HL7 Announces Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Becomes Benefactor

Ann Arbor, Mich.—April 4, 2005—Health Level Seven, Inc. (HL7) today announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has become the organization’s latest HL7 benefactor member. As an HL7 benefactor member, the CDC provides financial support to HL7 for development of industry-critical standards and products. In return, CDC has access to standards materials and input on future standards and products.

The CDC joins 28 other HL7 benefactor members including: Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.; Capgemini; 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.

"We are delighted to welcome Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an HL7 benefactor," said Mark Shafarman, HL7 chair. "The support of our benefactors is critical in enabling HL7 to continue its work toward interoperability in healthcare’s clinical practice and administrative systems, not only in the US, but worldwide."

CDC is pleased to be an HL7 benefactor," said Dr. John Loonsk, associate director for informatics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Through our membership, we look forward to increasing the recognition within CDC and in public health of these common standards and ensuring that public health participates fully in health data standards activities."

The federal government has supported several initiatives to advance the use of common standards. As part of the Consolidated Health Informatics Initiative (CHI), the federal government has agreed to endorse a set of standards to make it easier for information to be shared across agencies and to serve as a model for the private
sector. In 2004, President George W. Bush called for the widespread adoption and use of interoperable electronic medical records within the next 10 years and established the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. CHI is part of that office.

“The CDC’s role as benefactor to HL7 is yet another step toward the unification of standards so interoperability can emerge,” said Dr. David Brailer, national coordinator for health information technology. “We will continue to work both internally in the Federal government and with private industry to promote the use of these standards.”

About Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services, is the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people—at home and abroad. CDC has two overall health protection goals:

- **Health promotion and prevention of disease, injury, and disability:** All people, especially those at higher risk due to health disparities, will achieve their optimal lifespan with the best possible quality of health in every stage of life.

- **Preparedness:** People in all communities will be protected from infectious, occupational, environmental, and terrorist threats.

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 2,000 members represent over 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 additional response specific to Standards and Policies to Achieve Interoperability can be found at http://www.hl7.org/Library/General/HL7Q14-18_final.pdf.

HL7 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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