PITUSUPDATE

Newsletter of the RCPA Pathology Information Terminology and Units Standardisation Project

Welcome to the fifth issue of PITUS Update. We will bring you regular updates on the progress of the Pathology Information Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS) project through this newsletter.

Latest news on the PITUS Project — PITUS-15-16

Steering Committee

Chaired by A/Prof Michael Legg

A one-page plan summarising the PITUS project and activities of each of the working groups has been produced (see over the page).

As one of its activities, the Committee promotes safe, standardised messaging and terminology through publications, conference presentations, networking, and our newsletter. Pathology Update 2016 provided an opportunity to promote PITUS standardisation activities. A poster describing the outcomes and development activities of the project was displayed in the Roche Scientific Poster Display and published a corresponding abstract in Pathology, the journal of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australia [Volume 48, Supplement 1, pg107]. Dr Legg also presented to the General and Biochemical Advisory Committees.

The Pathology Information Standardisation web pages on the RCPA website have been expanded and improved, see PITUS-15-16 webpage.

wg1 Standards development and publishing

Chaired by A/Prof Michael Legg

Having produced a draft Implementation Guide, wg1 is working with the newly formed HL7 Australia Orders and Observations (O&O) working group to progress the work on improved HL7 v2 messaging. Dr Legg was invited to be a Co-Chair with Dr Andrew McIntyre of the HL7.au O&O group.

Additionally, wg1 are working closely with NEHTA on drafting an agreement for working with organisations like the College to provide Subject Matter Expertise and for the National Clinical Terminology Service to host agreed reference sets starting with pathology requesting and reporting terminology.

wg2 Safety in pathology reporting

Chaired by A/Prof Graham Jones

Working Group 2 has begun drafting guidelines for the safe communication of pathology reports in Australia, and will look next at guidelines for the communication of safe pathology requesting.

Wg2 will also form a special Chemical Pathology focus group to discuss the 'Combining Results Flag'. If you are interested in joining this focus group, contact Donna Moore, PITUS 15-16 Project officer, email donnam@rcpa.edu.au.

wg3 Request and report terminology

Chaired by Dr Lawrie Bott

Working Group 3 has concentrated their initial efforts on requesting terminology, and have added 121 Microbiology and 89 Chemical Pathology preferred terms to the list. The intention is to have two reference sets, one for common terms and another for more specialised testing to make it easier to implement intelligently in requesting systems.

wg4 Request Modelling

Chaired by Prof Leslie Burnett

Working Group 4 has a project description for participants on the approach for Genetic and Genomic Request Modelling in medicine, and is in the midst of discussions with the genomic alliances.

wg5 Report Modelling

Chaired by A/Prof David Ellis

Wg5 are progressing with Cancer Institute NSW and 2 testing laboratories on the implementation of computer to computer reporting of structured cancer reports. In the first instance Colorectal cancer and Prostate cancer (Radical prostatectomy) have been chosen. This endeavour requires new but closely aligned standards development. NEHTA and HL7.org (Grahame Grieve) are working with us to specify the use of the new HL7 Standard FHIR for structured cancer reporting.

wg6 Informatics quality assurance

Chaired by A/Prof Michael Legg

RCPAQAP has adopted a plan to establish an Informatics External Quality Assurance (EQA) program for electronic reporting of results from laboratories. This will begin with the Liquid Serum Chemistry program. Two laboratories have indicated a willingness to participate. As part of the development RCPAQAP recently circulated an RFP to provide software and services to support electronic pathology requesting, electronic pathology report receipt and conformance/compliance testing of pathology report messages – proposal closing date is 29 April 2016. To receive a copy of the RFP, contact Raymond Oreo, Software Manager RCPA Quality Assurance Programs, email ray.oreo@rcpaqap.com.au.

PITUS-16 Project Plan

(2015-2016)

Stakeholders	Vision, Mission, and Values	Key Result Areas	Projects

RCPA Members
• RCPA Board
• Fellows
• Trainees
• Other associates and members
 	
RCPA People
• PITUS steering committee and working groups
• Other advisory committee members
• Other volunteers & contractors
 	
Partner Organisations
• PAC member organisations
• RACGP and other Colleges
• HL7.au
• NEHTA
• Cancer Institute NSW
• RCPA Quality Assurance Program (RCPA QAP)
• Consumers
 	
Standards Development Organisations
• NPAAC
• Standards Australia
• ISO
• HL7.au
• IHTSDO, Regenstrief
 	
Regulators and Funders
• Government Departments
• Australian Information Commissioner
• NATA
• TGA
• Human Research Ethics Committees
• eHealth CCA Governance Group
	Vision
	• Australia has access to and uses standardised pathology information structures and terminologies to optimise systems for recording, decision support communication and analysis so as to improve healthcare for the individual; the population; and the healthcare system for its practitioners and payers.
	
	Mission
	• To develop College standards and guidelines related to pathology terminology, units and information
	• To promote and drive uptake of the standards across the pathology industry
	• To provide leadership and advice on pathology terminology, units and information to the College and pathology industry
	• To act as the governance committee for the pathology terminology, units and information
	
	Values
	• Expert
	• Open and consultative
	• Responsive
	• Relevant
		Leadership
		• Governance
		• Expertise & knowledge management
		• Development of standards and guidelines in pathology terminology, units and information
		• Promotion of these standards and guidelines
		• Quality, safety and good practice
		
		Key Objectives
		• Develop standards, information models and terminologies for safe atomic reporting to registries
		• Ensuring standards, information models and terminologies are comprehensive, current and accessible
		• Establishing a compliance and accreditation environment for pathology terminology to be used by accrediting bodies
		• Developing an implementation checklist for best practice in the use of clinical information systems for the requesting of pathology, records management and follow-up of pathology reports;
		• Drive uptake, compliance and accreditation through promotion and adoption of the standards across the pathology industry.
		
		Key activity indicators / milestones / (KPIs)
		• Percentage of RCPA Board approved reporting and requesting terminology standards hosted on the RCPA website and NEHTA (or NEHTA equivalent) website by June 2016
		• Pathology standards, information models and terminologies are comprehensive, current and accessible for SNOMED mapped request tests by December 2016
			Steering committee
			• Promote adoption and support uptake of new and existing pathology terminology and information standards
			• Develop and implement a communications strategy
			• Overall governance of the project
			
			Working groups
			1. Standards development and publishing (wg1)
			  • Develop an Implementation Guide for standardised HL7v2 messaging
			  • Publishing of standards, models and terminology with NEHTA and HL7.au
			2. Safety in pathology reporting (wg2)
			  • Review chemical tests for combination safety
			  • Develop an implementation checklist for best practice in the use of clinical information systems
			  • Develop harmonised reference ranges (where possible)
			3. Request and report terminology (wg3)
			  • Expand terms in APUTS reference set to increase test coverage
			4. Request modelling (wg4)
			  • Develop an information model and associated terminology for genetic test requesting
			5. Report modelling (wg5)
			  • Develop draft standards for safe atomic reporting to registries
			  • Progress the implementation of these reporting standards by partnering with Cancer Institute NSW
			6. Informatics quality assurance (wg6)
			  • Develop and trial a quality assurance protocol that can be used by accrediting bodies to assist with compliance, by partnering with RCPA QAP