For Immediate Release

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HL7: Dr. David Brailer’s Accomplishments Helped Pave the Road for A
National Health Information Network
HL7 Applauds Brailer’s Contributions and Progress

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—April 24, 2006 — Upon news of his resignation, Health Level Seven, Inc. (HL7) expressed its sincere gratitude to David Brailer, MD, PhD, for his exceptional work as the nation’s first health IT coordinator. While in office, Dr. Brailer was instrumental in raising the awareness of the critical role that IT plays in the U.S. healthcare system. He stressed the need for an electronic data sharing network to increase the efficiency and quality of care of our nation’s healthcare. Brailer also pioneered the efforts to create interoperable electronic healthcare records (EHRs) among the nation’s regional health information organizations (RHIOs).

“The wealth of experience, depth of knowledge, and innate leadership skills that David Brailer brought to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology will be sorely missed,” said HL7 Chair Chuck Meyer. “Yet we are confident that the momentum he built while in office will carry us through this critical period in the deployment of electronic health records and the realization of a viable Nationwide Health Information Network.”

HL7 recently entered its 20th year as one of the world’s most prolific healthcare standards developers. As the nation’s healthcare IT leader, Brailer was an advocate of standards development organizations (SDOs) such as HL7 and emphasized the crucial resources they represented to the healthcare industry. At HL7’s Annual Plenary and Working Group Meeting last September, Brailer noted that SDOs like HL7 are “On the front lines of interoperability” and stressed the importance of standards harmonization.

Although Brailer has resigned from his post as the National Coordinator for Health IT, he will remain active in the development and adoption of standards-based health IT. HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced Thursday that Brailer will serve as vice chair for the American Health Information Community, a key organization supporting progress towards healthcare information interoperability.

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About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (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.

HL7’s endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Medical Systems; Guidant Corporation; IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; Solucient, LLC.; 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 26 countries throughout the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and the United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

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