



**Health Level Seven® International**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HL7 and Regenstrief Institute Sign Statement of Understanding**

**ANN ARBOR, MI and INDIANAPOLIS, IN, USA— Nov. 14, 2011–** Health Level Seven® (HL7®) International, the global authority on standards for interoperability of health information technology with members in 55 countries, and the Regenstrief Institute, Inc., an internationally respected healthcare and informatics research organization, today announced an agreement to create a complementary process to develop and extend comprehensive standards in the healthcare industry.

“This agreement further solidifies and extends the wonderful relationship HL7 has enjoyed with Regenstrief for many years,” said Bob Dolin, chair of HL7 Board of Directors. “HL7 is committed to working with Regenstrief and other standards bodies to advance the delivery of safe and effective patient care.”

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC®) is a universal code system developed by the Regenstrief Institute for identifying laboratory and clinical observations. When used in conjunction with the data exchange standards developed by HL7, LOINC’s universal observation identifiers make it possible to combine test results, measurements, and other observations from many independent sources. Together, they facilitate exchange and pooling of health data for clinical care, research, outcomes management, and other purposes.

“Regenstrief has been a long-standing contributor to the standards developed by HL7, and likewise, LOINC has been enhanced by its adoption in HL7’s standards,” said Daniel Vreeman, associate director of terminology services at the Regenstrief Institute. “With this agreement, we look forward to an even closer collaboration with HL7 that improves the semantic interoperability of health data exchange worldwide.”

LOINC began in the mid 1990's when Regenstrief investigators, using their decades of experience with electronic medical records, began the Indiana Network for Patient Care, the nation's first citywide health information exchange. The researcher clinicians found they could receive data from various INPC member institutions but that the clinical content was difficult to interpret because each used a different code for the same test or observation so it was like receiving messages in French, Spanish and Italian when all they could understand was English.

LOINC was born from the desire to develop a lingua franca. From the beginning it has been a free and open system, encouraging additions, comments and feedback. Two new versions of LOINC are issued annually, with more than 2,000 new terms for tests or clinical observations per release. These new additions are based on requests from end users.

### **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](http://www.HL7.org)

#### **About Regenstrief Institute, Inc.**

The Regenstrief Institute is a distinguished medical research organization dedicated to improving the quality of health care and is the World Health Organization's first and only Collaborating Center for Medical Informatics. Regenstrief is the home of internationally recognized centers of excellence in medical and public health informatics, aging, and health services and health systems research. The Regenstrief Institute has been an international leader in the development, implementation and evaluation of health information technology and health information standards for over three decades.

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