

## Information Standards Notice – Deprecation

Details are given below of the deprecation of an information standard formerly approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB).

This deprecation has been accepted by the Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), a successor of the ISB.

Enquiries about this Notice should be directed to the contact specified below.

| Standard details              |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Identifier and name           | ISB 1557 EDIFACT Pathology Messaging Standard   |
| Date of DAPB meeting          | <p>This deprecation was formally accepted at the October 2023 meeting of the Data Alliance Partnership Board.</p> <p>Items which are deprecated still have some value and may still be used with caution, but are no longer being maintained and supported. There is an assumption that a replacement standard or guidance will be published and that on such publication, the deprecated item will be formally withdrawn.</p>  |
| Background                    |   |
| Description                   | <p>Electronic Data Interchange For Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) is an international EDI standard for the exchange of messages that was adopted by organisations wishing to trade globally. The EDIFACT Pathology Messaging Standard defines the content, structure and management of electronic pathology reports between laboratories and General Practice.</p> <p>EDIFACT is fundamentally limited because it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unable to carry SNOMED CT encoded test result concepts – it can only support Read v2 Pathology Bounded Code List (PBCL) codes. Read v2 was retired in April 2016 and it is no longer possible to create new national Read codes.</li> <li>- unable to support complex report structures containing fully atomic, coded results – data elements are mainly represented as text.</li> <li>- the continued use of Pathology Messaging Implementation Project (PMIP) EDIFACT is a significant barrier to new market entrants who struggle to implement a messaging technology that is over 30 years old, and not aligned with modern standards such as FHIR.</li> </ul> <p>Formal retirement of EDIFACT will take place on 31 March 2024 with a target retirement date of 31 March 2025.</p> |
| Link to further documentation | Documents relating to the implementation of ISB 1557 are available on The National Archives website:  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <a href="https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20150107154542/http://www.isb.nhs.uk/documents/isb-1557">https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20150107154542/http://www.isb.nhs.uk/documents/isb-1557</a> |
| Contact details for further information |   |
| Business Lead                           | Gogs Byrn, Senior Terminology Implementation Specialist, NHS England  |
| Help Desk                               | <a href="mailto:pathology.standardsandimplementation@nhs.net">pathology.standardsandimplementation@nhs.net</a>  |
| Dates                                   |   |
| Date of publication of this ISN         | 7 November 2023   |

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital website: [www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns](http://www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isns)