



ANNOUNCEMENT OF BALLOT OPENING FOR AN OUT-OF-CYCLE MEMBERSHIP BALLOT OF V2.5.1

October 30, 2006

Health Level Seven, with the approval of the HL7 Board of Directors, is conducting a special out-of-cycle membership ballot of the following candidate standard in accordance with Policy 15.01.03.

- HL7 Messaging Standard Version 2.5.1

The letter from the HL7 Technical Chair explaining this decision follows this announcement as Appendix A. Should the membership ballot pass, there will be no further balloting requirements for Version 2.5.1 before being submitted to ANSI for approval. Comments received in response to this ballot will be discussed by conference call after the ballot close.

Ballot Open/Close Dates

The ballot pool for this document will open and close for voting on the following dates:

Ballot open date: October 30, 2006

Ballot close date: November 30, 2006

Ballot Pool Signup

To sign up for this ballot, point your browser to

<http://www.hl7.org/ctl.cfm?action=ballots.home>

Ballot Pool Help

All ballot dates are inclusive: votes cannot be cast before the beginning date or after the ending date of the ballot pool. Please note that all times are tracked in the Eastern Time Zone (US). If you have any problems with the ballot desktop, joining, or voting, please contact the HL7 Director of Technical Services at webmaster@HL7.org.

Version 2.5.1

Unique Ballot ID: V251_M1_2007JAN

The **Orders and Observations and Infrastructure and Messaging Technical Committees** announce the formation of a ballot group for select chapters in V2.5.1 to add three fields to the OBX Segment to comply with Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) requirements and to add two fields to the ORC and OBR Segments to support an ELINCS requirement for capturing an association between a reflex order and an original order. The ballotable content is limited to select content within chapters 2, 4, 7 and 9. Comments received on content outside those indicated will be found out-of-scope. Changes since v2.5 affecting chapters 2, 4, 7 and 9 include the following:

- Chapter 2 – A row indicating the release of Version 2.5.1 and its expected release date has been added to HL7 Table 0104 – Version ID in section 2.15.9.12.
- Chapter 4 – 2 Fields both titled **Parent Universal Service Identifier** with a data type of CWE, one at the end of the ORC Segment (**ORC-31**) and one at the end

of the OBR Segment (**OBR-50**), were added to support an ELINCS requirement for capturing the association between a reflex test (a test not indicated in an original order but performed due to the result of another test) and the original order of the result prompting the second (reflex) test.

- Chapter 7 – 3 Fields at the end of the OBX Segment are being reserved for future use (in accordance with proposed changes currently being balloted in Version 2.6). In addition, the following three fields are being added to meet CLIA requirements:
 - 7.4.2.23: OBX-23 **Performing Organization Name** (XON)
 - 7.4.2.24: OBX-24 **Performing Organization Address** (XAD)
 - 7.4.2.25: OBX-25 **Performing Organization Medical Director** (XCN)As well, OBX-15 (originally a unique identifier of the producing service) has been limited in scope to a reference to a responsible producing service in order to avoid confusion with OBX-23. This also involved revising the name from "Producer's ID" to "Producer's Reference" to reflect this change.
- Chapter 9 – Because this chapter uses the OBX segment defined in Chapter 7, the same changes described above will also be applied here.

Balloting Procedure

HL7 members in good standing and others who are materially affected by the proposed standard and wish to participate in this ballot must join the ballot group. This can be accomplished by going to <http://www.hl7.org/ctl.cfm?action=ballots.home> beginning October 20th. Alternately, you can call the HL7 office at (734) 677-7777 and request that the Ballot Group Declaration Form be faxed or mailed to you.

HL7 will conduct this ballot according to its procedure for electronic balloting. Individuals who sign up for the ballot group will not receive a paper copy of the document or a paper ballot. Instead, they will be notified by e-mail when the ballot package is available. They will download the document from the HL7 web server and will enter their votes and comments using the HL7 web server.

If a member of the ballot group does not have access to the technology being used, or if the person can demonstrate that using the electronic process creates a substantial hardship, he/she may request a paper copy of the ballot package and/or vote using a paper ballot. Because of the extra expense and time delays associated with paper ballots, HL7 does not intend to provide the alternative of using paper to members who have access to the technologies and have no substantial hardship associated with their use.

Comments resulting from this ballot will be discussed by conference call in the 30 days following the ballot close. The committees reconciling the Version 2.5.1 ballot will advise voters of the conference call dates and times and call information will be available on the HL7 Conference Call Center (<http://www.hl7.org/concalls>).

Appendix A – HL7 Technical Chair Approval for Version 2.5.1 Ballot at Membership Level

September 28, 2006

TO: HL7 Membership
FR: John Quinn, HL7 Technical Chair
RE: Version 2.5.1

Dear HL7 Member,

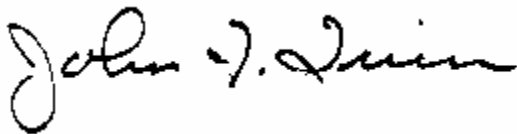
Due to a recent interpretation of the requirements of the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendment of 1988 related to the exchange of electronic laboratory information with supplemental agencies, HL7 has been informed of a need to include a limited number of additional fields in the OBX Segment of Version 2.5 to support compliance. Although we have not been able to confirm requirements throughout the European Union, the addition of these elements to the OBX may also facilitate meeting the laboratory reporting requirements stipulated by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service [UKAS] and Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd [CPA].

We had hoped to have these included in the final specification of Version 2.6. However, since 2.6 did not pass the just-completed membership ballot, the HL7 Board has decided to instead use the following procedure.

The Orders and Observations Technical Committee has made the required changes to HL7 Version 2.5. The changes were made in such a way as to minimize any impact on 2.6, which will come out for a membership ballot again in the near future. Since it is a completed, balloted and ANSI approved standard, the HL7 Board has asked for a membership ballot on Version 2.5 limited to only the revisions made to accommodate the addition elements of the OBX Segment. The revisions included in this ballot are confined to chapters 2, 7 and 9.

The Ballot has been constructed to clearly identify the revisions that are subject to comment. Please review the affected portions of Version 2.5 (to be referred to as Version 2.5.1) and return any substantive negative comments relevant to the revisions only. Any votes and negative comments that refer to an issue with the document other than to the revisions will be deemed not related and placed in the Version 2.7 proposals database.

Thank you for your attention and consideration helping HL7 move forward to meet the needs of our users.



John Quinn
HL7 Technical Chair