HL7’s HIMSS Exhibit “Interoperability for the 21st Century Healthcare System”
(Booth 3919) Highlights e-Prescribing, EHR, Other HL7 Standards Supporting Interoperability

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—February 10, 2005 — Health Level Seven (HL7), one of the world’s most prolific healthcare standards developers, will once again deliver its message of semantic interoperability through standards in healthcare at the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Conference and Exhibition. This year the HL7 exhibit, Interoperability for the 21st Century Healthcare System, is located on the main aisle in booth 3919.

Completing the puzzle of semantic interoperability is one of the most important goals in healthcare IT today. HL7 is proud to feature in this year’s HIMSS exhibit 16 participating vendors and eight partners who will demonstrate how HL7 standards are helping to make semantic interoperability a reality in the context of clinical information exchange including e-Prescribing, electronic health records (EHR), clinical trials, context management and more. Seven organizations have also shown their support for HL7’s work by sponsoring the demo.

“We are gratified by the number of HL7 organizational members who came forward with innovative implementations of HL7 standards to address the issues of interoperability facing our 21st Century healthcare systems,” said Chuck Meyer, HL7 Chair-elect and project manager for the HL7 exhibition at HIMSS. “The ongoing support of our organizational members and the quick adoption and integration of HL7 standards into their product suites suggests that we are well on the way to building the foundation for semantic interoperability in support of the National Health Information Infrastructure (NHII) initiative. The mix of major corporations and innovative newcomers participating in our exhibit is evidence of the broad audience that HL7 reaches.”

Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Other HL7 Standards
A review of the EHR functional model’s vision of interoperability indicates that much of the data to be exchanged is already moving between systems via HL7 in the form of patient demographics, orders and observations, and clinical notes. Some of the participating vendor demonstrations will focus on how a compilation of various messages could be used to exchange the content of an EHR. Another will show the use of CDA, the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture, to report clinical trials data collected as a component of the EHR. The standards important to working with the contents of the EHR, such as CCOW, will also be presented. In all, attendees will witness a broad spectrum approach to the interoperability issues involved with the collection, maintenance, and exchange of EHR.

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Electronic Prescribing

Electronic Prescribing (e-Prescribing) is rapidly emerging as a key component of 21st Century health information systems throughout the world. It can help reduce medication errors, improve patient care and reduce operational inefficiencies. In the United States, National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) SCRIPT is the primary messaging standard used for communicating prescriptions and related information electronically between prescribers and community pharmacies. HL7 medication orders are widely used within healthcare organizations for both inpatients and outpatients. To bridge this gap, HL7 and NCPDP have embarked on a multi-phase standards coordination project so that enterprise-based physicians and pharmacies can interoperate with community-based prescribers and pharmacies. Using the mapping guidelines created by an NCPDP-HL7 stakeholder workgroup, the e-prescribing vendor participants, with Cleveland Clinic Foundation acting as the integration engine data center, will demonstrate multiple, real-life scenarios involving the use of e-prescribing in the healthcare enterprise, retail pharmacy, mail-order pharmacy, ambulatory care, and physician office environments.

Theater Presentations

The HL7 exhibit encompasses 2,000 square feet on the main aisle, featuring a demonstration area comprised of 18 workstations, and two large theater areas — the HL7 Educational Theater, and the HL7 Participant Theater. The HL7 Educational Theater will feature a variety of informative 30-minute tutorials on HL7 subjects such as HL7 Basic Overview, HL7’s EHR Functional Model, HL7 Version 3 Basics, HL7’s CDA Standard and more. Exhibit Partners like NCPDP, the FDA, NCICB, AHIMA, and SNOMED will also deliver presentations in this theater on how HL7 standards interact with and support the work they do.

Meanwhile, the HL7 Participant Theater will showcase our 16 participating vendor companies as they each deliver 30-minute presentations on how HL7 standards enable their products to better support healthcare information exchange in the 21st Century healthcare system. Partners Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) and Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) will make their presentations in this theater as well (see accompanying sheet for a complete listing of HL7 participants, partners and sponsors).

For more information on the exhibit, including a complete schedule of HL7 educational tutorials and participant theater presentations, please visit www.HL7.org/HIMSS.

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About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (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 approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare. Recently, HL7 joined 12 other healthcare stakeholders in a collaborative response to the Request for Information (RFI) issued by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) to learn how widespread interoperability of health information technologies and health information exchange could be achieved through a National Health Information Network (NHIN). The Collaborative response can be viewed in its entirety at: http://www.hl7.org/Library/General/Collaborative_RFI_Responsefinal.pdf. The HL7 response specific to Standards and Policies to Achieve Interoperability can be found at http://www.hl7.org/Library/General/HL7Q14-18_final.pdf.

HL7’s endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.; Capgemini; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Documentum; Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Medical Systems; Guidant Corporation; HIMS Solutions, Inc.; IBM; IDX Systems Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS National Programme for IT; NICTIZ National ICT Institute for Healthcare in The Netherlands; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; the U.S. Department of Defense; Military Health System; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

International affiliates have also been established in 27 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, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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