



## Release Note

### Endpoint Specification – Pathology Result Reporting

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009

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#### Overview

The National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) is collaboratively developing specific foundational services and e-health solutions to enable the secure exchange of reliable and meaningful information between health care professionals. These incorporate clinically endorsed specifications and supporting material. Once implemented they aim to improve operational efficiencies, population health outcomes and patient safety with respect to integrated identification protocols and the availability of reliable and accurate information in clinical systems.

The Endpoint Specification – Pathology Result Reporting describes the service interfaces designed for delivering NEHTA-defined Pathology Results Reports. This specification is released as a **draft** to help implementers understand how the Pathology specific-services may be implemented in the future.

It is important to note that the previously released Pathology Result Reporting package will undergo a process of “repackaging” in collaboration with Pathology professionals and stakeholders. The previous package has therefore been archived at this time. This process will primarily manifest as mapping out the “to-be” process of the entire Pathology Request-Test-Report (R-T-R) cycle, followed by the preparation of supporting documentation such as guidelines for behaviours around specific business processes. It is anticipated that, whilst the endpoint specification is traditionally one of the last solution artefacts to be delivered, the services described herein should not change significantly. Hence it was judged more beneficial to the community to release it as an example of how the pathology messaging will look.

NEHTA is pleased to publish the draft Endpoint Specification for use with Pathology Result Reporting for your information.

#### Important Note

Implementation of this specification is contingent on understanding the caveats described in the following sections:

##### **1. Relationship between payload and service**

To build a compliant implementation of this Results Reporting interface the NEHTA HL7 “profile” must be used and enforced as the specification of the payload (see requirement PRR.16 in the specification).

However, the Structured Document Template (SDT), describing the Pathology Report’s structure and terminologies at a logical level, is in Draft. Dependent on this is the HL7 profile in which it is implemented. So, until the SDT is finalised the HL7 profile cannot be finalised. Clearly, as a downstream dependency, the interfaces described in this document cannot be implemented in a compliant manner until these deliverables are complete.

If the payload is not the NEHTA-specified one, the Clinical Document Delivery (CDD) mechanism should be used, due to its agnostic payload.

## 2. Process Metadata

The specification includes narrative around the use of metadata associated with the payload being transported (e.g. SenderOrganisation, invocationID). Given that the Pathology team will be collaboratively defining the “To-Be” process for the R-T-R cycle, it is likely that minor changes will be required to this metadata to allow for distributed business process correlation. This will probably take the form of appropriately named identifiers, but whilst it is a minor change, implementers should consider the implied “bigger picture” such as correlation of the distributed business process – the R-T-R cycle. It’s also possible that defining the full R-T-R cycle may impose changes on the SDT and the downstream HL7 profile, for the same reasons.

### Next Steps

This document will continue to be updated based on the development activities undertaken in the Development Phase of Pathology Release 3, namely the development of the Pathology “to-be” model. Major changes during this time are not expected. Therefore the document is now considered ready for testing through a pilot implementation to determine its suitability for use by the Pathology sector.

### Feedback process

This Endpoint Specification was developed in conjunction with selected stakeholders. A previous draft was released to the sector back in September 2008 however only limited feedback was received during this time. As this document has now been flagged suitable for testing through pilot implementations, a more detailed review is sought. NEHTA intends to work closely with pilot testing collaborations to test and review this specification.

Should you have specific comments or concerns regarding this document, your feedback can be provided to:

e-Diagnostics Program Manager  
Level 2, 10 Browning Street  
WEST END QLD 4101

Or by email to [diagnostics@nehta.gov.au](mailto:diagnostics@nehta.gov.au)