HL7 Applauds CCHIT for Reaching Certification Milestone

HL7’s EHR-S Functional Model Proves a Useful Tool in Certification Process

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — July 20, 2006—Health Level Seven (HL7) today congratulates the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHITSM), upon announcing the first list of ambulatory Electronic Health Records (EHR) products to achieve the CCHIT CertifiedSM seal. Products that are CCHIT Certified comply with 100 percent of the tests for functionality and security and included an initial step in interoperability: that of receiving lab results electronically. This certification marks a significant milestone for CCHIT and the healthcare information technology industry as it provides the first ever benchmark for ambulatory EHR products. CCHIT’s certification efforts will help accelerate the adoption of health information technology by ensuring the interoperability of EHRs through a standards-based compatibility with the National Health Information Network (NHIN) architecture.

“The announcement of the first ambulatory EHR products to achieve CCHIT certification is a great accomplishment,” said HL7 Chair Chuck Meyer. “HL7 is proud to have provided CCHIT with the EHR-S Functional Model to use as a framework in the development of its certification requirements. We are pleased that CCHIT has found the EHR-S Functional Model useful. HL7 looks forward to continuing its efforts toward the development of widespread standards for EHR in the global healthcare community and to meeting the needs for standards that support the interoperability of healthcare information.”

An EHR standard is seen as one of the keys to supporting the exchange of information for clinical decisions and treatments, and can help lay the groundwork for nationwide interoperability by providing common language parameters that can be used in developing systems that support electronic health records. According to CCHIT Chair, Mark Leavitt, MD, PhD, Health Level Seven’s EHR-S Functional Model served such a purpose in CCHIT’s certification testing process.
“CCHIT’s recent launch of Ambulatory EHR certification affirms the work of many volunteers, both within as well as external to our organization,” said Leavitt. “In this regard, the HL7 standards development organization has been a particularly important partner for us, supplying the standards for ambulatory EHR functionality as a starting point for CCHIT’s efforts in testing EHR product compliance.”

About the EHR-S
The HL7 EHR System Functional Model provides a reference list of functions that may be present in an Electronic Health Record System (EHR-S). The function list is described from a user perspective with the intent to enable consistent expression of system functionality. This EHR-S Model, through the creation of Functional Profiles, enables a standardized description and common understanding of functions sought or available in a given setting (e.g. intensive care, cardiology, office practice in one country or primary care in another country).

“We see the EHR-S Functional Model as an organizational framework that identifies functionality one might find in an Electronic Health Record System,” said HL7 EHR Technical Committee co-chair Corey Spears. “This framework can be further refined by stakeholders for their express use in identifying specific requirements for interoperability, use, security, privacy, and much more.”

The first ballot of the HL7 EHR-S Functional Model was met with unprecedented interest, receiving a record-setting 223 votes from industry stakeholders. The EHR-S is now entering the final stages as a draft standard. The document is expected to be submitted as a normative standard in a membership level ballot that will open on July 31, 2006. HL7 invites interested parties to participate in this ballot. This can be accomplished by going to: http://www.hl7.org/ctl.cfm?action=ballots.home. Additional information about the draft standard is available from the dedicated EHR section of the HL7.org website at www.HL7.org/EHR.

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 2,400 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare.

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