

Cover Note: Pathology Terminology v2.0 – 20090717

17 July, 2009

NEHTA is pleased to announce the release of *Pathology Terminology v2.0*. This release addresses feedback provided on the *Pathology Terminology v2.0 – draft for comment 20090416*.

The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) within NEHTA has the task of developing terminology and material to support the requirements of the Pathology community. NCTS develop and deliver 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 Clinical Terms^{®1} (SNOMED CT) concepts that meet the data specification requirements outlined in the Pathology Result Report- *Structured Document Template (PRR-SDT) v1.0 30/06/2009*. 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:

- Improve and refine the documentation, tools and reference sets based on feedback provided against the previous draft for comment release (16/04/2009);
- Describe the terminological alignment of the Pathology Reference Sets with the *Pathology Result Report - Structured Document Template v1.0 30/06/2009*.

Release Files

SNOMED CT has been selected as the preferred clinical reference terminology for Australia. For the purpose of this release, 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 ten 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 SNOMED CT-AU Terminology deliverables and their location is provided in the *SNOMED CT-AU Terminology Release Note – Pathology 20090717*. It is recommended that the *SNOMED CT-AU Reference Sets Implementation Guide* and the *SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide* are read in conjunction with these files to assist with understanding the terminology structure.

¹ 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.

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The terminology deliverables included in this release include the following documents and tools:

- *SNOMED CT-AU Release Notes - Pathology*;
- *SNOMED CT-AU Reference Set Library - Pathology*;
- *SNOMED CT-AU Reference Set Viewer - Pathology*;
- *SNOMED CT-AU Distribution File - Pathology*; and
- *SNOMED CT-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>.

This Pathology Terminology release has been built to support the terminology requirements of the *Pathology Result Report-Structured Document Template v1.0 – Draft for Comment*. The identified SNOMED CT content is appropriate for the representation of pathology result reporting as reflected in the PRR-SDT.

While system developers and end users might choose to deploy Pathology Terminology v2.0 or information generated from it for purposes other than those described, no assessment with regards fitness for purpose has been made by NEHTA.

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