Health Level Seven (HL7) Develops Proof of Concept for Continuity of Care Record (CCR)

Ann Arbor, Mich.—November 9, 2004 — The first project to emerge from a Health Level Seven (HL7) and ASTM International memorandum of understanding signed in September has demonstrated how ASTM’s Continuity of Care Record (CCR) can be implemented as an HL7 Version 3 (V3) Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) XML document. The CCR is a snapshot or mini-summary of relevant patient information at any point in time.

“It is very exciting to see tangible progress toward CCR implementation by HL7,” said Dr. Tom Sullivan, immediate past president of the Massachusetts Medical Society and initiator of the CCR. “The model-based architecture of V3 and the document metaphor of CDA give us a proven basis for interoperability and illustrate how CCR can become part of the National Health Information Infrastructure.”

The proof of concept was demonstrated to attendees at the 2nd International Conference on the CDA held October 20-22, 2004 in Acapulco, Mexico (http://www.hl7.de/iamcda2004/). The project took a sample CCR-compliant document, transformed it into a CDA document, and then using V3 tools created a CDA-compliant XML schema and a prototype V3 template that together validated the original CCR structures and content in the transformed CDA document. Liora Alschuler, a co-editor of the CDA specification and co-chair of HL7’s Structured Documents Technical Committee; Ted Blizzard, CIO of the Massachusetts Medical Society; and HL7 member Roberto Ruggeri, technical strategist at Microsoft Corporation delivered the presentation. V3 tools were provided by Charlie McCay, a co-chair of the HL7 XML Technical Committee and managing consultant at Ramsey Systems. The presentation may be viewed at: http://www.hl7.de/iamcda2004/finalmat/day4/MIFCDACCR.pdf.

“The HL7 V3 infrastructure gives us a way to promote full reuse of documents across enterprise boundaries. CDA scales down, for simple read-only implementations, and scales up to support Electronic Health Records and clinical decision support systems,” Blizzard said.

“We are very pleased to support this proof of concept,” said HL7 Chair Mark Shafarman. “This work has demonstrated how clinical content coming from the professional societies in a consensus-driven process can take advantage of the scalable foundation of HL7’s Version 3.”

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About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. ([http://www.HL7.org/](http://www.HL7.org/)) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7’s more than 2,000 members represent more than 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare.


International affiliates have also been established in 26 countries throughout the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

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