



Health Level Seven, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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**Health Level Seven Version 2.5 Application Protocol for
Electronic Data Exchange in Healthcare Environments
Becomes an International Standard**

As an international standard, HL7 Version 2.5 will help accelerate the use of electronic clinical information worldwide to improve patient care and reduce redundancies.

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA – September 21, 2009 – Health Level Seven® (HL7®), the global authority for interoperability and standards in healthcare information technology with members in 57 countries, today announced its Version 2.5 messaging standard has been approved as an international standard by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

HL7 Version 2.5 allows interoperability between electronic health record systems, practice management systems, laboratory IT systems, dietary, pharmacy and billing systems. It serves as a vehicle for disparate healthcare IT systems, applications and data architectures operating in diverse-system environments 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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“HL7’s Version 2.5 plays an important role in the exchange of data in much of today’s global healthcare community and is widely implemented around the world,” said Yun Sik Kwak, MD, PhD, chair of the ISO Technical Committee 215 – Health Informatics. “The approval of this standard is evidence of ISO’s commitment to adopting existing standards where appropriate.”

“We are pleased that HL7’s Version 2.5 is now an international standard,” said W. Ed Hammond, PhD, chair of the HL7 Board of Directors. “The adoption of this standard will increase the use of electronic healthcare data because many countries that use standards mandate the use of ISO standards to share data, reduce redundancies and improve patient care.”

HL7 standards are accepted and approved through the ISO Technical Committee 215 – Health Informatics. HL7 can share its products with the international standards community, thus reducing the need for duplicative work. HL7 standards are widely used by healthcare software vendors that sell their health information technology products internationally.

HL7’s Version 2.5 received ANSI approval as an American National Standard on June 26, 2003. The standard is available for purchase on the HL7 website at www.HL7.org or the ISO website at www.iso.org.

About Health Level Seven (HL7)

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. is the leading global authority for healthcare Information interoperability and standards with members in 57 countries. HL7 is a non-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 collaborates with other

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standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

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; European Medicines Agency; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; Lockheed Martin; McKesson Provider Technology; 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.; Siemens Healthcare; St. Jude Medical; Sunquest Information Systems; Thomson Reuters; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

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

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