ED WG/SIG

Mission / Charter

Mission

The goal of the Emergency Department (ED) Work Group (WG) / Special Interest Group is to bring the unique understandings and perspectives of ED medicine to the HL7 standards process. Because effective function of EDs is “mission critical” to the entire healthcare system, and because EDs represent a care-setting quite different from all others, this group seeks to be a reliable source of information and support for the HL7 mission of designing standards for electronic health records. It will accomplish this goal through participation in the HL7 process for standards development in EHR Systems.

Charter

Work Products and Contributions to HL7 Processes

- Provide a forum for discussion of needs and requirements for Electronic Health Record Systems in Emergency Departments.
- Develop ED specific functions—based on needs and requirements---for ED-EHR Systems.
- Inform and advise the HL7 EHR-S Development process with respect to ED specific functions, including the creation of Conformance Criteria, and a Minimal Function Set (MFS) for the ED Care Setting, according to the HL7 process.
- Help establish use cases for coordinated care of patients moving through the ED setting
- Use the HDF methodology to define ED-EHR requirements, including privacy and security requirements, as well as requirements for ED-EHR transactions.
- This group recognizes that some of its activities will fall within the scope of other TCs and SIGs. Therefore, the ED WG /SIG will collaborate with other appropriate TCs and SIGs to help produce the appropriate standards, including messages and standard documents, to meet EHR requirements, applicable to the ED setting.

Formal Relationships with Other HL7 Groups

The ED WG / SIG must interact with other technical committees and special interest groups to create standards in support of EHR function and interoperability. These will include:

- **Patient Care TC** - The ED WG / SIG will need to closely coordinate its activities with the Patient Care-Tc to inform its efforts vis-à-vis patient goals, problems, care plans/critical paths, assessments, and histories and physicals.
- **EHR-TC** - The ED WG / SIG will need to closely coordinate its activities with the EHR-TC to facilitate HL7’s mission of designing standards to support the sharing of electronic health records, especially through the ED environment.
- **Structured Documents TC** – Critical items for EDs to consider will include CDA for the ED-EHR, structure and content, as well as the CCR; these fall under the aegis of the Structured Documents TC, with which work will need to be coordinated.
- **Vocabulary TC** – There is specific interest in the ED WG / SIG concerning vocabulary, since eliminating sources of ambiguity is critical in many ED functions.
- **Clinical Decision Support - TC** - Clinical Decision support is an area of key interest in the ED community, especially with respect to the rapidity of many decisions in the ED space, as well as the potential for CDS to help balance distractions and other sources of cognitive burden.
Formal Relationships with Groups Outside of HL7

There are a number of active and potential formal relationships with groups outside of HL7. Formal relationships will be governed by what are approved by the HL7 Board. Specifically, formal relationships will be established with the following groups:

- **ACEP – American College of Emergency Physicians** –
  The American College (ACEP) is the largest professional society for Emergency Physicians, representing the vast majority since the inception of the specialty in the late 1970s. There is already an active relationship between this group and ACEP’s Informatics Section, many members of which have been instrumental in this effort. The ED WG / SIG is consequently fortunate to be populated with individuals well-known and experienced in the medical informatics community. ACEP has offered its support, not only to the ED WG / SIG, but also to HL7 in general.

- **AAEM – American Association of Emergency Medicine** -
  AAEM is also an Emergency Physician specialty society. Many ED physicians are members in both societies, but some choose one or the other. AAEM requires certification by either the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM). The AAEM membership has been invited to participate in the ED WG / SIG effort, and one or more participants have already joined.

- **SAEM – Society for Academic Emergency Medicine** -
  The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine’s (SAEM) mission is to foster emergency medicine’s academic environment in research, education, and health policy through forums, publications, inter-organizational collaboration, policy development, and consultation services for teachers, researchers, and students. SAEM sponsored the groundbreaking 2004 Consensus Conference: Medical Informatics and Emergency Medicine, and has been very active in supporting this ED WG / SIG effort.

- **Nursing Societies** –
  It has been suggested that nursing societies should be included in the effort and the following have been put forward:

  Emergency Nurses Association
  [http://www.ena.org/](http://www.ena.org/)

  Academy of Emergency Nursing
  [http://www.ena.org/academy/about/default.asp](http://www.ena.org/academy/about/default.asp)

  Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association
  [http://www.astna.org/contact.html](http://www.astna.org/contact.html)