HL7 Recognizes Landmark Enactment of the ARRA HITECH Legislation
Organization Eager and Ready to Provide Enhanced National Healthcare Standards Leadership

Ann Arbor, MI., US – February 17, 2009 – Health Level Seven (HL7) is the largest health information standards development organization (SDO) in the United States (US) with over 95 percent American hospitals and ambulatory facilities using its standards today. HL7 Chief Executive Officer Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, today issued the following statement regarding the health information technology (HIT) provisions contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama:

“Today is an important and historic day for America. The HITECH legislation, included as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), provides for the first time significant resources and infrastructure to address the looming healthcare crisis in our country. The bill appropriately recognizes that a paperless health system, powered by standards-based, interoperable electronic health records (EHRs), is essential to ensuring higher quality healthcare for our citizens. We also believe that this will ultimately reduce the spiral of health delivery costs. At HL7, we have been developing standards for more than two decades, and look forward to the opportunities this legislation will provide.

“The HITECH provisions outline new federal leadership bodies such as the HIT Standards and Policy Committees and require timely consensus on standards, implementation specifications and certification criteria. Achieving the aims of this ambitious legislation will require diligent and heightened efforts from all stakeholders. HL7, as a recognized standards leader with an ever-growing role in spearheading both domestic and global interoperability discussions, is ready and eager to become a part of this process, offering the critical support, expertise and work products needed to reach the goal of interoperable
EHR use for every American by 2014. Active in more than 30 countries, HL7 will also provide links to global thought leaders and assuredness that US standards development initiatives align with international activities and requirements.”

For more information

For more information about HL7, please visit www.HL7.org.

About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (www.HL7.org) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards development 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 include more than 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; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Translational Medicine Institute (DTMI); 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; Lockheed Martin; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Sanofi-aventis R&D; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; St. Jude Medical; Sunquest Information Systems; Thomson Reuters; the US Department of Defense, Military Health System; and the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uruguay.