Medical Settings where Children Are Treated to Benefit from HL7’s New EHR System Functional Profile

Child Health Functional Profile identifies content required in an EHR system used in child health care settings to promote safe, effective and reliable care of children.

ANN ARBOR, MI, U.S.—August 23, 2007—Health Level Seven (HL7), a preeminent healthcare IT standards development organization with broad international representation, today announced the release of the Child Health Functional Profile as the third registered profile based upon the HL7 EHR System Functional Model, an ANSI-approved American National Standard. The purpose of the Child Health Functional Profile is to provide general pediatric functions critical for electronic health record systems used to care for children in the United States.

The HL7 Pediatric Data Standards Special Interest Group (PeDSSIG) developed the Child Health Functional Profile over the course of four years and worked to identify and refine a broad list of functions required of EHR systems for the care of children. Because one-third of the U.S. population are children, and more than half of those children visit clinicians in settings other than pediatric offices, the HL7 PeDSSIG believed it is important to ensure the HL7 EHR System Functional Model include functionality critical for child healthcare. Although many of the functions identified by the PeDSSIG are included in the new EHR System Functional Model standard, the creation of the Child Health Functional Profile was necessary to further define and provide the essential pediatric functions critical for EHR systems used to care for children in the United States.

According to Chief Medical Information Officer at Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center and HL7 Pediatric Data Standards Special Interest Group Co-Chair, Andrew Spooner, MD, "The intent of the Child Health Functional Profile is to assist medical providers and associated IT vendors in helping to ensure safe, effective and reliable care of children through the safe and effective use of information technology. As vendors develop EHR systems for the care of children, they will want to conform to the Child Health Functional Profile that is based on the EHR-S Functional Model, in order to better equip clinicians in any setting to care for children.”

The Child Health Functional Profile is already valued and being utilized in the healthcare industry. It is a key resource for the new Child Health Expert Panel within the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) as the panel works to define new child health
certification criteria for EHR systems. Additionally, the Alliance for Pediatric Quality, which includes the American Academy of Pediatrics, The American Board of Pediatrics, Child Health Corporation of America and National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions, strongly supports the work of the HL7 PeDSSIG and the Child Health Functional Profile and views the profile as critical in advancing pediatric applications of technology.

There are five major functional topics addressed in the Child Health Functional Profile that are essential for an EHR system used to care for children including immunization management, growth tracking, medication dosing, data norms and privacy.

A Child Health Functional Profile workgroup convened in March 2007, and currently includes twenty-eight physicians, nurses, pharmacists, medical informatics experts, and representatives from the vendor community. This workgroup has identified the additional EHR system functionality necessary to care for a child age 0-18 who receives routine wellness and preventative, acute illness, or acute trauma care that takes place in the following areas: the newborn nursery, the primary care provider’s office, the emergency department or urgent care clinic, and the inpatient hospital setting. In addition, the profile also supports ambulatory and inpatient hospital care for common chronic pediatric diseases such as asthma, sickle cell disease and diabetes, as well as those with social situations such as foster care, divided homes and state custody.

“The Child Health Functional Profile identifies the content required in an EHR system for the various settings in which child health care is delivered,” said Donald T. Mon, PhD, vice-president of practice leadership, American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and HL7 EHR Technical Committee co-chair. “Registering profiles that conform to the EHR System Functional Model is a critical step in the widespread adoption of this standard because EHR systems conform to profiles rather than the model itself.”

In February 2007, HL7 announced the industry’s first EHR System Functional Model Standard that specifies the functional requirements for an EHR system. The standard outlines important features and functions that should be contained in an EHR system. The EHR System Functional Model Standard has provided numerous criteria that have been adopted by the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology’s (CCHIT).

HL7 encourages healthcare stakeholders to participate in the development of profiles to support specific uses across the continuum of care. In April 2007, the first profile developed to support clinical care was the Emergency Care Functional Profile that will help with the development, refinement and evaluation of information systems in the emergency department. In June 2007, the Legal EHR System Functional Profile was the second profile registered. The Legal EHR System Function Profile provides guidelines to demonstrate how an EHR system can help an organization maintain an EHR for legal and business purposes to help reduce provider’s administrative burden, and reduce costs and inefficiencies caused by redundant paper and electronic record keeping.

Other EHR Profiles currently under development include long-term care, behavioral health, and regulated clinical research.
For those thinking about creating a profile, the *How To Guide for Creating Functional Profiles* is available on the EHR Technical Committee’s Functional Profile webpage. In addition, the HL7 Electronic Health Record Technical Committee is available to provide further guidance. Any functional profile that conforms to the EHR System Functional Model standard can be registered with HL7. This registration 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 are available to the public through a searchable registry at [http://www.nist.gov/profileregistry](http://www.nist.gov/profileregistry).


**About HL7**

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. ([www.HL7.org](http://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 2,300 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which includes over 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare.

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For more information on registering profiles, visit [http://www.hl7.org/ehr/downloads/functionalProfile.asp](http://www.hl7.org/ehr/downloads/functionalProfile.asp)