



Release Notification

Electronic Referrals Release 1.0

Introduction

NEHTA is pleased to announce Electronic Referrals Release 1.0, incorporating three key documents: a Business Requirements Specification, a Solution Design, and a Core Information Components document.

The NEHTA Electronic Referrals Program has been tasked to develop key specifications required for software vendors, GPs and specialists to establish a national environment for standardised electronic referral exchange, one where referrals can be sent securely and reliably to identified recipients, viewed by health care providers, and integrated into recipient clinical information systems.

The e-Referral Program will iteratively release a comprehensive series of specifications to support national interoperability. The Electronic Referral Release 1.0 defines the minimum set of data groups and elements that are recommended for implementation in any system that creates and/or transfers referral information within Australia.

Future releases will deliver extensions to this core release.

The specifications developed will support future implementation activity and alignment to a nationally-standardised interoperable framework.

Role

The Electronic Referral Release 1.0 sets a foundation for all future e-Referral Summary Program releases, and defines 'current, interim and future' solution states supported by the Business Requirements Specification. Consequently, the role of this release is to:

- Define the national business solution for electronic referral exchange, comprising a number of specifications and guidelines to support the transition of existing referral systems to align with NEHTA specifications
- Define the minimum set of data groups and elements that are recommended for implementation in any system that creates and transfers electronic referral information in Australia.

Components

The Electronic Referral Release 1.0 has three components:

1. Package Documents (i.e. documents included in this release)
 - Executive Summary v0.04
 - Release Notification v0.01
 - Business Requirements Specification v0.14
 - Solution Design v0.90
 - Core Information Components v0.26



Figure 1 Referral Package Document Map

2. References (i.e. NEHTA and third-party documents referenced by package documents)
3. Related Reading (i.e. providing further information about issues discussed in the Solution Design document):
 - Referrals Endpoint Specification v0.2 (among others).

The above documentation is available directly from the NEHTA website at <http://www.nehta.gov.au/>. Directions to access each of the above documents are listed in the 'References' section of the Electronic Referral Release 1.0 Solution Design document.

Clinical terminology-related content (e.g. Terminology Release - March 2009) is available from NEHTA's secure site at <https://nehta.org.au/aht/> following free registration for a SNOMED CT licence via the same website.

Additionally, it is recommended that the SNOMED CT Australian extension (SCT-AU) Reference Sets, Implementation Guide and the SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide are read in conjunction with these documents to assist with comprehension of the terminology structure (also available via the secure site).

Feedback

Feedback on this release is requested before 30th April 2010 and can be emailed to referrals@nehta.gov.au as can any questions relating to this package.