

# ePathology



**A NEW DIRECTION FOR HEALTHCARE**

Update: ePathology Program  
HL7 Implementation Symposium  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Dean Meston

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## National standardisation of technical approaches

- The objective of NEHTA's ePathology Program is to standardise the technical approaches to enable and improve e-health solutions
- To achieve this we need:
  - Timely reporting and intelligent notification / alert processes
  - Unique Identification of patients, providers and organisations
  - Standardisation on the structure and presentation of results
  - Standardisation on pathology terminology sets
  - Facilitation of e-requesting with digital signatures
  - Evidenced based intelligent pathology ordering based on diagnosis
  - Incorporation of point of care and self-testing results in patient record
  - Streamlined consumer access to results
  - Reconciled requests with results



National e-Health Transition Authority 

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Recognition of current experience and knowledge

- We recognise that:
  - Electronic messaging of pathology results is generally normal practice
  - Standards Australia publish messaging standards using the Health Level 7 (HL7) messaging format
  - These standards have been implemented (to some degree) by almost all of the pathology agencies in Australia
  - The National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) through publication of the Requirements for Information Communication (2007) provide guidelines for use for the standards published by Standards Australia specifically AS4700.2-2004, which promotes best practice for message creation
- There are opportunities for improvement



National e-Health Transition Authority 

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**ePathology Program deliverables so far**

- As part of our mandate NEHTA has developed the Pathology Result Reporting Package v1.0:
  - Delivered to industry a draft package prototype in September 2008
  - Focused on the variability in message structure, content and delivery
  - Sought stakeholder feedback on the package structure and process as well as the content for Pathology Result Reporting
- Your feedback has told us:
  - Stakeholders want to be involved
  - Collaboration and input is expected at the development stage
  - Tighter integration is needed with Standards Australia, HL7 and industry
  - Leverage of experience and previous work is necessary
- Feedback reports are available on the NEHTA website





---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

**Our response to your feedback**

- Refined our objectives
- Refocused the structure of the e-Pathology package
- Redefined our strategic approach




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Strategic approach to best practice implementation**

- Our intended approach will:
  - Leverage previous experiences, existing work, assets and prior investments (where appropriate) in the sector
  - Recommend specifications that add value and that are implementable in stages using complementary and incremental building blocks
  - Facilitate compatible system support to enable more efficient transition to the new e-health state
  - Assist the community to enhance e-health interoperability beyond the current HL7 v2.x messaging paradigm using national infrastructure components
  - Make available usage guidance and commentary on existing standards, within the broader national framework for e-health interoperability in pathology




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Steps to make this happen

- Identify interoperability gaps and address these through the development of additional specifications in collaboration with the pathology community
- Seek national agreement on the specifications proposed for pathology
- Work with relevant stakeholders to determine requirements for national adoption and implementation
- Assist the pathology industry in implementation activities in a managed migration over time
- Encourage the industry to look beyond current business processes and toward greater interoperability especially through the use of language or logic and presentation.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Other considerations

- The industry requires:
  - A strong business case
  - Successful knowledge transfer
  - Workforce development
  - Financial support from the government and payers
  - Technical assistance
- E-health standards are key:
  - But these need to be more specific
  - Contain fewer implementation options
  - Be developed collaboratively with the people that will use them
  - Be 'tried and tested' in real world environment
  - Information to understand the rationale behind content and application
  - Be supported by clear and realistic expectations for adoption

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### We are seeking your assistance

- Immediate contribution is sought to:
  - Update the Environment Scan for Pathology Result Reporting
  - Develop Environment Scans for Requesting, E-Notification and Synoptic Reporting
  - Re-work and add to the solution package for Pathology Result Reporting
- Future contribution is sought to:
  - Develop the solution package for:
    - Pathology Requesting
    - E-Notification Reporting
    - Synoptic Reporting

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### How to contribute

- NEHTA will initially identify a wide stakeholder group listing including representation from peak pathology bodies, standards bodies, software industry and clinicians
- Clearly documented acceptability criteria will be developed collaboratively
- Pieces of work will be offered to stakeholders with clear understanding of the purpose and scope and estimated development time
- Stakeholders with available time and interest can request to become a contributor to the work
- Once formed, the focus team will work closely with NEHTA to complete the necessary body of work
- An online collaborative portal will be made available for the contributors to communicate with NEHTA staff and each other
- The material will then be offered for review to the wider stakeholder group
- Final integration with the relevant standards body's processes (where appropriate)



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Thank you

**Dean Meston**  
Pathology Program Manager

**nehta** - National E-Health Transition Authority  
Level 2  
10 Browning Street  
West End QLD 4101

t +61(0)7 3023 8417  
m +61(0)430 359 550  
f +61(0)7 3023 8466

e [dean.meston@nehta.gov.au](mailto:dean.meston@nehta.gov.au)  
w [www.nehta.gov.au](http://www.nehta.gov.au)



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---