

Section 10 - Testing

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Introduction

This section provides information to sites and vendors sending test data to VINAH.

Who sends test data?

Testing can be undertaken by a vendor or by a health service.

When is testing necessary?

Testing is recommended when any of the following events occur:

- A health service is going to commence sending VINAH data
- A vendor significantly changes the software used to store and send VINAH data
- A health service changes software vendor
- A health service or vendor wishes to test software changes made for a new financial year
- Any other event having an impact or potential impact on the software or VINAH extract

Testing prevents large numbers of episodes with incorrect data element values potentially being loaded onto the 'live' environment where they may cause reports created from the data to be erroneous.

The objectives of the testing process

The main purposes of testing are:

- To confirm that the extract of data is in the correct format
- To ensure that ongoing transmissions can be achieved over a sustained period of time and referential integrity of data preserved
- To confirm that any mappings of local value domains are correct
- To confirm that the derivations of data elements are correct
- To ensure that staff are familiar with new software or a new version of software and data entry is accurate
- To ensure that values of data elements are not defaulted by the software, or by data entry staff
- To check that reconciliation totals are correct
- To confirm that staff are able to correct and resubmit data
- To provide training and advice to staff about the submission of data, rectification of errors, and data quality.

What data should be submitted as test?

The test file should contain enough data to provide a representative sample from the service and to test a variety of scenarios. However, it should not be so large that it becomes unwieldy to reconcile, review, and correct errors. The range of data included will depend on the health service size and number of Program/Streams applicable.

Testing Process

Test data are submitted to VINAH in the same way as 'live' data but the Department will allocate a special Organisation Identifier to be used for the testing process. In all other respects, the submission process is the same.

The steps to be followed are:

- Contact the HealthCollect helpdesk (healthcollect.helpdesk@health.vic.gov.au, (03) 9096 8595) to advise you will be sending test data. The helpdesk will provide you with an Organisation Identifier to be used for testing. You may request a separate Organisation Identifier for each site for which you will be submitting test data.
- This Organisation Identifier should be used through the HL7 submission (including the filename) wherever an Organisation Identifier code from table HL70362 is used.
- The helpdesk will provide you with a HealthCollect login to enable you to transmit your test file and collect your reports. An existing HealthCollect login can be used if you have one; a separate login is not required specifically for testing.
- Create the test submission using the allocated Organisation Identifier and upload to the HealthCollect portal.
- Review the submission for data quality (if the functionality has been provided by the vendor).
- Once the file has completed processing, download the reports from the HealthCollect portal.
- Review the test reports. It is recommended that errors be checked and another submission file is created and transmitted to ensure that errors can be successfully corrected. This process will ensure that errors are not caused by incorrect mappings or software errors.
- Once the test submissions are providing satisfactory results, the data can be submitted using the service's 'real' Organisation Identifier.

Notes:

- Data submitted using a testing Organisation Identifier is not loaded to the Department's data warehouse and is therefore isolated from being included in reports generated from the warehouse.
- Although the Department does not formally evaluate test submissions, data may be reviewed at any time. The health service is responsible for all data submitted to the Department.

Assistance and advice

For issues relating to the HealthCollect portal, login and submission process, contact the HealthCollect helpdesk (healthcollect.helpdesk@health.vic.gov.au, (03) 9096 8595).

For issues relating to the allocation or use of the testing Organisation Identifier, contact the HealthCollect helpdesk (healthcollect.helpdesk@health.vic.gov.au, (03) 9096 8595).

For assistance or advice with the data requirements, reviewing reports, and correcting errors, contact the HDSS Helpdesk (HDSS.Helpdesk@health.vic.gov.au, (03) 9096 8141)