For Immediate Release

The Joint Initiative Council on Global Health Informatics Standardization Announces Its Newest Member, and New Web Site

*GS1 becomes newest member of the Joint Initiative Council*

**ANN ARBOR, Mich., USA – October 7, 2010** – The Joint Initiative Council (JIC) today announced that GS1 is the newest member to join the council, and it has launched its new web site for healthcare stakeholders and working groups involved: [http://www.jointinitiativecouncil.org](http://www.jointinitiativecouncil.org).

The purpose of the Joint Initiative Council is to foster the highest level of cooperation among its member standard development organizations (SDO) that include Health Level Seven International (HL7), Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO), European Committee for Standardization Technical Committee on Health Informatics (CEN/TC 251) and International Standards Organization Technical Committee on Health Informatics (ISO/TC 215) and GS1 (supply and demand chain standards).

“The Joint Initiative Council’s vision for collaboration, coordination and cooperation is to harmonize standards and tests to address a single health business need,” said Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, and CEO of HL7 International. “Our goal is to enable common, timely health information standards by addressing and resolving issues of gaps, overlaps, and counterproductive standardization efforts.”

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Working together, the six standards development organizations can leverage standards development resources and solve shared issues in a timely manner. The JIC will coordinate standards strategies and plans, with the future goal of making all standards available through ISO.

“Standardization is the only real solution to semantic interoperability in health informatics and by working together, our member organizations will increasingly contribute to interoperability on a global scale,” said Kees Molenaar, chair of CEN/TC251 and the 2010 chair of the Joint Initiative Council. “We are grateful that HL7 is hosting our central web site that will allow the JIC processes to be transparent to its members and stakeholders.”

There is a strong and positive desire among the standards development organizations to collaborate, coordinate and cooperate to provide the set of standards necessary to resolve health care problems and fulfill health care requirements.

In their collaborative work together, the JIC will do the following:

- Proactively drive the identification of needs and the achievement of results to resolve gaps, overlaps, and counterproductive health informatics standardization efforts;
- Identify the individuals and lead SDO that have an interest, expertise and contribution to determine a course of action for resolving issues of gaps, overlaps, or counterproductive health informatics standardization efforts;
- In the spirit of openness, transparency and flexibility, determine appropriate policies that are required and useful across participating SDO committees; and
- Determine an overall engagement and communications strategy, including full sharing of deliberations, with stakeholders from the health informatics standards community in support of standards harmonization.

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About Joint Initiative Council
The Joint Initiative Council’s (JIC) vision for collaboration, coordination and cooperation is to harmonize standards and tests to address a single health business need. The JIC operates at the strategic level as a council of equals, and consists of the respective leaders and appointed liaison members of the participating organizations. The JIC’s goal is to enable common, timely health informatics standards by addressing and resolving issues of gaps, overlaps, and counterproductive standardization efforts. For more information about the Joint Initiative Council, please visit http://www.jointinitiativecouncil.org

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