PITUSUPDATE

Welcome to the sixth issue of PITUS Update. The Project will provide 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

One of the key objectives of the Steering Committee is to promote safe, standardised electronic requesting and reporting. Recently Michael Legg was invited to present to the Australian Clinical Terminology User Group and received positive feedback on progress to date - a sign of increased interest in uptake of the PITUS standards.

wg1 Standards development and publishing
Chaired by A/Prof Michael Legg

In July, the RCPA and Australian Digital Health Agency (the Agency) signed an agreement for publishing pathology requesting and reporting terminology. This agreement recognises the role of the College and PITUS Project partners as subject matter experts in pathology informatics.

The first release of the RCPA Pathology Terminology and Information Model is now available on the Agency's website in a convenient zip file containing the latest version of the reference sets and information models from the PITUS Project, along with a release note and terms of use.

The PITUS Project is unable to publish a revised AS4700.2 and HB262 with Standards Australia, so Working Group 1 (wg1) have opted to collaborate with HL7 Australia through their Orders and Observations (O&O) working group (co-chaired by Andrew McIntyre and Michael Legg) to draft the '*Australian Pathology Messaging - Localisation of HL7 Version 2.4*'. The HL7 Australia O&O working group are using a new approach with Atlassian's Confluence to make it easier to participate in the development of the document (contact Donna Moore if you would like to participate).

The partnership with HL7 Australia has the advantage that there is now no impediment to republishing large extracts from the main HL7 standard. Furthermore, this document will provide conformance requirements and extended help for programmers in implementation and it will include the work completed to date by PITUS. All information required for implementation will be in one document to improve the standardisation of implementation. A draft of this document is expected to be available for public comment before the end of the year.

wg2 Safety in pathology reporting
Chaired by A/Prof Graham Jones

Working group 2 (wg2) have drafted guidelines for the safe communication of pathology reports in Australia. These have been reviewed by three well-respected health informaticians and safety experts. wg2 are currently working on the draft requesting guidelines. Both will be available for public comment later in the year.

This work has drawn on the US SAFER Guides and the PITUS Project were fortunate to have the principal authors in Australia, working on this through HISA and the Australian Institute of Health Innovation.

Graham Jones and Michael Legg from wg2 are also participating in the NHMRC Partnership Project '*Delivering safe and effective test result communication, management and follow up*' led by Andrew Georgiou a member of the working group from the Centre for Health Systems & Safety Research (CHSSR) at Macquarie University. Other collaborators include NSW Health Pathology and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC).

wg3 Request and report terminology
Chaired by Dr Lawrie Bott

Working group 3 (wg3) have added significantly to the terminology used for requesting pathology with 400 new terms added to the PITUS pathology reference set. Terms have been added for chemical pathology, haematology, microbiology and immunopathology. The group are now focusing on anatomical pathology requesting and will then commence work on updating terminology for reporting chemical pathology, haematology, microbiology and immunopathology.

wg4 Request Modelling
Chaired by Prof Leslie Burnett

Working group 4 (wg4) are working on information modelling required for the requesting of medical genomics. Leslie Burnett, the chair, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer of Genome.One in the Kinghorn Centre for Clinical Genomics at the Garvan Institute for Medical Research. An agreement has been entered into with the Australian Health Genomics Alliance, and in particular with the Melbourne Health Genomics Alliance, who are currently working with Accenture to co-develop a model approach for genomic requesting.

wg5 Report Modelling
Chaired by A/Prof David Ellis

The information models with bound terminology required for representing the structured report for colorectal cancer and radical prostatectomy have been developed. These will be available for public comment later in the year.

David McKillop from the Australian Digital Health Agency and the HL7 FHIR Product Director, Grahame Grieve, have been working with wg5 to specify a model using HL7's new FHIR standard for structured cancer reporting. FHIR is gaining rapid and wide acceptance and would appear to be the future for the electronic delivery of complex documents. The leveraging of existing resources and developing new internet resources, should allow true semantic interoperability. The draft RCPA structured cancer implementation guides are available on the FHIR website.

A pilot is underway for the implementation of an HL7 V2 message with an embedded FHIR document using the existing messaging capabilities of the pathology sector. Sonic Healthcare's Douglas Hanley Moir Laboratory and New South Wales Health Pathology are trialling this new technology for sending cancer reports to the New South Wales Cancer Institute.

wg6 Informatics quality assurance
Chaired by A/Prof Michael Legg

An agreement was entered into with the RCPAQAP to trial an external quality assurance program for informatics with two laboratories. This will test conformance and compliance with existing Australian standards for electronic requesting and reporting together with the outcomes from the PITUS Project to date.

Medical Objects won an open tender to develop the software for sending and receiving requests and reports and for the analysis software which will form the basis for the laboratory to report 'Informatics' performance. Most of the software development has been completed and will be forwarded in the coming weeks to members of the Informatics EQA steering committee for feedback.

PITUS is using the existing liquid chemistry program as the subject of interest. An electronic request with a corresponding paper form has been generated and sent to participating laboratories. Communications have been established to receive the corresponding report electronically. Sonic Healthcare's Tasmanian Laboratory and NSW Health Pathology are again partnering with the PITUS Project in this ground-breaking work.