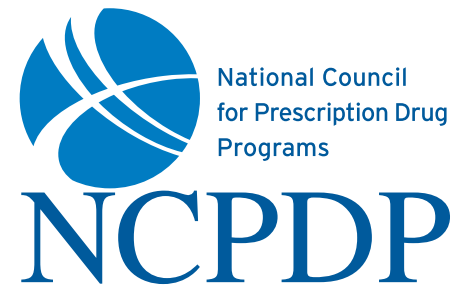




Health Level Seven, Inc.



For Immediate Release

Contacts:

Jonathan Himlin, Director of Communications, HL7
(734) 677-7777
jhimlin@HL7.org

Dennis Kitterman, Director, Marketing Communications
(480) 477-1000 ext. 109
dkitterman@ncdpd.org

HL7, NCPDP Collaborate on Mapping Project
Efforts to Help Streamline Implementation of e-Prescribing

ANN ARBOR, Mich. / SCOTTSDALE, AZ—December 9, 2005—A work group of key healthcare industry stakeholders, including members of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) and Health Level Seven (HL7), have completed the first phase of a standards coordination project to facilitate electronic prescribing messaging capabilities between prescribers and pharmacies and payers.

The first deliverable is a mapping guidance document which provides a consistent mapping that can be used to improve patient safety and enable semantic interoperability between e-prescribing standards by NCPDP and HL7. The document correlates relevant portions of the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard Version 4.2 and above and the HL7 Version 2.3 through 2.6 to facilitate e-Prescribing messages for new prescriptions, changes to prescriptions, refills (renewals), cancellation of a prescription, compliance notification, and the sharing of medication history information.

The NCPDP SCRIPT Standard is the messaging standard used in the US for communicating prescriptions and related information electronically between prescribers, community pharmacies, and payers. HL7 medication orders are used by healthcare organizations, such as hospitals and acute care facilities, for both inpatient and outpatient information.

Electronic prescribing is a key component of health information systems, helping to reduce medication errors, improve patient safety and satisfaction as well as improve operational efficiencies in both physician office and pharmacy settings.

(more)

"It has been inspiring to witness the efforts and collaborative spirit of members from both of these vital standards setting organizations," said NCPDP President, Lee Ann Stember. "HL7 and NCPDP members have taken an active leadership role in streamlining the communication processes that will help lead to true interoperability within our healthcare system."

The two organizations will continue to collaborate on this project as next steps are identified.

Scott Robertson, PharmD, a standards architect at Kaiser Permanente and former co-chair of the HL7 Pharmacy Special Interest Group, was part of the collaborative team that produced the mapping document. "That was a critical first step, establishing basic interoperability between NCPDP and HL7 for ePrescribing," said Robertson. "Now we get to explore additional interactions, expanding and refining content and bringing modeling methodologies into the picture."

The NCPDP-HL7 e-Prescribing Mapping document is available as part of the standards available with NCPDP at www.ncdp.org/frame_members_wg11.htm, or HL7 membership (www.HL7.org.)

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 1400 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. Its diverse membership provides leadership and healthcare business solutions through education and standards, created using the consensus building process. NCPDP has been named in federal legislation, including HIPAA and the MMA. NCPDP members have created standards such as the Telecommunication Standard and Batch Standard, the SCRIPT Standard for e-Prescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. NCPDP's data services include the NCPDP Provider Identification Number, a unique identifier of over 68,000 pharmacies and HCidea, *"The Prescriber Identity Solution"*. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org.

About Health Level Seven

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (<http://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 2,000 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 international affiliates have also been established in more than 25 countries throughout the globe.