Value Provided & Value Enabled By HL7--A Longitudinal Government Healthcare Provider Perspective

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HL7’s 25th Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting
My Perspectives

- VA (Department of Veterans Affairs)
- ONC (Office of the National Coordinator)
VA Perspective – 1980’s

- 1989 – VA’s 1st development of an HL7 application
  - To support a number of early pilot projects
  - Interface to VA’s Radiology Package by Kurzweil speech-to-text
  - Patient Data Exchange across VA Medical Centers
  - Storing patient records on optical cards

- VA became early HL7 benefactor
  - Support at the ground level (and gradually revealed to, and spread, upward)

- Thank you – Steve Wagner & Jim Demetriades!
VA-HL7 Highlights – 1990’s

- **ANSI: HISPP → HISB → → →**
  - VA caught in the “crossfire” among emerging, competing SDOs
  - Coordination/collaboration/integration activities

- **My first HL7 working group meeting – mid-1990’s**

- **HL7-DICOM (ACR-NEMA)**
  - Where is the patient demographic info?

- **HL7 organizing GCPR “Educational Sessions”**
  - June 1998
Government Computer-based Patient Record: Collaborating to Share Health Information [and More]

Robert M. Kolodner, M.D.

HL7
14 September 1998
View from 2013

My 98-year-old mother goes to her new physician

– Provides her Health smart card (key card)
– Authorizes access to her web-based medical history
– Receives a copy of the visit documentation, her lab results, and x-rays back to her web repository
– (Never provided a copy of 1995 letter from the now deceased doctor misdiagnosing her with early Alzheimer’s)
And My Mother is now 96
HL7 Highlights – 2000’s

• GCPR → Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)
• Markle Foundation Connecting for Health
• HITSP
• International Collaborative Activities with Other National Health IT Initiatives
• Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN/NwHIN)
  • VA-DoD Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)
Dynamic Tension and Diversity of Views
And Some Disruptive HL7 Activities

• V3
  • RIM
    • VHIM → FHIM
  • CDA
    • CDA+CCR → CCD

• EHR-S Functional Model
  • CMS & VHA initiation – April 2003
  • The Memphis meeting – September 2003

• PHR-S Functional Model
And the Future?

• Tools! Tools! Tools!

• And new challenging, internally disrupting, ideas to keep HL7 vibrant and relevant?
SUMMARY

HL7: 25 Years and Growing

• The past was HARD – with progress made in fits and starts!

• Fortunately, we had some dedicated people who were persistent

• And we still do!
  • So our future is bright
  • Even if it is NOT calm and smooth
THANK YOU

For
ALL YOU HAVE DONE
TO IMPROVE
HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Happy 25th Anniversary!!