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TR 2965—2007

Technical Report

Harmonisation of HD and EI data types across AS 4700.X Standards and associated Handbooks

STANDARDS Australia

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee.

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PREFACE

This Technical Report was prepared by the IT-014-06 Messaging subcommittee under direction from the Standards Australia Committee IT-014, Health Informatics in response to the Australian Government's objectives for National Standards and related Standards materials within the health sector.

This Technical Report identifies HD and EI data types across AS 4700.X Standards and associated handbooks resulting in the publication of amendments to Health Informatics publications where appropriate. This will correct any inconsistencies with the existing Standards or handbooks.

The mission of IT-014-06 is to investigate and make recommendations to IT-014 on strategic directions in messaging.

One of the pillars of e-health is the ability to identify the source, target and authoring organisations involved in messaging. Without robust identifiers clinical data will not reliably reach the intended recipient or organisation. This has both reliability and privacy implications and it is important that all parties have a good understanding of the identifiers contained in HL7 messages.

The issues also include identifying the authoring and sending organisation as well as specifying the recipient organisation. Within messages there are several levels of identifiers, with provider identifiers (XCN ID numbers) used to identify individuals and Hierarchic Designators (HD) used to identify organisations. All providers belong to an organisation, even if it is a single doctor practice. HDs can also identify other objects such as software applications.

Individual reports are also identified using the Entity Identifier (EI) type which is a combination of a string identifier and a Hierarchic Designator (HD). The string identifier should be unique over time, within the producing organisation. It may not be unique between institutions however.

Despite the presence of these types in most messages there is a lot of confusion on how to use them and how to create one when needed.

Standards Australia wishes to thank the Department of Health and Ageing for their continued financial support in helping us to develop this technical report.

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