

PBS Data Distribution Project

Software Vendor Working Group #5

15th June 2021



Australian Government
Department of Health

www.health.gov.au

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Project Overview and Timelines
3. Recap of last meeting – 9th February
4. Closing out the Alpha API
5. Discussion: Restrictions, Notes and Cautions
6. Beta Plans and Next Steps
7. Other Business and Close

Welcome

PBS Data Distribution Software Vendor Working Group

Thank you to everyone in attendance, together we are modernising the consumption and data distribution model for the monthly PBS Schedule data.

Our goals are to:

- Improve accessibility to PBS Schedule data;
- Make the data easier to understand and use in software; and
- Improve data latency and data provision through best practice architecture.

Project Overview and Timeline

Project Scope

- Enhance the provision of PBS Schedule data to consumers, in a way that is fit-for-purpose across the different cohorts of data consumers.
- Distribute the PBS Schedule data in a relational format that is more readily consumable and predictable.

Project Timeframes – Embargo API

- Stage 1 – prove architectural feasibility, completed June 2020
- Stage 2 – develop and test the Alpha API, no further changes after June 2021
- Stage 3 – develop and test the Beta API, starting in next 2-3 months
- Stage 4 – API production release once the Beta is complete
- Stage 5 – transition period resulting in ceasing ALL existing forms of data currently distributed – timing to be determined through consultation.

Recap of last meeting – 9th February 2021

Review of Alpha API feedback and related updates

Discussion: Inclusion of LEMI Data

Discussion: Overview of Alpha to Beta transition:

1. Address your feedback
2. Continue to add new content as required (for example: pricing, fees etc.)
3. Further content testing
4. Design security mechanisms for the Beta
5. Develop internal support mechanisms
6. Documentation
7. The Beta will be released when we turn off the Alpha in a more polished stated

Closing out the Alpha API



Our thanks

A sincere thank you to the 22+ organisations who have engaged with the API and provided feedback – particularly to:

- Fred IT
- Minfos
- Simple Retail
- Medical Director
- Allette Systems

Evolution of the Alpha API

- In total, approx. 55 bugs/feedback items have been identified, by a range of stakeholders
- There have been 3 releases of the Alpha API, progressively addressing bugs and feedback
 - v.0.9.0: December 2020 | initial release
 - v.0.9.1: March 2021 | 11 structural additions and fixes
 - v.0.9.2 – May 2021 | most recent release
 - Added Supply Only data columns, without data (Flag and start/end dates)
 - Fixed bug resulting in duplicate TPP (reported in relation to LIST_ITEM_ID)
 - Fixed bug related to timestamps and Business Key
 - Added Cautions and Notes data
 - Created new column in Restriction_Text table; SCHEDULE_HTML_TEXT
 - Fixed: bug relating to too many decimal places across a number of tables

Current Activities (moving towards Beta)

- Data Changes – Bugs, Feedbacks, Additional Inclusions
 - Inclusion of Med Charts
 - Data for Supply Only
 - Data for EXTEMPORANEOUS table
 - Table and data for INFUSABLES
 - Restrictions for Compound Drugs
 - Unit of Measure and Pack Content for Chemo Items
- All LI data included – based on Traceability Matrix
- Continue to implement Services Australia data
- Develop strategy for, and begin to implement multiple automated data testing tools and processes

Current Activities (moving towards Beta)

- API Framework and Management – establish the standards and frameworks that guide current and future API's, including security standards
- API End Point Connections – establish connections to revised/refreshed data mart
- User Registration, Authentication and Token Management – establish capabilities required to securely manage users and access
- Developer Portal – Establish basic portal that provides developers with key information needed to understand and use the API
- API Legals – revisit current Terms and Conditions for Embargo data and assess if they require revision

Discussion: Restrictions, Notes and Cautions

Restrictions, Notes and Cautions

User Story 1

AS A Vendor

I WANT Restrictions data to be presented to me as separate properties or a lookup (structured form), rather than a single html text containing all Restriction types

SO THAT I can:

- view the content of the Restriction text easily
- display Restriction type code and details
- efficiently store components of the restrictions in our systems

User Story 2

AS A Vendor

I WANT Cautions and Notes tables separate from the Restrictions

SO THAT the model is simple and enables Cautions and Notes to be processed differently to Restrictions

Considerations

- Ensuring restrictions, cautions and notes can be related at multiple levels
- How granular do we make restrictions data
 - Granular = increased flexibility, but increased risk to vendor and Department in re-aggregating
 - Aggregated = less flexibility, simple and low risk for Department
- Providing the right number of formats (aggregated and disaggregated)
 - Increased overhead each month within data distribution process for Dept and Vendors
 - Reduces responsiveness of data distribution method to changes in data or policy
- Example: Online Authorities

Beta and Next Steps



Goal of Beta

- The API and API Gateway provides the functionality necessary to reliably and effectively provide access to the PBS schedule data
- That the dataset within the API is equal to the data provided through the current process, and that it contains all data required to develop the PBS Legal Instruments (LI's)
- That the data is provided in an easily consumable structure
- That the solution is performing as expected and required against key metrics
- That support documentation and processes are sufficient
- Minimal further work is required prior to Production release

Approach to Beta

- In accordance with the DTA Service Development methodology, the Beta Stage is broken into two parts:
 - ‘Private Beta’ in which a small number of participants are invited to test the product
 - ‘Public Beta’ whereby all eligible and interested stakeholders are invited to participate
- Conducting a Private Beta allows the Data Distribution project to:
 - Target participants that have demonstrated their willingness and ability to provide detailed and valuable feedback through the Alpha Phase, maximising the benefit of the engagement to the project;
 - Reduce support overheads for the project team, while engaging with vendors in a way that is targeted, efficient, and allows for a deeper understanding of user context and needs;

Seeking Expressions of Interest

- We are looking for software vendors to participate in the Private Beta
- Expectations of vendors:
 - Active and frequent participation
 - Tests API data in 'day to day publishing activities' (**NOT** Production systems)
 - Fortnightly feedback sessions
- Submit an expression of Interest to pbsdatapoint@health.gov.au, telling us:
 - Your technical ability (and processes) to meet expectations
 - Your organisational capacity to meet expectations
 - Your unique value proposition - why you should be involved

Next Steps

Deadlines

- Expression of Interest Responses due Friday 25 June

Questions and Feedback

- What are some of the 'curly' examples you use to check that your software is displaying correctly
- Provide your thoughts on restrictions, notes and cautions

Other Business and Questions

