

Australian Standard[®]

**Implementation of Health Level Seven
(HL7) Version 2.4**

**Part 2: Pathology and medical imaging
(diagnostics)**



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee IT-014, Health Informatics. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 October 2007. This Standard was published on 23 November 2007.

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- Australian Department of Health and Ageing
- Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association
- Australian Information Industry Association
- Australian Institute of Health & Welfare
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- Cerner Corporation
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 - Frankel Informatics
 - HL7 Systems and services
 - McCauley Software
 - Medical Communications Associates
 - Medical Objects
 - Michael Legg & Associates
 - Montage Systems
 - Ocean Informatics
 - Queensland Medical Laboratory
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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 and through the public comment period.

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the IT-014-06-05, Diagnostics Messaging Working Group under direction from Standards Australia Committee IT-014, Health Informatics, in response to requests from the health informatics community.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (July 2009). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

It covers implementation of the Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4 protocol, for communication between health service providers, pathology providers and medical imaging providers within and between Australian health care settings.

The objective of this Standard is to specify message formats and code sets for communicating pathology and medical imaging orders and results within and between Australian healthcare settings.

This Standard amalgamates with respect to HL7 Version 2.4, the subjects of AS 4700.7—2005, *Implementation of HL7 Version 2.3.1, Part 7: Diagnostic imaging orders and results* and AS 4700.2—2004, *Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.3.1, Part 2: Pathology orders and results* which remain current in respect of HL7 Version 2.3.1 implementations, and AS 4700.2—1998, *Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.3, Part 2: Pathology orders and results* remains current in respect of HL7 Version 2.3 implementations.

The term ‘informative’ is applied in this 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 develop this Standard.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Implementation of Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.4

Part 2: Pathology and medical imaging (diagnostics)

1 SCOPE

This Standard provides requirements and guidance on the implementation of orders and observations for pathology and medical imaging (hereafter referred to as ‘diagnostics’) using the HL7 Version 2.4 protocol, for communication between health service providers for messages relating to pathology and medical imaging, both within and between Australian healthcare settings.

HL7 Version 2.4 is a healthcare application protocol accredited as a Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The Standard includes the data segments and data elements that are mandatory (required), optional or conditional (required, based on a condition), and relevant usage notes in the Australian health environment, as well as use cases. The content covers the description and usage of placer and filler order management; that is, where a new, a change or a cancellation is made by an order placer or filler.

The Standard provides consistent use of data definitions as well as commentary and references to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the National Health Data Dictionary (NHDD), the National Association of Testing Authorities Australia (NATA), The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA), The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) and the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) initiative.

2 APPLICATION

Australia already has an existing base of healthcare institutions that use the HL7 protocol to exchange key sets of data between different computer systems. However, because of HL7’s inbuilt flexibility, it is open to differences in interpretation in structure and format. Implementation of the HL7 Standard in the Australian health environment requires a common and consistent approach.

This Standard is for use by Australian health authorities, providers of health services, pathology and medical imaging, health institutions, health information technology vendors, health information technology consultants and the health informatics community.

Only human patients are considered in this Standard.

3 DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

Clause 1: Scope

This clause is a statement of the subject and content of the Standards; for readers as well as writers and implementers.

Clause 2: Application

This clause explains the different types of healthcare groups that this document is applicable to.