



Health Level Seven® International



Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute

For Immediate Release

HL7 and CLSI Sign Collaboration Agreement

Collaboration joins CLSI's expertise in laboratory standards with HL7's expertise in clinical and administrative data standards.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, and WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA, USA—October 31, 2011—Health Level Seven® International (HL7®) International, the global authority on standards for interoperability of health information technology, with members in 55 countries, and the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing standards and guidelines for the health care and medical testing community, today have announced an agreement to create a complementary process to foster interoperability that will lead to improvements in patient safety.

As part of the new agreement, both organizations will create a consistent industry-wide process and mechanism for pathology specimen identification and labeling that will streamline the process of reporting clinical information. The object is to allow integrated workflows across all systems and users in specimen handling and processing. In addition to the three HL7 Work Groups, this project will also involve the CLSI, College of American Pathologists, GS1, a not-for-profit organization that designs and manages a global system of supply chain standards, and IHE Anatomic Pathology.

HL7 and CLSI (formerly known as NCCLS) have a long history of cooperation, which has yielded results such as the development of an HL7 laboratory automation chapter by CLSI for HL7's Version 2 Standard. CLSI also created a table that became part of HL7's table for abnormal flags.

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“This continued partnership between CLSI and HL7 brings together the knowledge and skills to benefit the health care community,” said Ken McCaslin, HL7 Fellow, co-chair of HL7’s Orders/Observations Work Group, and co-chair of HL7’s Technical and Support Services Steering Division. “CLSI’s evolving standards to improve the laboratory industry and HL7’s leadership in the development of standards in clinical and administrative data is the perfect combination of scientific knowledge with information technology.”

Glen Fine, MS, MBA, CAE, Executive Vice President of CLSI, added, “I am delighted that both organizations can maximize our complementary missions and member talents once again, and work jointly to improve the quality of patient care.”

CLSI is a worldwide leader in developing voluntary consensus standards and guidelines in medical testing practices and health care, and is committed to facilitating global harmonization and development of medical testing standards and guidelines worldwide. The organization promotes the development, evaluation, approval, and implementation of international national standards for health care services, medical testing, and clinical and other laboratory services in order to maintain and improve public health, and its collaboration with HL7 aligns with this mission.

The terms of this agreement complement both organizations’ involvement in the Joint Initiative on SDO [Standards Development Organizations] Global Health Informatics Standardization, which was established to enable common, timely health informatics standards by addressing counterproductive standardization efforts. The Joint Initiative seeks to promote interoperability by coordinating standards strategies and plans and using mutually agreed upon processes that meet international standardization needs.

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; Booz Allen Hamilton; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Translational Medicine Institute; Epic; European Medicines Agency; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; Hospital Corporation American (HCA); IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; Lockheed Martin; McKesson Provider Technology; Microsoft Corporation; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Siemens Healthcare; 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, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

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

About CLSI

CLSI is a volunteer-driven, membership-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to developing standards and guidelines for the health care and medical testing community through a consensus process that balances the perspectives of industry, government, and the health care professions. For additional information, visit the CLSI website at www.clsi.org or call 610.688.0100.

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