Health Level Seven® International
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Contact: Andrea Ribick
+1 (734) 677-7777
andrea@HL7.org

HL7 Forms New Clinical Quality Information Work Group
New work group to collaborate, communicate and educate healthcare stakeholders on clinical quality information.

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA – January 25, 2013 – Health Level Seven® International (HL7®), the global authority for interoperability and standards in healthcare information technology with members in 55 countries, today announced the formation of a new work group called the Clinical Quality Information Work Group.

“We are pleased to launch the Clinical Quality Information Work Group, which will provide an organizational infrastructure to collaborate, educate and foster greater communication and coordination with external quality, healthcare delivery and management, professional and government stakeholder organizations, as well as across HL7’s work groups,” said Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, CEO of HL7.

Jaffe notes one of the major challenges for quality management and standardization in healthcare is the lack of a single point of coordination between stakeholders and the numerous organizations working to improve quality in healthcare.

HL7 plans to offer more education to providers and this new work group will offer leadership in the development of standards artifacts and educational content to all stakeholders involved in quality measurement efforts.

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“There are numerous organizations working to enhance clinical quality information and develop and maintain clinical standards in this area, and the stakeholder connection to interoperability standards is often unclear,” said Floyd Eisenberg, MD, MPH, FACP, president of iParsimony, and co-chair of HL7’s Clinical Quality Improvement Work Group. “We believe that HL7 will enable collaboration and coordination among stakeholders through a common forum.”

The mission of HL7’s Clinical Quality Information Work Group is to create and maintain information technology standards in support of improving health care quality, including clinical care, and to foster collaboration between quality measurement, outcomes and improvement stakeholders. The current co-chairs of the work group are Patricia Craig, MS MIS, of The Joint Commission; Floyd Eisenberg, MD, MPH, FACP, of iParsimony; Crystal Kallem, RHIA, CPHQ, of Lantana Consulting Group; and Walter G. Suarez, MD, MPH, of Kaiser Permanente.

The Clinical Quality Information Work Group will coordinate internally with HL7 work groups such as: Clinical Decision Support, Structured Documents, Patient Safety, Patient Care, Regulated Clinical Research Information Management (RCRIM), Public Health and Emergency Response (PHER), Pharmacy, Clinical Interoperability Council, and EHR. In addition, it will coordinate externally with organizations such as: quality measure development and endorsement organizations, health care accrediting organizations, health care delivery and management organizations, patient safety organizations, quality improvement organizations, professional societies and government agencies.

The first business meeting of the new Clinical Quality Information Work Group was held Tuesday morning, January 15, at the January HL7 Working Group Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. That meeting and other sessions are listed on the group's wiki located at: http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=Clinical_Quality_Information_Work_Group."


**About Health Level Seven International (HL7)**

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International is the global authority for healthcare information interoperability and standards with affiliates established in more than 30 countries. HL7 is a non-profit, ANSI accredited standards development 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 include more than 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 collaborates with other standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

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