



Welcome to the 12th issue of PITUS Update. The Project provides regular updates on the progress of the Pathology Information Terminology and Units Standardisation (PITUS) Project through this newsletter.

The PITUS 18-20 Steering Committee met for the fifth time on 11 February 2020. Reports were given on working group activity progress with feedback sought on a suite of draft documents to assist software vendors and laboratories with implementing and maintaining the RCPA SPIA information models & reference sets (see page 2).

PITUS 18-20 Working Group Activity

Working Group	Total Meetings	Total Members
Wg1 Evaluation & Promotion	18	22
Wg2 SPIA Terminology Reference Set Development Chemical Pathology	16	26
Wg2 SPIA Terminology Reference Set Development Haematology	7	12
Wg2 SPIA Terminology Reference Set Development Immunopathology	7	10
Wg2 SPIA Terminology Reference Set Development Serology / Micro / Molecular	9	14
Wg3 Systems Design & Compliance	19	23
Wg4 SPRC Infrastructure & Conformance	14	28
Wg5 Report Standardisation	18	28

PITUS Working Group monthly updates

[Working Groups Update October 2019](#)

[Working Groups Update November 2019](#)

[Working Groups Update December 2019](#)

[Working Groups Update January/February 2020](#)

Working Group 2 – Terminology Reference Set Development continues to make substantial progress with the review and approval of pathology terms for requesting (SNOMED-CT) and reporting (LOINC):

Discipline	LOINC Terms reviewed as at 31 Jan 2020	LOINC Terms approved as at 31 Jan 2020
Chem Path	417	267
Haem / TM	101	44
Immunopath	105	89
Sero / Micro / Mol Bio	208	126
Totals	828	526

Discipline	SNOMED-CT Terms reviewed as at 31 Jan 2020	SNOMED-CT Terms approved as at 31 Jan 2020
Chem Path	23	18
Haem / TM	133	59
Immunopath	268	252
Sero / Micro / Mol Bio	260	65
Totals	684	394

SPIA Survey 2018 Summary updated

An updated version of the survey incorporating SPIA adoption data is available at:

<https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/Practising-Pathology/PTIS/PITUS-18-20/Supplementary/SPIA-Survey-2018-Summary>



Feedback is sought on the following Draft documents produced by the working groups:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p5eme7karmicua/AA_B4o9IRTgy-xhiFFnTGWl5Ua?dl=0

1. What PITUS SC member organisations could do to help with SPIA implementation v0.5
2. Draft Guide to Requirements for Rendered Pathology Reports with Exemplar Reports v0.8
3. Standards Referencing Report Rendering Requirements v0.2
4. Draft Australian Pathology Informatics Meta-terminology v0.5
5. Draft discussion document on flags with decision tree for survey v0.6
6. Draft discussion document on headings v0.6
7. Draft Plan for NCTS tool development v0.6



Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) – The Prime Minister has announced \$170.2 million for [Medicare funded and bulk billing of pathology testing for SARS-CoV-2](#). The new, temporary MBS Item 69485 was made available from Friday 13 March 2020. Further information on laboratory testing is available from the [Public Health Laboratory Network](#), [MBS Online](#) and a [Series of National Guidelines for COVID-19](#).

The National Clinical Terminology Service has provided an out-of-cycle release of new terms related to CoVID-19 as per SNOMED International on 31 January 2020. To download the full reference set, select SNOMED CT-AU > [Reference Sets](#) from the ACCESS tab. The nucleic acid assay requesting code is:

1445431000168101| COVID-19 nucleic acid assay (procedure)|

The Regenstrief Institute has developed [32 Special Use codes](#) in response to the emergent situation with each code having undergone the normal QA terminology process. LOINC supports its use in the unique situation that resulted in its rapid creation. However, be aware that downstream users may not be ready to handle pre-release codes until they are published in the next official release, expected in June 2020.

Retirement of Professor Michael Legg

After more than 25 years working with the RCPA, Professor Michael Legg has advised his retirement from College activities.

Professor Legg was the Foundation Chair of the Informatics Committee and the founder of the biennial Informatics Workshop. With Cancer Institute NSW, he initiated the Structured Cancer Reporting Project and has served on its Steering Committee since. In 2011, Professor Legg started the standardisation project work for safer requesting and reporting which became PITUS.

The College would like to wish Michael all the best for the future and to thank him for his very significant contributions over the years.



[Pathology Informatics Seminar](#) – Wednesday 04 & Thursday 05 November 2020 - save the date. Venue: Professor Alan BP Ng Education Centre, 203-205 Albion Street, Surry Hills NSW