Health Level Seven, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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HL7 Releases Newest Approved American National Standard: Version 2.5.1

Revised messaging standard supports exchange of electronic lab information in addition to CLIA and ELINC’s lab test reporting requirements.

ANN ARBOR, MI, U.S.—June 15, 2007—Health Level Seven (HL7), a preeminent healthcare IT standards development organization with broad international representation, today announced the release of HL7’s Messaging Standard Version 2.5.1 to support the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendment (CLIA) for the exchange of electronic laboratory information. The CLIA was passed by Congress in 1988 to establish quality standards for all laboratory testing to ensure the accuracy, reliability and timeliness of patient test results regardless of where the test was performed.


“Additional fields were added in this revised HL7 messaging standard to support CLIA requirements to communicate all attributes necessary to identify the lab responsible for performing the tests,” said Jane Foard, co-chair of the HL7 Publishing Committee and Application Advisor for McKesson Provider Technologies. “Additionally, it allows for a migration path for communication with reference labs.”

The HL7 Version 2.5.1 Standard currently addresses the interfaces among various healthcare IT systems that send or receive a variety of healthcare data. The Standard serves as the vehicle for disparate applications and data architectures operating in a heterogeneous system environment to communicate with each other. It is designed to support a central patient care system, as well as a more distributed environment where data resides in departmental systems.

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Specifically, HL7 Version 2.5.1 includes updates to the Observation/Result (OBX) segment of the Standard to support compliance with CLIA and California state regulations that require clinical laboratories operating in California to include in each laboratory result report the name and address of the performing lab and the name of the lab’s medical director. The Observation Request (OBR) and Common Order (ORC) segments of the standard have been updated to support compliance with the ELINCs standard that requires clinical laboratories to capture the association between a reflex test (a test not indicated in an original order but performed due to the result of another test) and the original order of the result prompting the second (reflex) test.

“This important development will help accelerate physician office and hospital use of electronic clinical information to improve patient care,” said Californian HealthCare Foundation President and CEO Mark D. Smith, M.D., M.B.A.

The new HL7 Version 2.5.1 Messaging Standard is now available to HL7 members for download at the “Members Only” section of the HL7 website (www.HL7.org). Non-members may purchase the standard at the HL7 bookstore (https://www.hl7.org/library/bookstore/). For more information about other HL7 products or about membership, please visit the HL7 website, or call HL7 Headquarters at +1 (734) 677-7777.

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; Progress Software; 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.

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