Health Level Seven, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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Health Level Seven’s EHR-System Functional Model Becomes an International ISO Standard

A number of countries implement the first version of the international EHR standard; international participation is underway on the second release.

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA – December 9, 2009 – Health Level Seven® (HL7®), the global authority for interoperability and standards in healthcare information technology with members in over 55 countries, today announced its Electronic Health Record (EHR) System Functional Model Release 1.1 has been published as an international standard by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The model will enable vendors worldwide to develop, and clinicians to use, EHRs based on one set of functional requirements.

“HL7’s EHR System Functional Model, Release 1.1 sets the standard to achieve common functionality of EHRs globally,” said Don Mon, PhD, co-chair of HL7’s EHR Work Group, HL7 Board member, and vice president of Practice Leadership at AHIMA. “This document had broad international input from clinicians, vendors, health information management and HIT professionals, and privacy and security officers that practice in a variety of care settings throughout HL7 affiliates and ISO participating national member bodies.”

A number of countries and institutions are already using or plan to use HL7’s EHR-System Function Model (EHR-S FM), including The Netherlands, Japan, Korea and Thailand.

“Using the EHR-S Functional Model, the Association for Behavioral Health in the Netherlands (GGZ Nederland) has developed and adopted a reference model for an EHR within a six-month period, which would have taken at least a year, if not more,” said Robert Stegwee, PhD, board chair at Stichting HL7 Nederland and Principal Consultant at Capgemini Consulting. “This Dutch EHR-S functional profile for Behavioral Health has already been used for a comparison of software offerings from both incumbent and new (international) vendors. In addition, a group of provider organizations is preparing a joint RFP based on the profile for an electronic health record/hospital information system...
combination. For this purpose, more traditional health information system functions in the areas of care logistics and care registration have been added to the profile. This turned out to be a fairly short effort, as the EHR-S FM provided a sound foundation for support of hospital activities.”

In Japan, the HL7 EHR-S FM had been translated into Japanese. It has become widely available for reference, and has attracted the attention of industry stakeholders. The standard may not be applicable in its entirety, since there is not always a direct correspondence between the model and the functions of many of the EMR systems currently prevalent in Japan. However, it is expected that the HL7 EHR-S FM can be leveraged as a framework in Japan.

In Korea, the Center for Interoperable EHR (CiEHR) developed a national EHR functionality standard to be implemented in public hospitals in Korea last year on the basis of the HL7 EHR-S FM. The prototype EHR-S developed for national university hospitals in 2009 incorporated the EHR-S FM.

“Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, will use a prototype of HL7 EHR-S FM to share clinical information between hospitals and healthcare providers by the end of 2010,” said Supachai Parchariyanon, MD, Project Manager of the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Center, Ramathibodi Hospital. “There is interest from other hospitals in Thailand in using a prototype of HL7’s EHR-S FM to share clinical information as well. If Thailand implements the HL7 functional model nationwide, patients will be able to transfer their medical data from one hospital to another.”

Work is currently underway on the second release of the EHR-S Functional Model. Recently approved as a project in the Joint Initiative Council, an international SDO collaborative effort, the EHR-S FM, Release 2 will be a truly global standard in scope.

“We are pleased with the international participation in the development of the EHR-S FM, Release 2. The input from the various countries will enable some functions that weren't incorporated in R1.1, to be included in Release 2, that are important to those countries,” said Dr. Yun Sik Kwak, chair of ISO TC 215. “The EHR-S FM provides more flexibility for countries to develop country-based profiles so that functional requirements can be customized to the unique needs of the country.”

The EHR-S FM, Release 2 will open for ballot in March for voting for the required 60-day ISO period, and concurrently in April for the 30-day HL7 period. Public comments stemming from the votes will be reconciled at the May 2010 HL7 Working Group Meeting.

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 over 55 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: 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 Pharmaceuticals Corporation; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Siemens Healthcare; St. Jude Medical; 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, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

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