

## Statement of Understanding (SOU)

Defining the relationship between:

Health Level Seven International  
3300 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 227  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-4261

Hereinafter identified as HL7

AND

Data Interchange Standards Association (DISA)  
on behalf of the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12  
7600 Leesburg Pike, East Building, Suite 430  
Falls Church, VA 22043

Hereinafter identified as the ASC X12

This SOU shall have an effective date of: July 21, 2011

### Statement of Purpose

Recognizing that complementary efforts are underway to create and extend comprehensive standards in the healthcare community, HL7 and ASC X12 continue our formal relationship to further these goals. This SOU defines the rights and obligations inherent in our relationship and shall be the sole governing document regarding the relationship between HL7 and ASC X12, an Associate. Associates are independent, non-profit entities whose mission is to advance, nationally or internationally, the acceptance and usage of standards within healthcare. Such entities include, but are not limited to, other Standards Development Organizations (SDO), industry associations or consortiums, and other groups that share the vision of improved healthcare through standards.

#### About HL7

HL7 has as its mission the goal of providing reliable standards for the exchange, management and integration of data that support clinical patient care and the management, delivery and evaluation of healthcare services. HL7 encourages the creation of flexible, cost-effective approaches, standards, guidelines, methodologies, and related services for the interoperability of healthcare information systems. HL7 provides a forum for the effective and efficient communication between the constituents of the healthcare community as represented by its membership: an international community of healthcare organizations, vendors and developers of healthcare information systems, academics, consultants and systems integrators, and related public and private healthcare service agencies.

#### About ASC X12

The Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12, chartered by the American National Standards Institute more than 30 years ago, develops and maintains EDI and CICA standards along with XML schemas which drive business processes globally. The diverse membership of ASC X12 includes technologists and business process experts, encompassing health care, insurance, transportation, finance, government, supply chain and other industries. For additional information, visit [www.x12.org](http://www.x12.org) or contact [info@x12.org](mailto:info@x12.org).

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 An entity is eligible to be recognized as an Associate, at the discretion of the HL7 Board of Directors, based upon the entity's petition to establish a relationship with HL7.

1.2 ASC X12 may establish meeting schedules similar to HL7.

1.3 Official joint meetings between ASC X12 and HL7 may be scheduled where such meetings serve a common purpose and are convenient to both organizations.

1.4 The parties to this SOU shall appoint a liaison to represent each to the other. It is expected, although not required, that the liaison hold joint membership in HL7 and ASC X12.

1.5 All collaborative initiatives that might be jointly undertaken by HL7 and ASC X12, including development of educational or promotional materials and events, will be clearly defined and delineated by a joint project proposal (JPP).

1.5.1 The JPP must include a detailed description of the proposed work and the resulting work product, an estimated level of effort for the work, including the number of resources expected to be committed by each organization, a level of effort expected from those resources, and a planned completion date for the project. The JPP must also include the approval procedure for the joint work product, a communication plan, an issue resolution procedure and the procedure for modifying the JPP.

1.5.2 JPPs shall be approved by both organizations prior to initiative commencement; such approval will follow the current procedures of each organization. Both organizations recognize the volatility of volunteer resources and acknowledge that the time and resource commitments in the JPP represent the best estimation based on current information and as such are not binding upon either organization.

## **2.0 Rights Granted**

2.1 The HL7 Working Group Meeting (WGM) or the equivalent ASC X12 assemblage may be convened and conducted as a joint meeting of the two organizations.

2.2 Such joint meetings, when conducted, shall at all times adhere to the rules of the host organization. When voting within the joint meeting context to propose changes to the standard, or to conduct other business specific to either HL7 or ASC X12, the relevant procedures of the respective organization shall be enforced.

2.3 ASC X12 is a member-based organizations, so

2.3.1 For the express purpose of attending the HL7 WGM, HL7 shall extend to members of ASC X12 the HL7 members rate. In turn, ASC X12 will extend equivalent meeting privileges to HL7 members. Member requests for this benefit are to be made through the respective staff of their member organization at least 30 days prior to a meeting (see 3.1 and 3.2).

2.3.2 Members of ASC X12, while encouraged to participate in HL7 Work Groups, may not seek leadership positions within HL7 unless they also hold HL7 membership. Members of HL7,

while encouraged to participate in ASC X12 Subcommittees, may not seek leadership positions within ASC X12 unless they also hold ASC X12 membership.

2.4 Participation by HL7 and ASC X12 in this agreement does not convey free access to or the right to distribute any of our respective intellectual property. (Also, see 4.1.g)

2.5 HL7 and ASC X12 support and encourage the harmonization of information model(s).

### **3.0 Fees and Payments**

3.1 Members of ASC X12 are encouraged to attend any HL7 sponsored events. Registration shall occur through ASC X12 to validate membership, at least 30 days prior to the event. Fees shall be the responsibility of the individual and shall be assessed at the current HL7 membership rate.

3.2 HL7 members may, in turn, register for any ASC X12 sponsored event through HL7 headquarters, at least 30 days prior to the event. HL7 member's attendance at ASC X12 sponsored events shall be at the member/preferred rate and shall be the responsibility of the individual.

3.3 No monies shall be exchanged between HL7 and ASC X12 as a result of this SOU.

### **4.0 Obligations**

4.1 HL7 and ASC X12 expressly agree that:

- a. ownership rights to HL7 trademarks or standards or ASC X12 trademarks or standards are neither extended nor transferred; and
- b. there will be no exchange of mailing lists or general membership information, except for an explicit purpose related to an identified collaborative initiative and included in the approved JPP; and
- c. exchange of mailing lists or general membership information for an explicit purpose related to a joint project does not grant the other organization the right to use the information for any other purpose, including marketing or outreach; and
- d. to make a reasonable effort to refrain from undertaking initiatives and projects that are within the other organizations recognized domain, authority, or purview; and
- e. to promote the other's activities and projects when there is mutual benefit; and
- f. to make a reasonable effort to ensure all members comply with all provisions of this agreement; and
- g. they will respect one another's copyrights, fair use policies and all other aspects of recognized intellectual property. The current ASC X12 copyright, fair use and other intellectual property rights policies are available on the ASC X12 website. These policies shall be referenced regularly by the other organization, to ensure any and all individual

Authorized Signatures:

For

HL7 INTERNATIONAL

For

ASC X12

Signed: Charles Jaffe, MD PhD  
Charles Jaffe, MD PhD

Chief Executive Officer

Signed: Cathy Sheppard  
Cathy Sheppard

ASC X12 Chair

Signed: Mark McDougall  
Mark McDougall

Executive Director

Signed: Jerry Connors  
Jerry Connors

DISA President