Health Level Seven International

HL7 was founded over three decades ago as a not-for-profit standards development organization and provides solutions for the healthcare industry’s information exchange challenges. These solutions help advance interoperability and enable the right people to access the right information when and where it’s needed.

- Founded in 1987
- ANSI-accredited standards developing organization (SDO)
- Committed to empowering health data interoperability
- Focused on developing standards and enabling their adoption and implementation

Supported by our members, HL7 is shaping the future of healthcare through making our standards and implementation guides freely available under licensing terms. By making our framework easier to adopt, implement and use, HL7 ultimately aims to increase health and wellness by improving healthcare delivery on a global scale.

Vision
A world in which everyone can securely access and use the right health data when and where they need it.

Mission
To provide standards that empower global health data interoperability.

- Each steering division elects two representatives to serve on the Technical Steering Committee (TSC) which votes on technical issues related to standards
- The TSC is also comprised of two representatives from HL7 affiliates and an Architectural Review Board representative

Education and Events
HL7 convenes three working group meetings per year which facilitate standards development and include tutorials and HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) Connectathons. In addition, HL7 and Firely also produce HL7 FHIR DevDays, the largest FHIR-only event in North America. HL7 also offers live and on-demand webinars, online courses and customized corporate training in onsite and virtual formats.

Collaboration
Recognizing that effective standards development requires collaboration with other SDOs and stakeholders, HL7 has established agreements with nearly 30 organizations. The agreements facilitate open communication throughout the industry and are published on HL7.org/about/agreements.cfm. HL7 is also a founding member of the SDO Charter Organization (SCO), a formal collaboration among SDOs which aims to facilitate the creation of industry-wide, interoperable standards that support meaningful improvements in healthcare outcomes.

Work Groups
The organization is comprised of more than 50 work groups that are responsible for defining the HL7 standard protocols.
- Each work group is chaired by two or more co-chairs and is organized into four functional groups called steering divisions

QUICK FACTS
- Over 4,000 volunteers and members worldwide
- Members in more than 50 countries
- Official presence or affiliate in more than 35 countries
- Hundreds of healthcare vendors, providers, payers, government agencies, consultants and others represented
- 90% of the largest health information system vendors in the U.S. are HL7 members

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HL7 Standards

HL7 standards are developed through the commitment and hard work of thousands of volunteers around the world. More than just a set of standards for data messaging, HL7’s interoperability solutions include a family of technologies that provides a universal common framework for interoperability of healthcare data. By helping make healthcare IT systems interoperable, HL7 makes providers and organizations across the healthcare continuum more successful at achieving their goals.

HL7 FHIR

HL7 is the authentic source of HL7 FHIR as the creator and leader in its development and advancement. HL7 provides the most credible FHIR training and the only HL7 FHIR proficiency testing. Designed with a focus on simplicity and ease of implementation, the standard combines the best features of existing HL7 standards with the latest web technologies to make interoperable healthcare applications dramatically simpler, easier and faster to develop. HL7 FHIR Release 4 includes a number of normative components which will ensure stability and backward compatibility for developers and implementers.

HL7 V2

Well established as the premier messaging standard for the exchange of patient care and clinical information worldwide, HL7 Version 2 (V2) was published as an ANSI standard in 1996 and as an ISO standard in 2009. In the U.S., the HL7 V2 messaging standard is deployed at most healthcare facilities.

HL7 CDA

The HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) is an ANSI and ISO approved standard that provides an exchange model for clinical documents (such as discharge summaries and progress notes).

Consolidated CDA

The Consolidated CDA (C-CDA) is an implementation guide that contains a library of CDA templates and is a result of joint efforts of HL7, Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE), Health Story Project and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT.

EHR/PHR System Functional Models

The EHR System Functional Model (EHR-S FM) helps lay the groundwork for nationwide interoperability by providing common language parameters that can be used in developing systems that support electronic records.

The HL7 Personal Health Record System Functional Model (PHR-S FM) identifies the functions that should be included in a PHR and includes guidelines for data exchange between PHRs and EHRs.

RIM

The Reference Information Model (RIM) is the cornerstone of the HL7 Version 3 (V3) development process. An object model created as part of the V3 methodology, the RIM represents clinical data and identifies a life cycle of events.

Additional HL7 Standards

- Arden Syntax
- Claims Attachments
- Clinical Context Management (CCOW)
- Clinical Genomics: Genetic Variation Model
- Clinical Genomics: Pedigree Model
- HL7 Domain Analysis Model: Clinical Genomics Release 1
- HL7 Domain Analysis Model: Clinical Sequencing, Release 1
- Common Terminology Services (CTS)
- Decision Support Service Functional Model (SOA standard)
- GELLO
- Infobutton – Context Aware Retrieval
- Retrieve, Located, Update Service Functional Model (SOA standard)
- Structured Product Labeling (SPL)