

Handbook

Location of digital signatures in HL7 V2 Messages



This Australian Handbook was prepared by Committee IT-014, Health Informatics. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 August 2011.

This Handbook was published on 4 November 2011.

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

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First published as HB 308—2011.

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ISBN 978 0 7337 9916 7

PREFACE

This Handbook was prepared by the Collaborative Centre for eHealth, University of Ballarat, and the Standards Australia subcommittee IT-014-06, Messaging and Communication, under direction from Standards Australia Committee IT-014, Health Informatics, in response to requests from the health informatics community.

This Handbook proposes a method for creating and storing digital signatures in Health Level Seven (HL7) messages that meet Medicare Australia (MA) requirements.

The *Electronic Transaction Act 1999* allows any of the following requirements or permissions under Commonwealth law to be fulfilled in electronic form:

- Giving information in writing.
- Providing a handwritten signature.
- Producing a document in material form.
- Recording or retaining information.

With the introduction of the *Electronic Transaction Act 1999* and as part of the Australian Government's online strategy, MA has provided the IT standards that MA requires for electronic transmission, scanning and storage of Referrals to specialists/consultant physicians and Requests for pathology and diagnostic imaging services.

These are:

- (a) Notice of Information Technology (IT) Requirements under the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999*.
- (b) Notice of Information Technology Standards under the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999* for Electronic and Paper.

They can be accessed from the MA web site:

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/vendors/pki/index.jsp#N10164>

Funding for this publication has been provided by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The Commonwealth makes no representation or warranty that the information in this publication is correct or accurate.

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

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