

What codes can be used for patient medicines change types?

NEHTA specifications for *Specialist Letter and Event Summary* contain a "Medication" section which is used to transmit information about a patient's medicine. The section contains a number of data items to indicate change(s) to a patient's medicine(s) that have been made by the authoring healthcare provider:

- change type
- change status (i.e. whether the action is an actual change or a recommendation to change)
- change description
- change reason(s).

The *change type* data item is of *data type* "coded text". A national codeset of change type values (code system OID = "1.2.36.1.2001.1001.101.104.16592") has been recommended for use with the change type data item. The code values and definitions of this codeset are included in the following table:

Change type values

Code	Display name	Definition and description
01	Unchanged	No change has been made to the status of this medicine item.
02	Changed	The medicine item has changed. The change details (which include changes to one or more of the following: dose, form, route, frequency) and reasons are found in the Change Description)
03	Cancelled	The prescription for this medicine item was cancelled by an authorised health care provider. The patient may be advised to complete the course of the prescribed medicine. This advice is a clinical decision made based on assessment of the patient's clinical condition.
04	Prescribed	A new medicine item has been prescribed
05	Ceased	Administration of this medication item that the patient is currently taking is stopped or recommended to be stopped (i.e. instructed to be ceased by a health care provider). This cessation is anticipated to be permanent. The Change Description should describe the reason for cessation. Example uses: the medication in question is considered ineffective or has caused serious adverse effects. This value applies both to the cessation of a medication that is prescribed by another healthcare provider or patient self-administration of OTC medicines.

Code	Display name	Definition and description
06	Suspended	<p>Administration of this medication item that the patient is currently taking is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on hold, or • instructed or recommended by a health care provider to be temporarily stopped, or • subject to clinical review (i.e. the stop may be temporary or permanent depending on the outcome of clinical review), or • temporarily suspended as a pre-requisite to certain surgical or diagnostic procedures. <p>The Change Description should describe the reason for suspension, and the anticipated course of the review.</p> <p>Example uses: medication in question may reach toxicity blood level, or suspected to have caused some undesirable effects; or needs to be suspended before a surgical/diagnostic procedure.</p> <p>The suspension of medication can be initiated by the prescriber or by another health care provider.</p>

Guide for use

With the exception of “unchanged”, all other change type values can be further clarified by indicating whether it is a change that has actually been made by the authoring healthcare provider or it is a recommendation (change status). Details about the change or recommendation are captured in the change description data item, and the reason(s) are captured in the change reason data item.

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