	Commercial in Confidence Topic and Category Handling in GP2GP			
NHS	Programme	NPFIT	DOCI	JMENT RECORD ID KEY
Connecting for Health	Sub-Prog /	GP2GP		
	Project		NPFIT-PC-BLD-0163.02	
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	Version Date	01/04/08	Status	Approved

Subject	Topic and Category Handling in GP2GP
Reference	GP2GP Issue 2998
Supplier(s)	All
Summary	A number of GP Systems provide application level support for grouping and organising record entries made within consultations under consultation sub-headings. The underlying model for these sub-headings is the SOAP heading (Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan) approach to structuring for medical records but the systems providing these structures support an extensive and divergent set of sub-headings which are not generally inter-operable. Within the GP2GP message these sub-headings are expressed using compound statements (TOPIC/CATEGORY) which group and organise records.
	In GP2GP 1.1 participating suppliers support these sub-heading structures communicated by TOPIC/CATEGORY compound levels within the GP2GP message. Although TOPIC/CATEGORY types are not interoperable between different applications, receiving applications generate appropriate native consultation sub-headings for foreign record entries based on record type and/or the associated read code of incoming statements. TOPIC/CATEGORY structures are interoperable between applications of the same type and their interoperability is an important factor in maintaining good homogenous transfer quality. Generation of native consultation sub-headings rather than display of foreign sub-headings is also required to maintain application data integrity enabling subsequent editing or manipulation of imported records.
	However as GP2GP goes forward into 1.1a and beyond this will involve interoperability with additional GP systems which do not have consultation sub-heading structures. In terms of prospective future GP2GP enabled systems a substantial number do not support consultation sub-headings.
	Currently in GP2GP 1.1 existing applications do not fully support messages without TOPIC/CATEGORY levels. In one case unsightly and potentially confusing additional TOPIC levels are generated for each statement in the message due to the absence of TOPIC levels in the message and this would probably be unacceptable in live use. In the case of the other system messages without TOPIC/CATEGORY levels are not interoperable.
	In 1.1a and beyond therefore action is required to accommodate systems without consultation sub-headings.
	The following principles will apply in the case of systems which do not support consultation sub-headings and consequently do not support

	TOPIC/CATEGORY levels.
	• Systems which do not support TOPIC/CATEGORY compound levels must not process them when they are received from other systems. Instead these compound levels should be discarded and the records contained within them should be processed using normal rules.
	• Systems which do not support TOPIC/CATEGORY compound levels must not manufacture these structures in export as they do not exist natively as consultation sub-heading structures on these systems.
	The following principles will apply in the case of systems which do support consultation sub-headings and consequently do support TOPIC/CATEGORY levels.
	• Systems which do support TOPIC/CATEGORY compound levels must be capable of processing messages received from systems without these structures where these components are not present. Instead appropriate native local consultation sub-headings should be generated from statement type and/or associated codes as appropriate based on existing 1.1 functionality and the absence of TOPIC levels should not compromise the appearance and usability of the imported record.
	 Systems which do support TOPIC/CATEGORY compound levels must be capable of processing messages received from foreign systems that do express TOPIC/CATEGORY information. The mechanism used to generate appropriate local consultation sub- headings from the inbound message should be the same as that used to handle non TOPIC/CATEGORY generating systems.
	• Systems which do support TOPIC/CATEGORY compound levels must continue to generate these structures in export and process them to maintain good quality homogenous interoperability.
	Note that suppliers should be aware that the GP2GP allergy compound structures are identified with a CATEGORY classCode and the processing of allergy records should not be affected by this change.
Justification	An alternative solution requiring non TOPIC/CATEGORY supporting systems to generate 'fake' fixed TOPIC/CATEGORY levels was considered but rejected as undesirable as it perpetuates rather than addresses the fundamental problem which is accommodating differently structured GP Systems within GP2GP interoperability although this may have allowed backwards compatibility with existing 1.1 systems to be maintained in 1.1a. From an interoperability design perspective the generation of 'fake' TOPIC/CATEGORY levels would be anomalous in GP2GP given that GP2GP is about communicating information and the faked TOPIC/CATEGORY would have communicated no information at all.
	The future change to allocation of sub-headings based on statement type and code was highlighted in the GP2GP 1.1 guidance note 'NPFIT- PC-BLD-0129.03 GP2GP Guidance on Mapping Categories from Vision

	to Emis.
Rollout Dependencies	Requires that existing 1.1 systems are upgraded to a 1.1a level build supporting this change prior to heterogeneous interoperability of 1.1a non TOPIC/CATEGORY supporting systems being enabled.

Amendment History:

Issue	Version	Date	Amendment History
01	0.1	13/02/2007	First draft for comment
02	1.0	01/04/2008	Approved following review

Forecast Changes:

Anticipated Change	When

Reviewers:

This document must be reviewed by the following. Indicate any delegation for sign off.

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Distribution:

Per reviewers and approvers.

Document Status:

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Related Documents:

These documents will provide additional information.

Ref no	Doc Reference Number	Title	Version
1	NPFIT-PC-BLD-0129.03	GP2GP Guidance on Mapping Categories from Vision to Emis	1.0

Glossary of Terms:

List any new terms created in this document. Mail the NPO Quality Manager to have these included in the master glossary above [1].

Term	Acronym	Definition