

## E-HEALTH CONFORMANCE TESTING

*IV&V Australia is a NATA accredited Test Lab, accredited to assess the conformity of e-Health implementations to the Healthcare Identifier (HI) and Secure Message Delivery (SMD) specifications and standards identified by the National e-Health Transition Authority (NeHTA).*



*We work with software vendors and health organisations that have developed health solutions which utilise HI or SMD.*

### What is e-Health Conformance Testing?

The CCA process (Conformance and Compliance Assessment for software) provides assurance that a software implementation adheres to e-Health specifications.

It gives users of conforming implementations confidence that an implementation will:

- Behave as expected
- Perform functions in a known manner
- Have interfaces or formats that adhere to a specification, and
- Is likely to interoperate with other conforming implementations.

It provides assurance with regard to the interoperability and clinical safety for software for each e-Health capability.

### A NeHTA initiative

To achieve the potential of e-Health, a national approach to assessment was established to address the differences in communication protocols and information exchange models between connected and communicating parties.

A national approach to software assessment for e-Health products and services will maximise interoperability and minimise the number and frequency of failed transactions.

### Why is the testing of the software you use important to medical professionals?

Software testing is critical to minimise the risk of:

- Liabilities arising from incorrect information storage, retrieval and access.
- Clinical risk of misdiagnosis and incorrect therapy administration if records and clinical information are not correctly associated, or their integrity is not preserved, over their lifetimes.
- Professional risk arising from damage to reputation and loss of practice capability as a consequence of the above.

### Why should your software be tested independently?

Independence implies objectivity and consistency:

- No conflict of interest for testers
- High honesty, high integrity test results
- Likely to yield the true picture of the state of software quality.

### To what standards should your software be tested?

CCA testing is conducted by test labs who are accredited by the National Associations of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) to ISO 17025, with Healthcare Testing in their terms of accreditation.

Some guidelines:

- NATA accredited testing laboratories have robust and repeatable processes, and are independently and regularly audited to ensure they comply with their accreditation terms.
- NeHTA has consulted widely with the industry over the past few years, and a body of tests for each e-Health capability has been established and agreed.
- NeHTA prescribes that certain e-Health capabilities should be tested by NATA accredited test labs before connection to national frameworks can take place.
- Your software vendor can advise if their software meets these criteria.

### What should you do?

Ask your software vendor - make sure that the software packages you use have been through the CCA process as required.

Independent testing of critical software is always advised.