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Interim
Australian Standard[®]

**Implementation of Health Level Seven
(HL7) Version 2.5**

**Part 6: Referral, discharge and health
record messaging**



This Interim Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee IT-014, Health Informatics. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 August 2007. This Interim Standard was published on 26 October 2007.

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- Australian Department of Health and Ageing
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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Interim Standard through their representation on the Committee.

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(HL7) Version 2.5**

**Part 6: Referral, discharge and health
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PREFACE

This Interim Standard was prepared by the IT-014-06-06, Collaborative Care Communications Working Group under direction from Standards Australia Committee IT-014, Health Informatics, in response to requests from the health informatics community.

It covers implementation of the Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.5 protocol, for communication of clinical patient-centred information between health service providers in Australia. It is applicable to clinical communications covering Discharge, Shared Care, Event Summaries, and notification of Shared Electronic Health Record Systems. The original focus was on Discharge Referral, but stakeholder requirements have led to its use in the more general area of patient care messaging.

This Standard supersedes AS 4700.6—2006, Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4, Part 6: Referral and discharge summary, which will remain current.

Notwithstanding the publication of this document, AS 4700.6—2006, *Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4, Part 6: Referral, discharge and health record messaging* remains current in respect of HL7 Version 2.4 implementations, and AS 4700.6—2004, *Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.3.1, Part 6: Referral and discharge summary* remains current in respect of HL7 Version 2.3 and V2.3.1 implementations.

The mission of Working Group IT-014-06-06 is to—

- (a) advise on the appropriateness of international Standards;
- (b) recommend specific Standards and/or implementation guidelines for messages covering patient discharge and referral together with more general clinical services not covered by the other AS 4700 Standards; and
- (c) consider the need for related Standards.

The HL7 Version 2.5 protocol covers a wide range of data interchange functions. This Interim Standard focuses on the HL7 discharge and referral, shared care and event summary messages. A Discharge Referral message is analogous to a paper-based discharge referral document and has more comprehensive requirements than the less-specific discharge summary.

All efforts have been made to minimize divergence from the underlying HL7 Version 2.x protocols (as published by HL7 Inc), in order to ensure maximum compatibility with future versions of HL7 Version 2.x. Nevertheless, some significant enhancements have been put proposed in this Interim Standard, where needed to represent patient care related concepts adequately.

Attention is drawn to the fact that this document is an Interim Standard and may be subject to alterations flowing from further development. It has a currency of two years from its date of publication after which it will be either withdrawn, revised in the light of comments received, superseded by an Australian Standard, or re-issued as an Interim Standard for a further two year period. Persons and organizations concerned with the use of this Interim Standard are invited to submit comments on it to Standards Australia during its period of currency.

The term 'informative' is applied in this Interim Standard to content that is provided for information and guidance only and is not to be construed as definitive.

Standards Australia wishes to thank the Department of Health and Ageing for their financial support in helping us to produce this Interim Standard.

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