



Health Level Seven, Inc.



For Immediate Release

HL7 Continuity of Care Document, a Healthcare IT Interoperability Standard, is Approved by Balloting Process and Endorsed by Healthcare IT Standards Panel

CCD interoperability standard enables clinical data to be transportable, resulting in improved quality, enhanced patient safety and increased efficiency.

Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A. and West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. –

February 12, 2007 – Health Level Seven (HL7), with the collaboration of the ASTM International E31 Healthcare Informatics Committee, today announced that the Continuity of Care Document (CCD) has passed HL7 balloting and is endorsed by the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) as the harmonized format for the exchange of clinical information including patient demographics, medications and allergies.

The CCD is a joint effort of HL7 and ASTM to foster interoperability of clinical data to allow physicians to send electronic medical information to other providers without loss of meaning, which will ultimately improve patient care.

“The collaboration between HL7 and ASTM reflects the integration of two complementary specifications [ASTM’s E2369-05, Continuity of Care Record (CCR), and HL7’s Clinical Document Architecture (CDA)] developed by separate standards development organizations, and demonstrates what can be achieved when patient care is the driving priority,” said Robert Dolin, MD, co-editor of the CCD specification and board member of HL7.

“It has been a pleasure to work with Bob Dolin and the HL7 team on the harmonization of ASTM’s Continuity of Care Record (CCR) and the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (CDA). The Continuity of Care Document (CCD), resulting from the representation and mapping of CCR data within the CDA, will help drive the use of structured XML standards for clinical information exchange and the improvement of patient safety, quality, and efficiency,” said Richard Peters, MD, chair, ASTM International Committee E31 on Healthcare Informatics.

The CCD represents a complete implementation of CCR, combining the best of HL7 technologies with the richness of CCR's clinical data representation, and does not disrupt the existing data flows in payer, provider, or pharmacy organizations.

The CCD team has completed mappings of NCPDP medication data and X12 270/271 demographic data to the CCD, and has harmonized the representation across HL7 Financial Management, Patient Care, Lab, Clinical Genomics, and Pharmacy committees.

HL7 held a 30-day balloting period that began on December 6, 2006 and concluded on January 4, 2007, which resulted in passing the CCD standard. This collaborative development process will continue to refine and enhance the CCD over time.

About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (www.HL7.org) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards developing 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 2,400 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton, Boston Scientific Corporation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; Solucient, LLC.; St. Jude Medical; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

International affiliates have also been established in 27 countries throughout the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

About ASTM

Founded in 1898, ASTM International is a not-for-profit organization that provides a global forum for the development and publication of voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems, and services. Over 30,000 individuals from 100 nations are the members of ASTM International, who are producers, users, consumers, and representatives of government and academia. In over 130 varied industry areas, ASTM standards serve as the basis for manufacturing, procurement, and regulatory activities. Formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM International provides standards that are accepted and used in research and development, product testing, quality systems, and commercial transactions around the globe.

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