



**Health Level Seven, Inc.**

***For Immediate Release***

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## **HL7 and CDISC Renew Associate Charter Agreement**

*Joint Worldwide Clinical Research Standards Educational Events Planned for 2008*

**ANN ARBOR, Mich. / AUSTIN, Texas — February 25, 2008**—Health Level Seven, Inc. (HL7) and The Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) announce the renewal of their associate charter agreement, which was initiated in 2001. As a new key objective of the renewed agreement, HL7 and CDISC will develop joint educational programs in areas around the world.

At present, there are several opportunities scheduled or in the planning stages that are designed to educate on the collaborative activities of HL7 and CDISC. A half-day CDISC-HL7 tutorial titled “Harmonizing Standards Initiatives: An Overview of Collaborative Standards Initiatives for Clinical Research and Healthcare” will be offered in Copenhagen, Denmark in April, as well as other regions of the globe throughout the year. CDISC and HL7 are also exploring holding a one-day joint event “Improving Patient Safety and Clinical Research through Standards” in China and India in the fall.

The initial Charter Agreement expanded HL7’s focus to include the domain of clinical research, and an HL7 work group was formed to lead this initiative. As the relevance of CDISC to the research community has grown, so has the adoption of CDISC standards to improve clinical research processes and for clinical research and submission of that data to the FDA. The harmonization between healthcare and clinical research standards, which is at

the core of the CDISC-HL7 collaboration, will further facilitate the conduct of research by physicians by integrating research into their patient care workflow.

“Recognizing that interoperability of patient care and research data is critical, HL7 and CDISC began a joint effort in 2004 to map the research domain into the HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM),” said Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, and CEO of HL7. “The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the FDA have joined this unprecedented collaborative effort. The BRIDG (Biomedical Research Integrated Domain Group) model is now paving the way for more effective collaboration among clinical investigators and is helping to integrate other knowledge resources into clinical care, including genomic and proteomic data.”

Edward Helton, PhD, Chairman of the CDISC Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the HL7 RCRIM Work Group stated, “The charter agreement between CDISC and HL7 continues to support the important efforts to build the interface between healthcare and research, not only through education but through the continuation of the very critical work for both content and transport data standards so badly needed to accelerate the timely evaluation of patient safety and efficacy.”

For those interested in learning more about the joint CDISC and HL7 educational opportunities, stay tuned to the CDISC eNewsletter, the HL7 eNewsletter, and the respective websites ([www.cdisc.org](http://www.cdisc.org)) and ([www.HL7.org](http://www.HL7.org)) for updated information.

#### **ABOUT CDISC**

The Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium or CDISC is an open, multidisciplinary, non-profit standards development organization. Through the work of many volunteers and the generous support of over 200 member organizations from across the globe, CDISC has established standards to support the acquisition, exchange, submission and archive of clinical research data and metadata.

As a catalyst for productive collaboration, CDISC brings together individuals and organizations spanning the wide variety of stakeholders in the healthcare continuum ***to develop and support global, platform-independent data standards that enable information system interoperability to improve medical research and related areas of healthcare.***

The CDISC standards are vendor-neutral, platform-independent and freely available via the CDISC website.

## **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; Johnson and Johnson; 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, Colombia, 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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