

Cover Note: Pathology Terminology v2.0 - Draft for comment

16 April, 2009

NEHTA is pleased to announce the release of *Pathology Terminology v2.0* as a draft for comment. This release includes four new terminology reference sets to support the *Structured Document Template – Pathology Result Report v0.04 27/08/2008*.

The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) within NEHTA has the task of developing 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 NEHTA 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 27/08/2008*. The scope of the Pathology Terminology contained in this release has been defined by the Pathology Results Reporting Package and the associated Structured Document Template. Incorporation of industry feedback is ongoing, hence subsequent maintenance releases will follow as feedback is incorporated.

The purpose of this Pathology Terminology release is to:

- Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on this draft for comment;
- Provide four new terminology reference sets;
- Update terminology reference sets to SNOMED CT - January 2009;
- Improve, refine and extend the documentation and reference sets from the previous release (31/10/2008);
- Describe the terminological alignment of the Pathology Reference Sets with the Structured Document Template – Pathology Result Report v0.04 27/08/2008;
- Update the tool for mapping local pathology terms to SNOMED CT concepts; and
- Describe Pathology Terminology reference sets.

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.

The clinical terms comprising this release are not for implementation in live clinical systems at this stage, but are made available for comment.

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Release Files

SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT) has been selected as the preferred clinical reference terminology for Australia. For the purpose of this release for comment, Pathology Terminology is presented in a reference set format and is provided in the form of a SNOMED CT compliant viewer (for both Windows XP and Mac OSX) which displays the appropriate concepts in accordance with the reference set context. This release includes several constrained sets of concepts that are suitable for the NEHTA Pathology Results Reporting Package. Supporting documentation is also provided to describe the approach adopted in the development of terminology, the rationale behind the approach and how the terminology is designed to align with clinical practice.

A brief description of the SCT-AU Terminology deliverables and their location is provided in the SCT-AU Terminology Release Note – Pathology 20090416. It is recommended that the SNOMED CT Australian Release (SCT-AU) Reference Sets Implementation Guide and the SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide is read in conjunction with these files to assist with understanding the terminology structure. The terminology deliverables included in this release include the following documents and tools:

- *SCT-AU Release Notes - Pathology;*
- *SCT-AU Reference Set Library - Pathology;*
- *SCT-AU Distribution File - Pathology;*
- *SCT-AU Reference Set Implementation Guide;* and
- *SCT-AU Pathology Terminology Mapping tool.*

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

Next Steps

The next steps in the development of Pathology Terminology include:

- Refining and maintaining the content of the reference sets through internal continuous quality review;
- Reviewing external stakeholder feedback and incorporating where appropriate; and
- Continuing terminology development to support Pathology Results Reporting.

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.

NEHTA invites your feedback on this terminology 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

or by mail to:

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

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.