



**Health Level Seven, Inc.**

***For Immediate Release***

**Contact:** Sherold Barr  
1-541-954-6116  
Sherold@extraordinarywork.com

## **HL7's EHR Technical Committee Opens Public Comment on Personal Health Record System (PHR-S) Functional Model**

HL7's PHR-System Functional Model, with its potential to be the first industry standard to specify functionality for PHR systems, offers guidelines that facilitate health information exchange among different PHR systems and between PHR and EHR systems.

**ANN ARBOR, MI, U.S.—August 27, 2007—**Health Level Seven (HL7), a preeminent healthcare IT standards development organization with broad international representation, today announced the opening of a public comment period on the Electronic Health Record Technical Committee's Personal Health Record System Functional Model (PHR-S FM).

"The PHR-S FM is the fraternal twin of HL7's EHR-S Functional Model. While the latter offers standardized descriptions of what EHR systems can do for healthcare providers, the former offers descriptions of what PHR systems can do for healthcare consumers. Thus, the pairing of the two provides a framework for standards-based interoperability between the consumer and the provider. Also, similar to the EHR-S Functional Model, the PHR-S FM is functionally-oriented (not data-oriented) and contains built-in Conformance Criteria (to help test whether a given function has been successfully implemented by a system). The PHR-S FM serves as a general model that can be customized to the specific PHR models already in existence, such as stand-alone, web-based, provider-based, payer-based and employer-based systems," said Donald T. Mon, PhD, vice-president of practice leadership, American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and co-chair of the HL7 EHR Technical Committee. "While the PHR System Functional Model is general in scope and was developed with an eye towards what is achievable today, it contains the flexibility necessary for product innovation and sets a vision for future PHR systems."

The HL7 EHR Technical Committee formed a PHR workgroup in 2005 in response to the growing awareness that personal health records are a valuable tool consumers can use to help them make informed healthcare decisions. While an abundance of PHR systems exist in today's market, the industry currently lacks a functional standard to which these systems can conform. The creation of a PHR standard is essential because it outlines guidelines for systems to follow, facilitating the exchange of health information among different PHR systems as well as between PHR and EHR systems. The HL7 PHR-S FM has the potential to be the first industry standard that specifies functionality for PHR systems.

“HL7’s PHR System Functional Model has benefited from the input of a broad range of stakeholders. The model was developed by a workgroup consisting of consumers, providers, health plans, vendors and health information management professionals,” said James Ferguson, lead facilitator of the Personal Health subgroup of the HL7 PHR Workgroup and director of Health IT Strategy and Policy at Kaiser Permanente. “PHR’s will enable consumers to play a more active role in their healthcare by allowing individuals the power to integrate and manage their personal healthcare information. The HL7 PHR System Functional Model strives to provide the standardized tools that will allow different PHR systems to achieve levels of recognition and to exchange information in a safe and effective manner.” It is critical that a PHR system standard include criteria that are universal across a variety of PHR system models yet at the same time, be easily adaptable so as to encourage product innovation.

HL7 invites the public to comment on the PHR-S FM to ensure that a broad range of industry stakeholders’ interests are considered. Members and non-members of HL7—can submit comments through Thursday, September 13, 2007 via the EHR area of the HL7 website ([www.HL7.org/EHR](http://www.HL7.org/EHR)) by downloading the relevant documents posted, completing a spreadsheet, and emailing it to: [EHRComment@HL7.org](mailto:EHRComment@HL7.org). The PHR-S FM is expected to be balloted later this year to become an approved standard.

#### **About HL7**

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. ([www.HL7.org](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 2,300 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which includes more than 90 percent of the 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; Progress Software Corporation-DataDirect Technologies Division; 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.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

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