



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Digital Health Agency**



## **Australian Medicines Terminology Requirements and Use Cases**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

This document provides details of the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) requirements and information on use cases that AMTv4 is designed to support.

## 1.2 Intended audience

This document is intended for any stakeholders who are interested in implementing AMTv4.

## 1.3 Scope

### 1.3.1 In scope

This document is limited to providing information on the AMT concept model and components. It also provides details on some of the primary use cases that are supported by AMT:

- Order
- Dispense
- Administer
- Record
- Reconcile
- Transfer of information

### 1.3.2 Out of scope

Additional use cases that are supported by the AMT, but are currently out of scope for this version of the document, include:

- Research
- Inventory Control
- Barcode Scanning

## 2 Requirements

### 2.1 AMT content

AMT is to include medicines that are available in Australia for the treatment of human patients. The medicines include:

- All PBS and RPBS items including dressings, diagnostics, and nutritional supplements
- Majority of Registered (AUSTR) items from the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)
- Many Listed (AUSTL) items from the ARTG
- Other items as requested by users

A request content pathway is set up for changes and additions to SNOMED CT-AU, including the AMT via the [National Clinical Terminology Service \(NCTS\) website](#). The online submission form is available to all users to state the details of new or updates to medicine.

### 2.2 Access to AMT data

As updates to the AMT data become available, they are accessible on the NCTS website to the NCTS registered licence holders.

AMT is available as part of SNOMED CT-AU via

- Downloadable SNOMED CT native RF2 distribution format bundles;
- Online FHIR terminology services hosted by the National Terminology Server on the NCTS;
- Prebuilt binary indexes for Ontoserver as used by the National Terminology Server for use in other Ontoserver instances.

Downloadable RF2 bundles and binary indexes are available for download automation using the National Syndication Server, which Ontoserver integrates to receive terminology updates.

The monthly releases include:

- SNOMED CT core files and SNOMED CT-AU including AMT Content
- Australian dialect reference set
- Other reference sets for use in Australian healthcare

More information on the implementation can be found on the NCTS website.

## 3 Core use cases involving AMT

### 3.1 High-level use case overview

The AMT supports a range of medication management use cases and provides a foundation for other digital health initiatives.

The table below summarises the main components within the AMT and their typical relevance to several high-level use cases.

|                                                     | Prescribing/<br>Order | Dispense | Administer | Record | Reconcile |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|--------|-----------|
| Medicinal Product (MP)                              | ✓                     |          | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Clinical Drug (CD)                                  | ✓                     |          | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Clinical Drug Package (CDP)                         | ✓                     |          | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Product Name (PN)                                   | ✓                     |          | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Branded Clinical Drug (BCD)                         | ✓                     | ✓        | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Branded Clinical Drug Package (BCDP)                | ✓                     | ✓        | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Containerized Branded Clinical Drug Package (CBCDP) | ✓                     | ✓        | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |
| Substance                                           | ✓                     |          | ✓          | ✓      | ✓         |

For detailed information on the specific AMT reference sets that can be used to support pack-based and dose-based prescribing, please see the *SNOMED CT-AU Guide for Terminology Use in Prescribing*. Users intending to use the AMT for secondary purposes such as research and statistical reporting should contact the NCTS for specific implementation guidance.

### 3.2 Core use cases

The use cases included in this document are limited to Prescribe, Order, Dispense, Administer, Transfer of Information and Reconcile. As part of the electronic patient record, Record use cases are incorporated into the Prescribe, Order, Dispense, Administer use cases. The AMT model also supports additional use cases including inventory control, research and access medical information.

The scope of the participants in the Reconcile, Prescribe, Order, Dispense, Administer and Reconcile use cases are constrained to the subject of care, an authorised prescriber (any person authorised to prescribe), an authorised dispenser (any person authorised to dispense) and an authorised administrator (any person authorised to administer).

### 3.3 Primary Care/Community setting

The focus of the use case within Primary Care/Community setting is to identify the areas where AMT can provide the terminology needed to support the sourcing, communication of medicines information and to support the generation and exchange of prescriptions for dispensing.

#### 3.3.1 Prescribe

The Prescribe use case describes the product-based or pack-based prescribing process in a primary care setting. The focus of the use case is to identify the areas where AMT can provide the terminology needed to support the sourcing and communication of medicines information.

The following table illustrates the intended use case via a high-level workflow where the prescribing system has either a native implementation of the AMT using concept identifiers and preferred terms, or a mapped implementation that uses proprietary terminology in the applicable flows. It is not the intent of this use case to identify the full sequence of message flows or activities needed for a prescription.

| Intended Prescribe use case |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| View history                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The authorised prescriber can record a medication history in the prescribing system as a <b>medicinal product, clinical drug, clinical drug package, or branded clinical drug package</b>.</li><li>When an authorised prescriber is determining the medicine to prescribe to a patient, the prescriber can view a history of the medicines which have already been prescribed and the associated <b>active substances</b>.</li></ul>                       |
| Search for medicines        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Authorised prescriber can perform a text search for <b>medicinal product, clinical drug, clinical drug package, or branded clinical drug package</b> in the prescribing system. Note that a "text search" should return a relevance ranked response based on all descriptions, not just the preferred term.</li><li>The authorised prescriber can then select the <b>clinical drug</b> for a <b>medicinal product</b> in the prescribing system.</li></ul> |
| Selecting medicines         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The authorised prescriber selects the <b>clinical drug package, clinical drug or branded clinical drug package</b> within the prescribing system. This may be assisted by the Active Ingredient Prescribing reference sets where some medicines should be considered for brand prescribing.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                      |

### Intended Prescribe use case

|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Decision Support Alerts</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prescription system cross-references the <b>AMT concept</b><sup>1</sup> against internal clinical decision.</li> <li>Decision support alerts may trigger for drug-drug interactions, drug-allergy interactions or contraindications.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Authorise prescription</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After selecting the specific medicinal product, the authorised prescriber completes any other required prescription information such as quantity (pack size and number of packs), dose instructions, indication, duration, etc.</li> <li>SNOMED CT concepts and their preferred terms may be used in the prescription, for elements such as dose form (if not present in the selected medicinal concept), route of administration, dose frequency/interval, method of administration, and indication.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Accurate record and Transfer of information</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prescription system records the <b>AMT concept</b><sup>2</sup> against the patient's record and generates a prescription.</li> <li>An electronic copy of the prescription can be uploaded to Prescription Exchange Service (PES) or the My Health Record system or may lodge directly with the Dispensing System.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### 3.3.2 Dispense

The prescription system cross-references the AMT concept against internal clinical decision. Decision support alerts may trigger for drug-drug interactions, drug-allergy interactions or contraindications.

### Intended Dispense use case

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>View history</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pharmacist retrieves the patient record in the dispensing system to view a history of the medicines which have already been dispensed and the associated <b>active substances or medicinal products</b>.</li> </ul>        |
| <b>Electronic transfer of prescription</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an electronic copy of the prescription is imported into the dispensing system via the Prescription Exchange Service, the dispensing system can display the <b>medicinal product, substance or clinical drug</b>.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Decision Support Alerts</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dispensing system cross-references the <b>AMT concept</b> against an internal clinical decision support module.</li> <li>Decision support alerts may trigger for drug-drug interactions or contraindications.</li> </ul>   |

<sup>1</sup> Clinical decision support systems may map to or integrate with AMT at concepts representing multiple different levels of product abstraction

<sup>2</sup> If AMT has been implemented natively, AMT preferred terms are used as display names for the medicines in the prescriptions printed. For mapped implementations, the display names of proprietary terminology concepts or implementation-specific terminology will be used instead.

Intended Dispense use case

|                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ease of dispensing                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The pharmacist manually enters the relevant prescription information into the dispensing system (or if an electronic copy of the prescription was downloaded from a Prescription Exchange Service, the prescription information may be automatically imported into the dispensing system).</li><li>The dispensing system can support the pharmacist in finding an appropriate dispensable product (for example, a <b>branded clinical drug</b> or <b>containerized branded clinical drug package</b>) based on the prescribed medicine and the strength, dose, form, and quantity.</li></ul> |
| Accurate recording and Transfer of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The dispensing system records the <b>product name, branded clinical drug</b> and <b>branded clinical drug package</b> against the patient’s record.</li><li>An electronic copy of the dispensed record can be uploaded to the My Health Record system.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

3.4 Acute Care setting

The focus of the use case within Acute Care setting is to identify the areas where AMT can provide the terminology needed to support the sourcing, communication of medicines information and to support the generation and exchange of such information in an acute care setting (e.g. to the central pharmacy at the hospital and other facilities).

3.4.1 Transfer of information and Reconcile (Admission)

The Transfer of information and reconcile use case describes the admission medication transfer of information and reconcile process in an acute care setting.

The following table illustrates the intended use case via a high-level workflow where the electronic medication management system has either a native implementation of the AMT using concept identifiers and preferred terms, or a mapped implementation that uses proprietary terminology in the applicable flows. It is not the intent of this use case to identify the full sequence of message flows or activities involved in inpatient ordering.

Intended Transfer of information and reconcile use case

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Record Medication History (Manual)              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The authorised prescriber or pharmacist can record a medication history in the medication management system using any of the <b>AMT concept</b>.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Record Medication History (Electronic Transfer) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A transfer-in facility/ward can import the administration record with the <b>branded clinical drug package</b> and any active orders with <b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b> from the health information exchange platform/protocol into the medication management system.</li><li>At the transfer-in facility/ward, the electronic medication management system locates related <b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b> for the prescribed/administered products to select suitable order for the patient.</li></ul> |

### Intended Transfer of information and reconcile use case

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reconcile</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The authorised prescriber then reviews and reconcile the medication requires for emergency/inpatient use. The Reconcile orders can be converted to the <b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b> in the medication management system along with dose, frequency and form before authorising the order.</li> </ul> |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### 3.4.2 Order

The Order use case describes the inpatient medication ordering process in an acute care setting (in which orders are primarily dose-based but may also be pack-based).

The following table illustrates the intended use case via a high-level workflow where the electronic medication management system has either a native implementation of the AMT using concept identifiers and preferred terms, or a mapped implementation that uses proprietary terminology in the applicable flows. It is not the intent of this use case to identify the full sequence of message flows or activities involved in inpatient ordering.

### Intended Order use case

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Order new medication order</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorised prescriber can perform a text search for the <b>medicinal product</b> in the medication management system.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Selecting order</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The authorised prescriber selects the <b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b> along with the recommended order sentences. This may be assisted by the Active Ingredient Prescribing reference sets where some medicines should be considered for brand prescribing.</li> </ul>                                                                                                        |
| <b>Antimicrobial Stewardship</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the order selected is an antimicrobial, the medication management system can identify the restricted antimicrobial via cross-referencing the selected <b>medicinal product</b>, or <b>clinical drug package</b> with the antimicrobial stewardship database.</li> <li>This can guide prescribers to follow the approval pathway for restricted antimicrobials.</li> </ul>                           |
| <b>Decision Support Alerts</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The medication management system cross-references the <b>AMT concept</b><sup>3</sup> against clinical decision support within the system.</li> <li>Decision support alerts may trigger for drug-drug interactions, drug-allergy interactions, or contraindications.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Authorise/Commit order</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After selecting the specific <b>medicinal product</b>, the authorised prescriber reviews and authorises/commits the order.</li> <li>SNOMED CT-AU concepts and their preferred terms may be used in the order, for elements such as dose form (if not present in the selected medicinal concept), route of administration, dose frequency/interval, method of administration, and indication</li> </ul> |

<sup>3</sup> Clinical decision support systems may map to or integrate with AMT at concepts representing multiple different levels of product abstraction

Intended Order use case

- |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accurate record | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AMT preferred terms can be used as display names for the medicines in the medication chart at the time the order is authorised.</li></ul> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

3.4.3 Dispense

The Dispense use case consists of a dispense event being made for an electronic medication chart. The focus of the use case is to identify the areas where the AMT can provide the medicinal terminology needed to support the sourcing and communication of medicines information.

The following table illustrates the intended use case via a high-level workflow where dispensing system has a native implementation of the AMT using concept identifiers and preferred names and the dispenser chooses to dispense using the AMT. It is not the intent of this use case to identify the full sequence of message flows or activities involved in inpatient dispensing.

Intended Dispense use case

- |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Review order            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The pharmacist performs a clinical safety check on the prescribed order in the electronic medication management system.</li><li>• Decision support alerts in the electronic medication management system may trigger for drug-drug interactions, drug-allergy interactions or contraindications.</li><li>• The order placed using <b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b> can assist the medication management system to determine the supply location, e.g. inpatient ward stock or pharmacy.</li></ul> |
| Product Assignment      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the medication requires dispensing from pharmacy, automatic product assignment in the medication management system can occur, through using the relationships that exist between <b>medicinal product</b>, <b>clinical drug package</b> with <b>branded clinical drug</b> and <b>containerized branded clinical drug package</b>.</li><li>• The product assigned from the medication management system can be transferred to the dispensing system.</li></ul>                                                          |
| Decision Support Alerts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The pharmacist or pharmacy technician processes the dispensing in the dispensing system.</li><li>• The dispensing system cross-references the <b>AMT concept</b><sup>4</sup> against an internal clinical decision support module.</li><li>• Decision support alerts may trigger for drug-drug interactions or contraindications.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Accurate record         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The dispensing system records the <b>branded clinical drug</b>, <b>branded clinical drug</b> and <b>branded clinical drug package</b> against the patient’s record.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

<sup>4</sup> Clinical decision support systems may map to or integrate with AMT at concepts representing multiple different levels of product abstraction

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**Intended Dispense use case**

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- The dispensing system can generate a medication list leveraging any of the **AMT concepts** recorded against the patient's record.
-

### 3.4.4 Administer

The Administer use case consists of an administration event in an acute care setting using an electronic medication chart. The focus of the use case is to identify the areas where the AMT can provide the medicinal terminology needed to support the sourcing and communication of medicines information.

The following table illustrates the intended use case via a high-level used workflow where the electronic medication management system has either a native implementation of the AMT using concept identifiers and preferred terms, or a mapped implementation that uses proprietary terminology in the applicable flows. It is not the intent of this use case to identify the full sequence of message flows or activities involved in order administration.

| Intended Administer use case   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>View history</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The administration staff can view a history of the medicines which have already been administered and the associated <b>active substances</b> on the electronic medication chart.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Accurate order</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The administration staff performs a clinical safety check on the prescribed order against the electronic medication chart.</li> <li>The order placed using <b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b> can assist the administration staff to locate the supply location for each authorised order, e.g. imprest ward stock or pharmacy.</li> </ul>                                                |
| <b>Ease of dispensing</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an automated dispensing cabinet is used for dispensing, the automatic product assignment can occur through using the relationships that exist between <b>medicinal product</b>, <b>clinical drug package with branded clinical drug</b> and <b>containerized branded clinical drug package</b>, thus allowing administration staff to pick the correct product for dispensing and administration.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Decision Support Alerts</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the administration staff is about to record the administration task, the medication management system cross-references the <b>AMT concept</b> used for the authorised order against an internal clinical decision support module.</li> <li>Decision support alerts may trigger for drug-allergy interactions or contraindications.</li> </ul>                                                                |
| <b>Accurate record</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The electronic medication management system can record the administration of authorised order using <b>branded clinical drug package</b> or <b>containerized branded clinical drug package</b>.</li> <li>Administration record can be used to transfer information between different facilities, e.g. inter-hospital transfer or transfer to aged care facilities.</li> </ul>                                   |

### 3.4.5 Reconcile and Transfer of information (Discharge)

The Reconcile and Transfer of information use case consists of inter-facility or ward transfer event in an acute setting using electronic medical record. The focus of the use case is to identify the areas where the AMT can provide the medicinal terminology needed to support the sourcing and communication of medicines information.

The following table illustrates the intended use case via a high-level used workflow where the electronic medical record has either a native implementation of the AMT using concept identifiers and preferred terms, or a mapped implementation that uses proprietary terminology in the applicable flows. It is not the intent of this use case to identify the full sequence of message flows or activities involved in inter-facility/ward transfer.

**Intended Transfer of information and Reconcile use case**

|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reconcile</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The authorised prescriber reconciles all medication orders require for discharge.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Hospital Discharge</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For any medications required to be dispensed from hospital pharmacy, an electronic copy of the prescription is generated and sent to hospital pharmacy.</li> <li>For any medications required to be dispensed from community/retail pharmacies, an electronic copy of the prescription can be uploaded to Prescription Exchange Service (PES) or the My Health Record system or may lodge directly with the Dispensing System.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Transfer Out to ward/ other facilities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As patient is being transferred out, all active orders (<b>medicinal product</b> or <b>clinical drug package</b>) and administration record with <b>branded clinical drug package</b> can be uploaded to a health information exchange platform/protocol e.g. My Health Record.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |

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Australian Digital Health Agency (2016). SNOMED CT-AU Guide for Terminology Use in Prescribing v1.0. Retrieved from National Clinical Terminology Service Document Library:  
[https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/library/DH\\_2399\\_2016\\_SNOMEDCTAU\\_GuideforTerminologyUseinPrescribing\\_v1.0.pdf? filename=DH\\_2399\\_2016\\_SNOMEDCTAU\\_GuideforTerminologyUseinPrescribing\\_v1.0.pdf](https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/library/DH_2399_2016_SNOMEDCTAU_GuideforTerminologyUseinPrescribing_v1.0.pdf?filename=DH_2399_2016_SNOMEDCTAU_GuideforTerminologyUseinPrescribing_v1.0.pdf)