



Shared Health Summary FAQ Clarification of Medical History

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Product or document version history

Product or document version	Date	Release comments
1.0	24 July 2012	Publication date.
1.0	26 May 2025	The document presentation has been enhanced to align with current branding guidelines, however the content has not been changed.

Transition of terms

Certain terms used within the context of this document have changed. The table provides a clear comparison of the historical terms used in text and their current equivalents for your reference.

Historical term	Current term
National eHealth Transition Authority (NEHTA)	The Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA)

Clarification of Medical History

An implementer has identified conflicting advice regarding the structure and usage of the Medical History data component. NEHTA acknowledges that the documents appear to be contradictory.

The two conflicting sources

The conflicting information is underlined and highlighted in yellow.

1. NEHTA SHS Release notes (page 5)

Structuring Medical History Clinical Information Model

The Medical History information structure contains two distinct categories:

- *Problem/Diagnosis and Procedure to meet information capturing and persistence requirements of acute care/hospital sector; or*
- *Uncategorised Other Medical History Item to meet information capturing and viewing requirements of primary care/general practice sector.*

The design intent is for software vendors to design for the first two data categories:

- *“Problem/Diagnosis” and*
- *“Procedure”*

*Use EITHER “Problem/Diagnosis” and “Procedure” OR “Other Medical History Item”, **but NOT both.***

2. NEHTA SHS Clinical document test data (page 8, section 3)

If the implementation under test cannot distinguish between “problems/diagnosis” and “procedures” then it is permissible to list the stated clinical content as “Other Medical History Item”, as specified in the CDA Implementation Guide instead of using the “problem/diagnosis” or “procedures” section. The implementation under test should use either:-

- the “problems/diagnosis” and “procedures section”, or;
- the “other medical history” section, or
- **both.**

Explanation:

The release note is actually focused on product functionality: products should use (Problem/Diagnosis and Procedure), OR Other Medical History Item (i.e. categorised or not categorised). This is product guidance - due to the potential for confusion amongst the users, products should support one model or the other.

However NEHTA does not intend to prevent a system that previously did not categorise entries in the past from introducing categorisation in the future – such systems will produce a mixture, both categorised and uncategorised.

The CCA guidance is written with this perspective in mind: what is allowed in the documents – both can be combined when supporting legacy data.

So the apparent discrepancy is actually a difference in perspective between guidance for product functionality, and guidance for document contents.