



Health Level Seven, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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Emergency Medicine to Benefit from the HL7's First Registered Clinical Profile Derived from the Electronic Health Record System Functional Model Standard

The Emergency Care Functional Profile is critical to the day-to-day delivery of high quality emergency care and to emergency departments during regional or national disasters.

ANN ARBOR, MI, U.S.—April 24, 2007—Health Level Seven (HL7), a preeminent healthcare IT standards development organization with broad international representation, today announced the Emergency Care Functional Profile (EC FM) as the first registered profile based upon HL7's EHR System Functional Model (EHR-S FM) standard.

In late February, the EHR System Functional Model standard became the healthcare industry's first ANSI-approved standard to specify the functional requirements for an electronic health record system. HL7's Emergency Care Special Interest Group (SIG) developed the Emergency Care Functional Profile for Emergency Department Information Systems to develop an open and objective standard for the development, refinement, and evaluation of information systems employed in the ED. As a registered profile, it becomes a standard that may be referenced by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) as a foundation for certification of EHR systems in the emergency department setting. Adopting registered profiles is one way that CCHIT ensures a consistent methodology for assessing EHR systems across all healthcare domains.

Registering profiles that conform to the EHR System Functional Model is an important step in the widespread adoption of this standard because technically EHR systems conform to profiles rather than the model itself. The Functional Model is structured to allow vendors to implement a specific profile for real-world settings, such as the Emergency Department, and users to purchase a system that conforms to the profile. Registering a profile with HL7 gives the profile credibility and approval that it has met a minimum set of guidelines of what a profile should contain.

"The EHR System Functional Model is a Gold Standard and represents a roadmap for EHR systems across all care settings and disciplines," said Linda Fischetti, RN, MS, HL7 EHR Technical Committee co-chair, and HL7 board member. "A profile helps you apply the standard to your specific care setting, such as the emergency department. So, purchasers of EHR systems should look at both the Functional Model and the profile in their area of interest."

The EHR Emergency Care profile represents the combined effort of a wide range of stakeholders, including the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Under the leadership of ACEP President Brian Keaton, MD, the Emergency Care SIG was able to tap into a variety of collaborators including ED providers, medical informaticists, EDIS developers, and product managers. The Emergency Care Functional Profile is not only critical for the integration of Emergency Departments (ED) into the developing national health information network, but is also needed for handling regional disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. The EHR-S Functional Model and the Emergency Care Function Profile will facilitate solutions to underlying ED operational problems such as overcrowding, ambulance diversion and shortage of services. Systems conforming to the EC FP will facilitate vital care to the over 110 million patients seen each year in US emergency departments.

"CCHIT's inclusion of Emergency Department Information Systems in their first expansion group for certification was partly based on the availability of our registered functional profile developed by experts in the emergency field," said Todd Rothenhaus, MD, chief medical information officer at Caritas Christi Health Care System and HL7 Emergency Care SIG co-chair. "Without HL7, the HL7 Electronic Health Records Technical Committee, and the excellent roadmap for profile development in the EHR System Functional Model, the Emergency Care SIG could never have delivered such a high quality profile aimed at Emergency Department Information Systems at this juncture."

The EHR System Functional Model is versatile, adaptable, and applicable across the continuum of care. There are several profiles under development in addition to Emergency Care. The profiles below are a subset of the EHR System Functional Model representing field consensus on the functions that would be needed by clinicians using EHR Systems for special purposes or within those environments of care.

- Legal EHR
- Behavioral Health
- Child Health
- Long Term Care
- Regulated Clinical Research

More information on these profiles and the HL7 EHR System Function Model standard can be found in a recent HL7 press release located at

<http://www.hl7.org/documentcenter/public/pressreleases/20070221.pdf>

HL7 encourages healthcare stakeholders to participate in the development of profiles to support specific uses and environments of care. There are tools available to any who are interested in developing profiles for EHR systems. For those thinking about creating a profile, the How-To Guide for Creating Functional Profiles is a good place to start in addition to contacting the HL7 Electronic Health Record Technical Committee, who may be able to provide additional guidance. According to Lynne Rosenthal, computer scientist and manager of the conformance testing group at the National

Institute of Standards and Technology, and co-facilitator of the HL7 EHR-S Conformance Work Group, "Any functional profile that conforms to the EHR System standard can be registered. It involves self-attestation of conformance by those submitting the functional profile for registration via a questionnaire that is completed at submission time. Registration can facilitate the adoption of the profile by making it publicly available for use." All registered profiles will be listed on an HL7 public website.

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 information systems vendors serving healthcare.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton, Boston Scientific Corporation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; 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; 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.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around 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, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

For more information on registering profiles or to download a free copy of the EHR-S FM standard, visit <http://www.hl7.org/ehr/downloads/functionalProfile.asp>

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