



Health Level Seven, Inc.
For Immediate Release

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Health Level Seven Brings Cohesion, Responsiveness to Clinical Documentation Standards Development

As evidenced by four new implementation guides, HL7's Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) can be quickly and easily tailored for a variety of use cases.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., U.S. – November 19, 2008 – Health Level Seven (HL7), a preeminent developer of global healthcare standards, today announced breakthrough progress with its Clinical Document Architecture (CDA), including four new implementation guides. The guides address basic documentation requirements for diagnostic imaging, consultations, quality reporting and home health monitoring. These four implementation guides have been developed in response to industry demand as is clear from the wide range of supporting and collaborating institutions and providers.

“Getting healthcare standards to market quickly has been a longstanding issue, while the sheer propagation of standards and the resulting lack of interoperability is a growing concern,” says Bob Dolin, MD, chair-elect for HL7 and co-chair of the HL7 Structured Documents Work Group (SDWG). “We have found, however, that CDA can be quickly and easily tailored for a broad number of use cases.”

First published in 2000, CDA is a leading standard for the exchange of healthcare information and has become a pillar of interoperability for clinical care and public health. By utilizing CDA as a common framework and developing specific use case implementation guides, HL7 is responding quickly to industry requirements and reducing the risk of divergent standards development.

“While many healthcare standards are detailed and somewhat rigid, CDA is a generic standard that was designed with flexibility in mind,” says Dolin. “Using CDA as a consistent foundation and adapting it through implementation guides, HL7 is able to deliver a cohesive

strategy and framework for all clinical documentation. Better yet, we can address new use cases in months instead of years.”

Four new CDA implementation guides approved

HL7 recently approved four new implementation guides that further validate CDA’s broad applicability for clinical documentation use cases in the September ballot. The implementation guides were developed and balloted by the HL7 SDWG with support from industry partners:

- CDA IG for Operative Notes – The implementation guide for this HL7 Draft Standard for Trial Use (DSTU) was developed in conjunction with the CDA for Common Document Types (CDA4CDT) project, which has an Associate Charter Agreement with HL7. The guide reuses templates developed for the HL7 Continuity of Care Document (CCD) and is suitable for any type of operative report.
- CDA IG for Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) – This HL7 DSTU was supported by the Child Health Corporation of America (CHCA) with participation from the American College of Physicians, American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), Alliance for Pediatric Quality, Iowa Foundation for Medical Care, The Collaboration of Performance Measure Integration with EHR Systems (“The Collaborative”), HITSP, Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) and others. The guide covers patient-centric quality data reporting and lays out a framework for aggregate, population-based quality reports.
- CDA IG for Personal Healthcare Monitoring Reports – The implementation guide for this HL7 DSTU was co-developed by Continua Health Alliance, which has a Liaison Agreement with HL7. The guide is conformant with the HL7 CCD and describes how to use CCD templates for communicating home health data to an electronic health record.
- CDA IG for Diagnostic Imaging Reports – The implementation guide for this informative document was developed by DICOM, with support from the HL7 Imaging Integration Work Group and CDA4CDT. It is consistent with a companion guide for transforming DICOM Structured Reports to CDA Release 2 and is suitable for use with both structured and narrative data capture.

The CDA Implementation Guide Personal Healthcare Monitoring Reports was published this week and is now available for download at <http://www.hl7.org/dstucomments/index.cfm>.

HL7's Structured Documents Work Group will make minor revisions to the other guides and examples, based on the ballot feedback, and expects to publish the three remaining implementation guides later this month.

For more information

For more information about HL7, CDA and the DSTUs, please visit www.hl7.org.

About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (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 2,400 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 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 Translational Medicine Institute (DTMI); 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; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; 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, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom and Uruguay.

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