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## Specialist Letter Release Note

6 January 2026 v1.5  
Approved for external use  
Document ID: DH-4225:2025

Related end product identifier: EP-4223:2025

Specialist Letter documents are used in replying to a referral or reporting on a health event and contain information related to the event or the requested diagnosis or treatment by a specialist.

When a specialist creates a Specialist Letter document, it will be sent directly to the intended recipient, as per current practices. A copy may also be sent to the individual's digital health record.

### Release rationale

Default template packages for Specialist Letter requires an external HPI-I to be recorded when uploading information to My Health Record. Stakeholder feedback has suggested that in the absence of a comprehensive national provider directory, these HPI-Is are unable to be reliably sourced by healthcare organisations that are currently uploading clinical documents to My Health Record and present a barrier for transition to default template packages.

As a result, the Agency has decided that, going forward, the requirement to capture the HPI-I of external providers will be amended until such time as a national provider directory capability is in place (to be delivered by HealthConnect Phase 1a).

New template packages have been created to relax the HPI-I requirement for certain fields, as outlined in the change details section below.

This release of the Specialist Letter includes the following changes to the *Specialist Letter- My Health Record Conformance profile*:

- Revision of HPI-I relaxation with change in document version from 1.6 to 1.7
- Update to the 2.3.3 Relaxation inclusions for HPI-I

## Package inclusions

### New

Identifier	Name and version

### Updated (supersedes previous version)

Identifier	Name and version
DH-4225:2025	Specialist Letter - Release Note v1.5
DH-4240:2025	Specialist Letter - Template Package Library v1.5
DH-4224:2025	Specialist Letter - My Health Record Conformance Profile v1.7

### No change

Identifier	Name and version
NEHTA-0974:2012	Specialist Letter – P2P Delivery Technical Service Specification v1.1
NEHTA-0973:2011	Specialist Letter – Core Information Components v1.0
NEHTA-0983:2011	Specialist Letter – Structured Content Specification v1.1
NEHTA-0966:2012	Specialist Letter – CDA Implementation Guide v1.3
NEHTA-1065:2012	Specialist Letter – FAQ Medical History Clarification v1.0

### Removed (archived or withdrawn)

Identifier	Name and version

## Change Details

Specialist Letter - Template Package Library v1.5 relaxes the requirement for an HPI-I for external healthcare professionals, such as the healthcare recipient's Usual GP, while continuing to mandate an HPI-I for internal healthcare providers (i.e., those employed by the organisation), such as the author of the Specialist Letter clinical document. Refer to the *Changes* section for the list of data elements where HPI-I requirements have been relaxed.

The Template Package Library v1.5 now contains the following template packages:

Document type variant	Conformance level	Template package ID	Build ID
Semi HPII default	1A	1.2.36.1.2001.1006.1.16615.43	40744

Semi HPII default	1B	1.2.36.1.2001.1006.1.16615.44	40744
Semi HPII default	2	1.2.36.1.2001.1006.1.16615.45	40744
Semi HPII default	3A	1.2.36.1.2001.1006.1.16615.46	40744
Semi HPII default	3B	1.2.36.1.2001.1006.1.16615.47	40744

Systems uploading a clinical document to the My Health Record system need to provide the correct template package identifier. The full list of published template packages can be found in the Template Package Directory.

## Stakeholders

The following stakeholders have been involved in the development of this release:

- Developers of systems generating Specialist Letter documents;
- My Health Record System Operator;
- National Infrastructure Operator.

## Audience

The intended audience of this document includes:

- Developers of systems generating Specialist Letter documents;
- My Health Record System Operator;
- National Infrastructure Operator;
- Senior managers and policy makers, support teams and system integrators.

## Capabilities

N/A

## Additions

N/A

## Changes

HPI-I requirements are relaxed for the following data elements in the Semi HPI-I default document type. If the HPI-I is known and available, it may still be provided; however, it is not mandatory for these data elements.

Clinical Document	Document type variant	Conformance Level	Data Elements on which HPI-I requirements are relaxed
Specialist Letter - Template Package Library v1.5	Semi HPII default	1A, 1B, 2, 3A, 3B	Usual GP
			Diagnostic Investigations, Requested Service, Service Provider

## **Removals**

N/A

## **Known issues**

None.

## **Support**

For further support or to provide feedback, please email [help@digitalhealth.gov.au](mailto:help@digitalhealth.gov.au)

## **Future releases**

Not known so delete this section

## Previous releases

Date	Version
8 Sep 2022	<a href="#">EP-3486:2022 Specialist letter v1.4</a> <a href="#">Release note</a> <b>Release rationale</b> This minor release of the Specialist Letter specification bundle includes the following change to the Specialist Letter – My Health Record Conformance Profile: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document subtyping introduced to improve clinical document discoverability.</li> </ul>
25 Sept 2014	<a href="#">EP-1796:2014 Specialist Letter v1.3</a> <a href="#">Release Note</a> <b>Release rationale</b> This new version of the Specialist Letter end product introduces a variation of requirements for inclusion of HPI-I and HPI-O.
18 Aug 2014	<a href="#">EP-1753:2014 Specialist Letter v1.2.1</a> <a href="#">Release Note</a> <b>Release rationale</b> This incremental release of the Specialist Letter end product introduces the template package library as a new product component.
9 Sept 2013	<a href="#">EP-1433:2013 Specialist Letter v1.2</a> <a href="#">Release Note</a> <b>Release rationale</b> This release of the Specialist Letter v1.2 end product introduces updates to the PCEHR Conformance Profile for Specialist Letter documents.
22 May 2012	<a href="#">EP-0937:2012 Specialist Letter v1.1</a> <a href="#">Release Note</a> <b>Release rationale</b> The aim of these Specialist Letter specifications is to provide the high-level requirements for the generation, distribution and receipt of a Specialist Letter between specialists and general practitioners. The information may be used by the nominated primary provider to update their local record and the My Health Record.

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