

## Pathology Terminology Cover Note

31 October, 2008

NEHTA is pleased to announce the first maintenance release of Pathology Terminology incorporating the latest SNOMED CT release (July 2008). The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) within NEHTA has been tasked to develop terminology and supporting material to support the requirements of the Pathology community. NCTS develops and delivers terminology reference sets that define and contain the terminology concepts supporting 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 CT<sup>1</sup> concepts that meet the data specification requirements outlined in the Structured Document Template – Pathology Result Report v0.04 27/08/2008. The scope of the Pathology Terminology contained in this release has been defined by the Pathology Results Reporting Package. Incorporation of industry feedback is ongoing, hence subsequent maintenance releases will follow as this is incorporated.

The purpose of this Pathology Terminology maintenance release is to:

- Update to SNOMED CT - July 2008;
- Improve, refine and extend the documentation and reference sets from the previous release (29/8/2008);
- provide a mapping tool for local pathology terms to SNOMED CT concepts;
- 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 27/08/2008;
- identify potential issues and make recommendations; and
- provide refined naming conventions for Australian Reference List v3.0.

It is our intention to take this release content and to subject it to our Clinical Safety Assessment Program (CSAP). CSAP has been established to define, measure, report and refine clinical safety metrics in relation to the creation and use of terminology products for defined use cases. It is intended that CSAP provides an increased level of assurance compared to quality assurance alone for all Australian terminologies developed or endorsed by NEHTA. It is creating a standard approach to the evaluation of terminology products as fit for purpose and is being defined, tested and refined through operation between now and June 2009.

### Release Files

SNOMED CT has been selected as the preferred national clinical terminology for Australia. For the purpose of the release for comment process, Pathology Terminology is presented in a Microsoft Excel® file and SCT-AU 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.

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 are read in conjunction with these files to assist with understanding the terminology structure.

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<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.

## National E-Health Transition Authority

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The release is available directly from NEHTA's secure site (<https://nehta.org.au/ah/>) or via the NEHTA website. Access to this secure site is restricted to those holding SNOMED CT license agreements managed by NEHTA. To apply for the free licenses, please register at <https://nehta.org.au/ah/>.

### Next Steps

The next steps in the development of Pathology Terminology include:

- further refining the terminology references sets through continuing internal quality review and incorporate stakeholder feedback;
- further review and incorporation of feedback; and
- Continue terminology development to support the Pathology Result Reporting Package.

### 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.

The ePathology Program will be publishing a document outlining all of the feedback, responses and ongoing strategy around the resolution of the issues that were raised in the initial version of the Pathology Results Reporting Package.

NEHTA invites your feedback on this terminology maintenance release. Priority areas for feedback include errors of omission or commission, inconsistent descriptions and editorial rule concerns.

Email your feedback to:

[pathology@nehta.gov.au](mailto:pathology@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 National Clinical Terminology Service on the email listed above or by calling (07) 3023 8400.