National Pathology Terminology and Information Standardisation Plan (2011)

Stakeholders

Leaders

Pathology profession

Through RCPA and other PAC members; Provides primary link to the care team; Defines and endorses terminology content, esp. clinical terminology

Standards Australia

Primary link to ISO standards development and, pathology system developers and end users; Approves and publishes Australian Standards

NEHTA NCTIS

Primary link to clinical informatics community; Develops, maintains and distributes clinical information and terminology standards

Customers

By type

Healthcare consumers; Clinicians and others associated with healthcare providers (each with different models of care and represented by colleges, professional and industry associations); Researchers; Health software developers and knowledge resource developers; Statistical users

By activity

Local Terminology & Information Integrators - including organisations that develop local domain terminologies or classification code sets and, also, health systems developers and systems integrators including Jurisdictional e-Health programmes.

Clinical Terminology Users - who use systems supplied by a local terminology and information integrator or, alternatively, take and deploy Australian domain terminology or structured information in their own systems.

Collaborators

- Clinical Colleges, Associations and Scientific Societies (RCPA, AACB, AAPP, AIMS, ANZSBT, ASCIA, ASC, ASM, ESA, HSANZ, HGSA, HISA, IAP, NCOPP)
- Standards developers (IHTSDO, NEHTA, HL7 Australia, Standards Australia IT-14-6-5, NCCC)
- HI Professional and industry associations (HISA, HIMAA, MSIA, AIIA)
- Academia (Universities and Research Centres)
- Government agencies and authorities; ACSQHC, AIHW, Cancer Australia, Health Departments, Registries
- Jurisdictional E-Health Programs

Funders

- DoHA QUPP
- IT-14-6-5 (wrt Australian standards approval only)
- NEHTA (wrt Board approved workplan only)

Vision, Aims, and Principles

Vision

Australia has access to and uses standardised pathology information structures and terminologies to optimise systems for recording, decision support, communication and analysis so as to improve healthcare for the individual; the population; and the healthcare system for its practitioners and payers.

Aims

- To set up a system to develop, maintain and distribute Detailed Clinical Models (terminology and information structures) for Australian pathology domain content;
- To develop specific guidance for the binding of terminology to information structures to support system to system messaging;
- To develop terminology and information content by sub-disciplines in the pathology domain;
- To identify and/or develop a standard for the coded representation of units of measure in the pathology domain;
- To establish a 'one stop shop' for the development, maintenance and distribution of all terminology content necessary to support the pathology domain;
- To collectively drive the adoption of the Detailed Clinical Models for the pathology domain;
- To establish a workable compliance, conformance and accreditation environment relating to pathology domain information structures and terminologies.

Principles

- That the terminology used for pathology reporting and requesting should be standardised
- That a combination of terminology products will be required to deliver the necessary standardisation (which is likely to include elements from within SNOMED CT, LOINC, HL7 vocabulary tables and MeSH)
- That terminology development, maintenance and distribution is recognised as a specialist activity overseen by the NCTIS as a dedicated unit using a consistent set of tools and processes
- That the 'traditional knowledge owners' within the pathology domain be responsible for defining what the content of the standardised content shall be.

Key Result Areas

Content Development

- Fit for purpose terminologies have been developed and approved by the Pathology Profession, Standards Australia IT-14-6-5 and NEHTA's NCTIS.
- *KPIs –Quality (rework); Completeness (rate of change); Timeliness(%milestones reached)*

Content Distribution

- A system that facilitates consistent, simple distribution and updates of pathology terminologies is in use
- *KPIs – Consistency (incident monitoring); Simplicity (implementer feedback); Update (compliance statements).*

Adoption

- Adoption of standardised information structures and terminology is widespread across the pathology domain;
- There is direct realisation of benefits from standardised terminology use
- *KPIs- Adoption (% vendor adoption; % transaction volume); Benefit realisation (Decrease in rate of receiving system rejection of received messages due to code non-recognition)*

Compliance, Conformance and Accreditation

- An implementable compliance, conformance and accreditation environment is in place to assure the correct use of pathology information and terminology components;
- *KPIs – Implementable (proof of concept implementation with >1 pathology system vendor and >1 clinical end user system vendor); Correct use (% of conformant messages)*

Projects

1 Governance, Planning and Resourcing

- Establish the principles of governance for the development, maintenance and distribution of pathology terminology in Australia. Develop this plan, a governance structure to implement it and put in place project plans and resources

2 International approaches to path terminology use

- Review international approaches to pathology terminology use across key e-Health implementing nations

3 Terminology Binding for AS4700.2

- Develop specific guidance for binding terminology to the HL7 2.4 message required by AS4700.2 and update HB 262 to harmonize with the NEHTA NCTIS terminology and information specifications, the IHE profile and AS4700.2

4 Standard for Units of Measure

- Develop and approve a revised set of coded standard units of measure to update and future proof RCPA / AS4700.2

5 Australian Pathology Terminology Sets

- Develop, approve and distribute standard terminology sets (SNOMED CT, LOINC etc.) to populate AS4700.2 coded data

6 Standardisation of common biochemistry items

- Develop a fully specified terminology for the reporting of 'common' biochemistry items used in clinical decision support;

7 Terminology for structured cancer reports

- Review the protocols for cancer reporting and ensure terminology is available, consistent and able to be used in electronic decision support;

8 Terminology for QA programs

- Develop standardised terminologies to be used with standardised messages for the reporting of routine pathology quality assurance testing

9 NPAAC data standard review for terminology

- Revise existing NPAAC Requirements for Information Communication to address terminology;