



For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrea Ribick
+1 (734) 677-7777
andrea@HL7.org

HL7 Reference Information Model Becomes ISO Standard ***International Harmonization of Healthcare Standards One Step Closer to Reality***

ANN ARBOR, Michigan, U.S.A.—September 18, 2006—Health Level Seven (HL7), one of the world's most prolific healthcare standards developers, today announced the August 3, 2006 publication of ISO/HL7 21731:2006 – Health Informatics – HL7 Version 3 – Reference Information Model (RIM) – Release 1. HL7 became a Standards Partner of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in 1998. This arrangement allows HL7 to submit its ANSI-approved standards directly to ISO to become joint ISO/HL7 standards. The standards are accepted and approved through the ISO Technical Committee 215 – Health Informatics. Through this process, HL7 can share its products with the International Standards community, thus reducing the need for duplicative work. Furthermore, HL7 standards are widely used by vendors who sell their health information technology products internationally. Because many countries require the use of ISO standards (when they exist) a major regulatory and legal barrier will be removed when HL7 standards are approved as ISO standards.

“We are delighted with this first publication of an ISO/HL7 standard—the HL7 Reference Information Model,” said W. Ed Hammond, member of the HL7 Board of Directors and Vice Chair of the HL7 Technical Committee. “It is particularly important because it sets a direction for further HL7 standards to be shared internationally and defines the role of ISO in coordinating “a single standard for a single purpose.” HL7 appreciates the support and contributions of other standards development organizations and national member bodies in making this happen. It is significant that the HL7 RIM is the first standard to achieve this joint publication because of the role the RIM plays in harmonizing building blocks for additional data standards.”

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The RIM is a static model of health and healthcare information as viewed within the scope of HL7 standards development activities. It is an object model and graphically represents the clinical data. As a shared model between all the domains and the model from which all domains create their messages, the RIM is essential to HL7's ongoing mission of increasing precision of data and reducing implementation costs. The ISO/HL7 RIM can now become the common basis for international healthcare standards.

According to Dr. Yun Sik Kwak, Chair of the ISO Technical Committee 215 – Health Informatics, the publication of the HL7 Version 3 - Reference Information Model as an ISO standard is a major accomplishment. “It is the essential object data model for providing semantic interoperability of health information sharing and represents the first ISO/HL7 partnership effort to streamline the global standard developing processes, minimize the global standards development timeframe, and eliminate duplicative efforts,” said Dr. Kwak. “We are very grateful to HL7 for bringing such crucial standards to the ISO process, to the experts who donated their time and efforts voluntarily to this project, and to those who worked for this standard with participating national member bodies to make it possible within the assigned timeframe.”

HL7 has submitted seven additional standards to ISO for ratification. Those standards include the following:

- HL7 V2.5 Messaging Standard
- Clinical Data Architecture – Release 2
- Common Terminology Server – Release 1
- Structured Product Labeling – Release 2
- Annotated Electrocardiogram– Release 1
- Individual Case Safety Report – Release 1
- Stability Study– Release 1

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.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Integrated IT Solutions; Guidant Corporation; IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health in the UK; The National IT Institute for Healthcare in the Netherlands (NICTIZ National Healthcare); Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; Solucient, LLC.; St. Jude Medical; 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, 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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