

MIMS MATTERS

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Unambiguous Description of Medicines & Clinical Information

The way clinical information is captured and shared by healthcare providers is vital to the success of Australia's future e-health system. A standardised clinical terminology allows the description of clinical conditions, procedures and medications which are then unambiguously and meaningfully communicated to support ongoing, efficient and accurate information exchange across the health sector. Standardised Clinical Terminology is fundamental to the quality of data for e-health, and it underpins the enabling of clinicians to exchange their traditional paper-based records for a modern, electronic system.

MIMS medicines information powers the majority of clinical medication solutions (such as electronic prescribing and administration solutions) used in both the acute and primary care sectors in Australia. This places MIMS at the forefront of facilitating the use of clinical terminologies that result in improved patient outcomes and overall population health through the improved communication and availability of electronic medical records. MIMS frequently discusses the role of clinical terminologies with clinicians and technologists. At times, we find that there may be confusion around the role of SNOMED CT and the AMT. A brief description of each will help explain their relationship to each other and highlight their vital role within e-health solutions.

Australia's National Clinical Terminology and Information Service (NCTIS) are responsible for managing, developing and distributing terminology to support the eHealth requirements of the Australian healthcare community. Two key clinical terminology solutions include SNOMED CT and Australian Medicines Terminology; both underpin the description of clinical concepts in solutions that MIMS and its business partners deliver to the health sector.

SNOMED Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT)

SNOMED Clinical Terms (usually abbreviated to SNOMED CT) is a systematically organized, computer processable collection of medical terms providing codes, terms, synonyms and definitions used in clinical documentation and reporting. SNOMED CT is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual clinical healthcare terminology in the world covering: clinical findings, symptoms, diagnoses, procedures, body structures, organisms and other etiologies, substances, pharmaceuticals, devices and specimen.

SNOMED CT was created in 1999 by the merger, expansion and restructuring of two large-scale terminologies: SNOMED Reference Terminology (SNOMED RT), developed by the College of American Pathologists (CAP); and the Clinical Terms Version 3 (CTV3) developed by the National Health Service of the United Kingdom (NHS). SNOMED CT terminologies can cross-map to other international standards and classifications; specific national terms are also accommodated.



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Unambiguous Description of Medicines & Clinical Information continued...

For example, SNOMED CT-AU, released in December 2009 in Australia, is based on the international version of SNOMED CT, but encompasses words and ideas that are clinically and technically unique to Australia.

SNOMED CT is used in a number of different ways in electronic clinical solutions. Some typical benefits of the usage of SNOMED CT within electronic medical records and e-health solutions include:

- The classification of patient data allows unambiguously and meaningfully communicated patient records which reduces the need to repeat health history at each new encounter with a healthcare professional.
- Information can be recorded by different clinicians in different locations to an internationally standardised format and combined into simple information views within the patient record.
- The use of a common terminology decreases the potential for differing interpretation of information by different clinicians.
- Electronic recording in a common way reduces errors and can help to ensure completeness in recording all relevant data.
- The use of a common clinical terminology allows a health care provider to identify patients based on specified coded information, and more effectively manage screening, treatment and follow up.

Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT)

The Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) delivers unique codes to unambiguously identify originator and generic brands of medicines commonly used in Australia. It also provides standard naming conventions and terminology to accurately describe medications.

The AMT delivered within MIMS integrated data and Information is now a foundation component of electronic medication management systems that prescribe, record, review, dispense, administer and transfer drug information.

Some typical benefits of the usage of AMT within electronic medical records and e-health solutions include:

- Reduces errors by improving the precise recording, transcribing of medicines through the use of clear, standard and unambiguous naming.
- Enables the safe and reliable exchange of medicines information, ensuring continuity of care for patients across primary, secondary, private and public health settings, as well as across different healthcare providers.
- The use of SNOMED CT's common terminology decreases the potential for differing interpretation of information by different clinicians.
- Facilitates effective decision support for active ingredients to assist with drug allergy and drug interaction checking.
- Supports good clinical practice by allowing linkage of data such as clinical guidelines and dosing information.

MIMS Editorial Team

The MIMS team in Australia consists of 15 editors, from a range of different backgrounds. Whilst most of the team are qualified pharmacists, the others are from a variety of health related professions including Medical Practitioners and Nurses. Living and working in Australia helps ensure that the editorial content that we create, is written for, and relevant to the needs of the Australian Health Care Professional.

MIMS Australia, however, is part of a much bigger organisation. MIMS is a well-known name across the Asia Pacific Region. MIMS publications are available in NZ, Singapore, China, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong – to name a few!

Being part of an international company, MIMS Australia is also able to utilise the skills and experience of an international team of over 60 editors; this allows us to incorporate high quality, evidence based information within our products. These include the decision support modules such as drug interactions which are available in MIMS Online, iMIMS and eMIMS (Desktop and Cloud). Other modules such as drug health and drug allergy checks are also available to users of our integrated data.

For more information on these evidence based decision support modules – please contact our MIMS Business Development Team at data@mims.com.au or by phone on: 1800 800 629



Tasmania is Reducing Medication Errors, Improving Efficiencies and saving on the Cost of Medications in Public Health

With our aging population, the Australian state public health system is focusing on methods to improve the quality of outcomes for patients as well as achieve operational efficiencies which ensure that the health system is affordable and sustainable for the country.

Recently, individual state health systems have presented their strategies to drive reforms that aim to improve the quality of patient care and reduce health spending on inefficient processes that often deliver no real benefits to patients.

One of the most significant financial costs to the Australian Public Health system is the supply of medications. Each state health system acknowledges that effective management of medications through purchasing, prescribing, dispensing, administration and reconciliation processes will reduce the overall cost of medication provision to patients. Australian and global studies have also shown that strategies used to reduce medication process inefficiencies may also significantly reduce the risk of medication errors for patients.

The Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania together with MIMS and Hobart-based company Healthcare Software, have established an electronic medicines formulary used by clinical staff and administrators across Tasmania's four main hospitals and 17 rural and regional hospitals.

For the first time, the Tasmanian State Medication Formulary system provides clinicians with a non-ambiguous, medicines management system to support the clinical applications that prescribe, administer and dispense medications. The system is one of the earliest examples of the application of Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT), the national coding and description of medicines, along with national subsidised cost (PBS) information, and the medications approved and stocked for state supply. The introduction of the Formulary has improved efficiencies in the hospital pharmacy department. Many of the rules around drugs were not written down, and the doctor's prescription for a patient didn't always meet the eligibility criteria and restrictions when presented to the dispensary. This meant that doctors would prescribe without having any background on cost.

The Formulary has also enabled meaningful medication information to be shared to and from the national Patient Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR), with the aim of more effectively managing the transition of medications as the patient moves between hospital and community-based care.

The key outcomes for the formulary are: quality, safety and efficacy, access and optimal use.

With the Formulary now in place for just over 12 months, Tasmania's department of health has already saved over \$500,000 on medication costs. The price tag of establishing the system was a minimal \$80,000 so, for all involved in it, the system has proven itself to deliver immediate clinical and economic benefits.

MIMS donates books to PNG

MIMS has recently donated some MIMS Annual books to the University of Papua New Guinea. The donation was a joint effort involving MIMS, NSW PSA Early Career Pharmacists Working Group (ECPWG) and the University of Papua New Guinea. In particular, MIMS would like to thank Lisa Sommerfield, a member of the NSW PSA ECPWG, for transporting the books over to Papua New Guinea and handing them to Professor Nakapi Tefuarani, who is the Dean of School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Papua New Guinea. The School has been in operation for 42 years. He is going to pass the text books on to the Faculty of Pharmacy.



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Royal Children's Hospital to deploy Closed Loop Medication Management

The Royal Children's Hospital Parkville (Melbourne) has commenced a project that will see the replacement of the current paper medical records and a number of departmental systems. For the first time, the hospital will have one system that houses the child's entire information for all visits. The Electronic Medical Record (EMR) will be used in all wards and specialty areas of the hospital including ED, Theatres, PICU/NICU, Specialist Clinics and Oncology.

The implementation of closed loop medication management, incorporating electronic prescribing and electronic management of medication administration will promote patient safety by reducing the risk of preventable medication errors. Features include the warnings of possible medication allergies, upload of patient observations direct from patient monitoring devices or even the identification that a patient may be eligible for a clinical trial.

Wisconsin (USA) based Epic Systems Corporation will be supplying the system.

A key challenge in large scale medication management system deployment is the adoption of local standards as the introduction of Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) v3, Paediatrics dosing, PBS, and effective decision support are all new features. MIMS is eagerly looking forward to providing this local medicines knowledge and working with both Epics' and the hospital's pharmacists and clinicians to successfully deliver the closed loop medications management functionality, so essential to the EMR.

The \$48 million contract was announced by Victorian Premier Denis Napthine, after a very competitive tender process.

Dr Napthine said Epic had a proven reputation for delivering innovative, world class software systems for hospitals, with seven of the top ten paediatric hospitals in the US running an Epic EMR system.

"Patients and their families will receive better care through this system which will allow doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to access a range of information and treatment history easily and efficiently," Dr Napthine said.

"Epic EMR systems are an exciting new addition to Victorian healthcare. Its reputation for delivering smart and innovative systems in similar hospitals in the US, Netherlands and South Africa gives every confidence that it will be ideal for Victoria's Royal Children's Hospital."

It is expected that the new system deployment will start this year, with the full system to be progressively implemented over four years.

MIMS GATEWAY New Zealand

MIMS is excited to be launching a new online product that meets the emerging needs of medical professionals in the digital era in New Zealand.

An intelligent workflow-oriented resource designed specifically for healthcare professionals' daily clinical practice needs, MIMS Gateway NZ Online is powered by high quality MIMS Branded Drug Information integrated with the New Zealand Formulary, Everybody NZ health articles and clinical decision support tools.

Providing New Zealand Formulary (NZF) and New Zealand Formulary for Children (NZFc) information within MIMS Gateway NZ delivers a convenient, comprehensive and seamlessly integrated suite of information through a single point of access. Users can navigate from the generic NZF monograph directly to a related branded product MIMS monograph for concise product information.

New features include a revamped search function which allows users access to MIMS brands, NZF generics, company information and NZF treatment topic articles under a common search drop down bar. This delivers an at-a-glance overview of the therapeutic landscape and helps healthcare professionals make timely and well-informed clinical practice decisions.

Other key benefits include the addition of Drug Allergy Check to the clinical decision support tools as well as Medical Calculators & Scoring Tools.

Hospitals and institutions can also incorporate their own formularies and practice guidelines into MIMS Gateway NZ to increase institution-wide accessibility of shared information through a single resource platform.

For the past 14 years MIMS has provided New Zealand healthcare professionals with up-to-date, integrated content and will now also offer a superior clinical reference tool, MIMS Gateway NZ.



New Look MIMS Signals Change


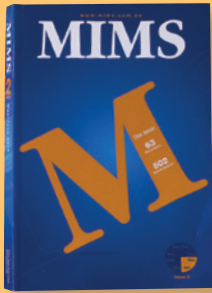
The MIMS Abbreviated (commonly known as the MIMS small book) has been published continuously since November 1963. Over this period it has undergone many changes in design, format and content as the environment has evolved and influenced the needs of subscribers. The May edition signals another significant change for the "small book", with an updated cover and the removal of all advertising.

With the exception of the MIMS Abbreviated, all other MIMS products are supported purely by subscriptions. Until the end of 2014 the MIMS Abbreviated carried a limited amount of advertising. However, with a constant struggle to accommodate all the content within the book and a focus by MIMS to being 100% subscription funded, the decision was made to dedicate all the space to content and to no longer carry any advertising.

This decision presented an opportunity to redesign the cover of the book to reflect a more modern design and make new issues more easily recognizable. MIMS has also used the front cover to illustrate the quantity of changes in each book. For example, in the May issue alone, there were 63 new products and 502 with revised product information. Multiplied over the course of the year, this would lead to an estimate of 2250 changes to the medicines information in the MIMS Abbreviated! Using a current source of medicines information is important given the dynamic nature of the industry, and for subscribers to be reassured that they are using the most current print content. Each issue will also feature a different edition colour, making it easier for subscribers to locate the latest volume very quickly.

Copies of the newly designed book are available on annual subscription by calling the MIMS Customer Service Team on 1800 800 629.



Issue 1 1963	May 2014 issue
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 pages 12 new products 2 Editors 15 Therapeutic classes Approx 1000 medicines 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 680 pages 63 pages of new products 14 Editors 21 Therapeutic classes Approx 7000 medicines

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Privacy 101 – does it affect me? What does it all mean?



Does all this privacy stuff affect me?

Since 12 March 2014 the new Australian Privacy Principles have been in force. Almost certainly if you are reading this and working in the health industry these Privacy Principles will affect you and how you do business.¹ The aim of the new regime is to harmonise the previous Information Privacy Principles and the National Privacy Principles to clarify for all organisations what their obligations are. In the event that you are an organisation with a turnover greater than \$3 million, then the new laws apply to you. The new laws also apply to all organisations which handle sensitive information, irrespective of their turnover. Sensitive information includes health information, so yes, the new provisions of the Privacy Act are very likely to affect you.²

What does it all mean?

An excellent guide to all the new Australian Privacy Principles is freely available.³ I am going to give you a potted version of what it all means. Think of the information you are holding as the most valuable asset in your business. As the CEO of Rio Tinto said, "Data is the mine of the future" and the Fortune 500 companies now list their intangible assets as over 70% of their worth.⁴ This means that if you are dealing with information, you must treat the information with great care every step of the way. You need to ensure that:

- You have a clear and transparent privacy policy.⁵
- Collection is done with care – only collect what you need.
- Retain information for only as long as you need before secure destruction.
- Notify individuals about collection of personal information.
- Do not direct market except in accordance with Australian Privacy Principle 7.
- Do not send personal information off shore unless you comply with Australian Privacy Principle 8.
- Take care when using government related identifiers.
- Ensure personal information collected is correct, able to be corrected and held securely.

1. The Privacy Amendment (Enhancement of Privacy Protection) Act 2012
2. Sub section 6(1)
3. www.oaic.gov.au – The Guide to the Australian Privacy Principles
4. Sam Walsh, The Australian weekend magazine 2013.
5. <http://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-resources/privacy-fact-sheets/other/privacy-fact-sheet-17-australian-privacy-principles>



The powers of the Privacy Commissioner have been extended to allow him to seek civil penalties of up to \$1.7 million and initiate his own investigations. But that's not the real reason you need to take care; consumers have shown that privacy matters to them and that businesses which do not respect privacy will lose customers.⁶ The cost of privacy breaches has risen in Australia. The average cost is now \$2.7 million, which includes the cost of notifying customers, and the reduced "churn" or new and returning customers as a result of the breach.⁷

It only happens to Target, it will never happen to me!

Data breaches happen all the time and over 40% go undetected. It is not just something that curses large multinational corporations with massive amounts of data. Think of the ransom ware breach at a Gold Coast clinic whereby the clinic found a ransom note on their server asking for money before giving them the code to unlock their information. Treat privacy and security as you do the risk of fire. Have a clear plan, make sure that:

- Your information is securely backed up so that your business can keep operating.
- You have a nominated privacy officer – think the fire drill.
- You can access what you need even if your local system is hacked.
- Privacy is not delegated to the legal and IT departments. Most breaches happen down the line.⁸

- Even although we do not have a data breach notification law in Australia, you should consider notifying affected parties to enable them to mitigate their loss and damage.⁹
- Keep up to date – join professional associations that can help you with training and certification.

Privacy is important to your business and to your clients. Preparing for a privacy crisis is a little like preparing for an aviation crisis. You need to get ready now.

Emma Hossack
 B.A.(Hons) LLB, Melb, LL.M., QUT
 President of the International Association of Privacy Professionals,
 Vice President Medical Software Industry of Australia
 CEO Extensia & Edocx

6. Community Attitudes to Privacy Survey 2013, www.oaic.com.au

7. Ponemon Institute "2014 Cost of Data Breach Study" 5 May 2014, <http://public.dhe.ibm.com/common/ssi/ecm/en/ssi03021usen/SEL03021USEN.PDF>

8. See the ACC breach which resulted in a tired operator inadvertently emailing the personal information of 6748 people to a third party with no right to that information. The result was an inquiry, resignation of the CEO, and some of those affected expressing suicidal thoughts. The Board was also suffered. http://www.computerworld.com.au/article/434677/accident_compensation_corporation_nz_slammed_over_data_breach/

9. The Privacy Amendment (Privacy Alerts) Bill 2014 was never enacted as it was in the Senate when the government was dissolved before the last election. It has been suggested that the Privacy Commissioner could use the provisions of the Australian privacy principles to enforce notification in appropriate cases.

You in Pharmacy 2014

Our support for young pharmacists has taken a new twist this year, with Susan from our editorial team presenting as a guest speaker at the PSA's recent 'You in Pharmacy 2014' careers seminar for early career pharmacists.

The one day workshop provided pharmacists with an opportunity to explore career options beyond community and hospital pharmacist roles. Susan was one of eight presenters on the day. She spoke about her role at MIMS, the responsibilities of a medical editor, her career progression into the role and also provided advice to those wishing to pursue such a role.

'With headlines screaming job cuts, low wages and pharmacist oversupply, I think it's especially important for us to let young pharmacists know that there is a whole world out there beyond the dispensary bench.' Susan says.

Susan began her career as a community pharmacist, developed an online learning website (The Medicine Box) with colleagues before joining MIMS to pursue a professional career in publishing. In addition to her current role as medical editor at MIMS, Susan is also an accredited consultant pharmacist, pharmacist-in-charge at a community pharmacy, locum pharmacist for a pharmacy group, project coordinator for the Medicine Box and a member of the NSW PSA Early Career Pharmacists Working Group.

'Everyone has their own story' she says 'and I am deeply inspired by the stories shared by other speakers. Even though we've all led very different career paths, our experiences are connected by a common theme – we took every opportunity, never gave up and continued climbing once we got there.'

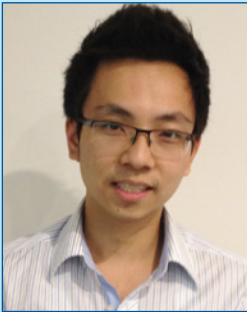
'I'm very grateful about all the opportunities that have opened up since joining MIMS,' she added 'I love my job and I take great pride in what we do at MIMS. I'm really glad I got the chance to tell everyone about that.'



Staff Profile

Jonathan Cheung

Editor - New Zealand



What I do?

My role is to ensure the clinical safety of editorial content presented in new IT products. This includes ensuring databases are kept up to date and that the use of standard terminology within MIMS pharmaceutical databases is appropriate.

I am currently working on MIMS Gateway New Zealand as a clinical product tester. I make sure that the product is adequately tested and follows strict guidelines. I provide feedback to management on the usability, accuracy and clinical safety of the published information.

What is your background?

I graduated with a pharmacy degree from the University of Sydney and have been working as a community pharmacist. Through my exposure to various electronic health initiatives, I have become very interested in the technological side of healthcare which led me to MIMS. My goal is to expand and learn more about e-health and the health informatics framework of healthcare.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

Using MIMS products in pharmacy, I would always think about features I wish I had or functions that could work in another way to suit my workflow. It is incredibly exciting to be in a development position where I can now implement these ideas! My role offers great variety for learning, allowing me to work across many departments – liaising with editorial, IT and business. I am surrounded by supportive managers and passionate colleagues striving to improve the MIMS brand.

What do you see as the challenges for MIMS?

Technology around us is forever changing and innovating. Being a premier electronic medical reference resource, MIMS must show ingenuity by continuing to exceed expectations in delivering new products across many platforms. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for exciting projects coming in the pipeline.

What do you enjoy outside the office?

It's definitely been a change moving from a retail setting to a "desk job". I try to stay active when I can by enjoying a good mix of casual sports such as basketball and swimming. I'm an avid foodie and love exploring Sydney for any new, enticing eats and hidden gems! You can also expect me to be regularly belting out classics at karaoke while enjoying the company of family and friends.

Upcoming Conferences

Digital Revolution in Seniors Living 2014 Conference Tuesday 22nd July to Wednesday 23rd July Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/ai1ec_event/itac-2014/?instance_id=513

Pharmacy 2014 Conference Wednesday 30th July to Friday 1st August Marriott Resort & Spa, Surfers Paradise

<http://www.pharmacyconference.com.au/>

Nursing Informatics Conference Monday 11th August Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

<http://www.hisa.org.au/page/hic2014nia>

Aged Care Informatics 2014 Conference Wednesday 13th August Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

<http://www.hisa.org.au/page/hic2014aci>

AIMA 20th Annual International Integrative Medicine Conference Friday 22nd August to Sunday 24th August Sheraton on the Park, Sydney

<https://www.aima.net.au/conference/>

Skin Cancer Conference Thursday 28th August to Saturday 30th August Outrigger, Noosa, QLD

<http://www.skincancerconference.com.au/>

GP 2014 Conference Thursday 9th October to Saturday 11th October Adelaide Convention Centre

<http://www.gpconference.com.au/>

MIMS will be exhibiting at booth #66

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