



Health Level Seven® International
For Immediate Release

***HL7 and IHE Sign Statement of Understanding to Ballot
IHE Profiles through HL7***

Agreement represents increased collaboration between the organizations and will improve the interoperability and implementation of healthcare information technology standards

New Orleans, LA – March 3, 2013 – Health Level Seven® International (HL7®), the global authority for interoperability and standards in healthcare information technology with members in 55 countries, and Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE), an organization dedicated to improving healthcare by providing specifications, tools and services for interoperability, today announced an agreement to launch a pilot project to explore balloting IHE profiles through HL7. This Statement of Understanding (SOU) further expands on their previous collaborative efforts, which were initiated in 2005.

As part of the collaborative relationship between HL7 and IHE, the two organizations have worked together to avoid conflict and duplication of effort, as they engage in activities that support the global adoption of healthcare information technology (IT) standards. The new SOU strengthens the existing ties with the goal of improving the interoperability and implementation of healthcare IT standards and implementation guides. As part of the pilot, one or more IHE profiles based on the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®) will be submitted for ballot through the HL7 Structured Documents Work Group. The pilot will be used to assess the feasibility of balloting other IHE profiles based on HL7 standards and potentially jointly publishing them as implementation guides.

“HL7 and IHE have enjoyed a long history of collaboration,” said Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, and CEO of HL7. “This agreement further solidifies our efforts and brings us closer to validating that interoperability can be achieved in our lifetime. It ensures that HL7 standards and IHE implementation profiles are tightly coordinated and will facilitate further strides in interoperability as we rise to the challenge of providing the building blocks necessary to achieve meaningful use in healthcare.”

“Health IT standards are paving the way towards interoperability which will mean seamless and secure access to health information whenever and wherever it’s needed. This

effort to ballot IHE profiles through the HL7 process is but one example of how our organizations are working together to improve the quality, value and safety of healthcare. This collaborative effort shows how the industry should – and does – come together to advance health information exchange,” said Joyce Sensmeier, MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, FAAN, president, IHE USA.

About IHE

IHE (www.ihe.net) is a global initiative, now in its tenth year, that creates the framework for passing vital health information seamlessly – from application to application, system to system, and setting to setting – across multiple healthcare enterprises. IHE brings together health information technology stakeholders to implement standards for communicating patient information efficiently throughout and among healthcare enterprises by developing a framework of interoperability. Because of its proven process of collaboration, demonstration and real world implementation of interoperable solutions, IHE is in a unique position to significantly accelerate the process for defining, testing, and implementing standards-based interoperability among electronic health record systems.

About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International is the global authority for healthcare information interoperability and standards with affiliates established in more than 30 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 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: Abbott; Accenture; Allscripts; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Translational Medicine Institute; Epic; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; Hospital Corporation American (HCA); IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technology; Microsoft Corporation; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners

HealthCare System, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Siemens Healthcare; 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, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

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

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