing SNOMED CT¹ concepts that meet the data specification requirements outlined in the *National Discharge Summary – Data Content Specifications* v1.0 21.12.06. The scope of the Discharge Summary Terminology contained in this release has been defined by the Discharge Summary Package v1.0. The specific domain focuses for this package includes Allergies / Adverse Reaction, Problem/Diagnosis and Procedures terminology.

The purpose of this Discharge Summary Terminology release is to:

- obtain feedback from the clinical community to NEHTA;
- describe Discharge Summary Terminology related reference sets;
- detail the guiding principles used in the creation and development of the Discharge Summary reference sets;
- describe the terminological alignment of the Discharge Summary reference sets with the *National Discharge Summary – Data Content Specifications* v1.0 21.12.06;
- identify potential issues and make recommendations; and
- outline an overview of the direction for subsequent releases.

The clinical 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 this release for comment, the Discharge Summary Terminology is presented in a reference set format and is provided in the form of a SNOMED CT compliant viewer (for Windows XP) which displays the appropriate concepts in accordance with the reference set context. The terms included in this release represent several constrained sets of terms that are suitable for the NEHTA Discharge Summary Package v1.0. Supporting documentation is also provided to describe the approach adopted in the development of Discharge Summary Terminology, the rationale behind the approach and how the terminology is designed to align with clinical practice.

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

Next Steps

The next step in the development of Discharge Summary Terminology is to obtain feedback on the terminology provided in this release. It is intended that issues identified from this feedback will guide subsequent releases of Discharge Summary Terminology. Terminology development will be an iterative process of development followed by review. In addition to future iterations of this release additional domains relevant to Discharge Summary will be released and iteratively refined.

Feedback

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 'Discharge Summary Terminology – draft for comment'. Priority areas for feedback include errors of omission or commission, inconsistent descriptions and editorial rule concerns.

Email your feedback to:

Dischargesummary@nehta.gov.au

or by mail to:

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