



Release Notification
Status Update
Electronic Transfer of Prescription 1.1
Final

Release Update: 27 February 2012

NEHTA published the Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) 1.1 Specification Release in December 2010. This specification was progressed as a candidate for the Standards Australia IT-014 Informatics Community process with a view to realising a series of connected, formal Australian Technical Specifications. NEHTA is committed to supporting this standards publication process, and notes that a number of changes to the specification have been collected from relevant industry, policy makers and service providers, and have been applied to the specification.

NEHTA advises interested parties that ETP Release 1.1 will be superseded by an incremented release in mid-2012 and ETP Release 1.1 is now for information purposes only.

This Release Notification Status Update provides a broader communication as to the status of this Specification. Interested parties should contact NEHTA through the contact details at the end of this document should they wish to develop solutions based on ETP specifications.

Introduction

NEHTA is pleased to announce the Electronic Transfer of Prescription (ETP) 1.1 package, comprising thirteen documents.

NEHTA's e-Medication Management program is tasked to develop key specifications to support solution implementations required by software vendors, prescribers, pharmacies and healthcare service providers to establish a national environment for the standardised and interoperable transfer of prescription and dispensing information between authorised participants.

This ETP 1.1 package incorporates stakeholder feedback on the previous, draft ETP 1.1 package and includes the following changes:

1. Improvements to clarity and consistency
2. Definition of three distinct levels of adoption of ETP which different healthcare communities may take up at different times
3. Addition of the technical capability for a dispenser to cancel a prescription when acting on advice from a prescriber and within professional guidelines
4. Removal of the provision of dispense records to a prescriber when a prescription is cancelled.

Additionally, the requirements and solution for a paperless PBS claiming process utilising the ETP Release 1.1 specifications are the subject of ongoing work by the

Department of Health and Ageing, Medicare Australia and NEHTA (see Known Issues, below).

Role

The role of Release 1.1 of the Electronic Transfer of Prescription package is to define the goal-state solution for the transfer of e-prescriptions in Australia.

Consequently this release:

- Provides guidance on the national business solution for the generation and exchange of e-prescriptions, comprising a number of specifications and guidelines
- Defines a minimum set of data elements and services that are required for implementation in any system that creates and/or transfers e-prescription information within Australia.

The release lays the foundation for ongoing work including:

- Implementation planning and change management
- Development and implementation of operational governance arrangements
- Development of professional practice guidelines for use of ETP jointly with relevant peak bodies
- Development of Australian Technical Specifications by Standards Australia
- Development of a compliance and conformance framework for software suppliers and service providers.

Scope

The scope of ETP 1.1 includes:

- The transfer of a digitally-signed legal electronic prescription from a prescriber to a dispenser where the transfer has the potential to cross an organisational boundary (such as primary care, outpatient, and discharge scenarios)
- The ability for individuals to have their prescription dispensed at the community pharmacy of their choice where applicable
- The ability for healthcare organisations such as residential care facilities and private hospitals to direct prescriptions to their contracted pharmacy in instances where they have consent to obtain medication on the individual's behalf.

The scope of ETP excludes:

- The transfer of prescriptions or medication orders solely within an organisational boundary (such as public hospital inpatient scenarios), although aspects of the specifications have potential for reuse in this context
- The provision of prescribed and dispensed records to an individual's Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR), although provision is made for this to be added in the future
- Changes to existing mechanisms for gaining prescriber approval for PBS Authority prescriptions
- Provision of PBS S100 medications where a prescription is not used.

Aspects

The draft Electronic Transfer of Prescription Release 1.1 comprises the following:

1. Executive Summary, summarising the package and its purpose
2. Release Notification, describing the scope and contents of the package
3. Concept of Operations, providing an overview of the ETP solution and its place within NEHTA's e-Medication Management program
4. Business Requirements Definition, defining the high-level business processes and requirements that the solution must support
5. Detailed Requirements Definition, defining the detailed information elements and behaviours that the solution must provide in order to support these business processes and requirements
6. Solution Specification, specifying a platform-independent solution design that satisfies the requirements previously defined
7. e-Prescription Structured Document Template, specifying a platform-independent logical information structure that satisfies the requirements for an electronic prescription
8. Dispense Record Structured Document Template, specifying a platform-independent logical information structure that satisfies the requirements for an electronic dispense record
9. Prescription Request Structured Document Template, specifying a platform-independent logical information structure that satisfies the requirements for an electronic prescription request
10. Technical Services Specification, specifying a platform-specific implementation of the Solution Specification (6), based upon the Australian Technical Specifications for e-Health web services, secure payloads, and secure message delivery
11. e-Prescription Clinical Document Architecture Implementation Guide, specifying a platform-specific implementation of the logical information structure for the e-Prescription Structured Document Template (7), based upon the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA)
12. Dispense Record Clinical Document Architecture Implementation Guide, specifying a platform-specific implementation of the logical information structure for the Dispense Record Structured Document Template (8), based upon the HL7 CDA
13. Prescription Request Clinical Document Architecture Implementation Guide, specifying a platform-specific implementation of the logical information structure for the Prescription Request Structured Document Template (9), based upon the HL7 CDA.

These documents are available directly via <http://www.nehta.gov.au/e-communications-in-practice/emedication-management> on the NEHTA website. Documents 10-13 are accompanied by XML schema and example files, also available from the same web location.

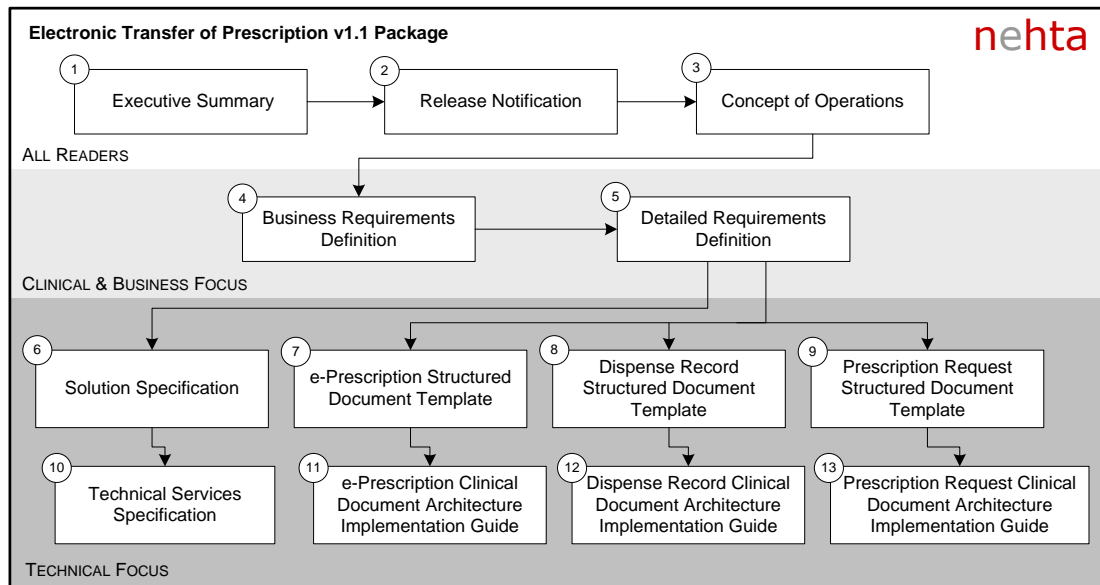


Figure 1 ETP - Document Map

Known Issues

NEHTA has identified the following open issues affecting the release:

- These specifications will be updated based on feedback through Standards Australia and are considered "for information only". A future release expected in Mid 2012 will incorporate the this feedback.
- The documents numbered 10 to 13 in the above list are platform-specific technical documents and have not yet been validated through live implementations in commercial clinical systems. For this reason the documents are identified as "Draft for trial implementation". NEHTA will work with early implementers to offer support and contribute to validation of these technical documents.
- The release specifies the National Authentication System for Health (NASH) as the mechanism for the provision and management of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates for mutual authentication and also message encryption and signing. At the time of the release, NASH is still in development, but is scheduled to be available to early implementers.
- The release does not specify the technical mechanisms for document authors to digitally sign Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) documents. NEHTA is closely monitoring current national and international standards efforts to reach consensus on a CDA signing approach. NEHTA will work with Standards Australia and early implementers to finalise this mechanism.
- The release does not specify the credentials used by document authors to digitally sign ETP documents. NEHTA continues to work with clinical stakeholders to reach agreement on and obtain Commonwealth, state and territory approvals of the credentials required for the digital signing of ETP documents. It is expected that the approved credentials will be based upon individual Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates managed by the NASH.
- The release does not specify the technical mechanisms for the submission of electronic prescriptions to Medicare Australia for PBS claim verification and audit, nor the technical mechanism for healthcare recipients to

digitally sign for the receipt of PBS medications. NEHTA continues to work with Medicare Australia to specify these mechanisms.

Feedback

NEHTA continues to welcome feedback on the ETP package, which can be emailed to medication.management@nehta.gov.au as can any questions relating to this package. Priority areas for feedback include errors of omission or commission, and issues that would adversely impact consumer choice and the timely provision of prescription and/or dispensed medication information.

Specification Development and Implementation

With the release of this final package, NEHTA's ETP-related stakeholder engagement will turn to the development of guidance for the implementation and use of the ETP solution along with compliance, conformance and governance. NEHTA will also be actively seeking implementation partnerships.

The next release of ETP is expected mid-2012 and is being developed in concert with Standards Australia (IT 14-06-04 Working Group).