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HL7 and AIRA Partner to Form HL7 Immunization User Group
Group offers expert and peer resources to solve implementation challenges

ANN ARBOR, April 2, 2014 – Working in collaboration, HL7 International (HL7®) and the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) have announced the launch of a new HL7 Immunization User Group. The group offers members access to industry experts and peers for help in resolving challenges in implementing HL7 immunization standards.

At monthly meetings, members can ask questions and get help with problems that might otherwise impede progress on immunization-related healthcare interoperability projects. Membership in the HL7 Immunization User Group is free for HL7 voting members and costs $100 annually for others. AIRA members should contact Jen Bank, AIRA Program Assistant at jbank@immregistries.org for more information on membership in the HL7 Immunization User Group.

"We think this group represents a great resource for anyone tasked with implementing HL7's immunization standards," said Nathan Bunker, Co-Chair of the HL7 Immunization User Group. "Having a national forum for these questions is going to take a huge resource burden off IT managers who are currently the sole source of information on the intricacies of this area, and will also help standardize these projects across the nation."

"The new User Group initiative reflects the critical growth of HL7 in its effort to provide services and resources to benefit our members implementing interoperability standards," said Dr. Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD, CEO of HL7. "We believe that this program will drive highly valued collaboration and lead to more effective and streamlined registry project implementation. We anticipate continued organic growth of User Groups with increasing demand from other stakeholder communities."

The group will meet via web conference on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern (11 a.m. Pacific). The initial meeting, on Thursday, April 10 at 2 p.m. Eastern (11 a.m. Pacific), is open to all, regardless of membership status.

For more information, visit
http://www.hl7.org/participate/UserGroups.cfm?UserGroup=Immunization.

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 2,000 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.

About AIRA
AIRA (American Immunization Registry Association) is a membership organization that promotes the development and implementation of immunization information systems (IIS) as an important tool in preventing and controlling vaccine preventable diseases. The organization provides a forum through which IIS programs and interested organizations, individuals and communities combine efforts, share knowledge, and promote activities to advance IIS and immunization programs. A strong, unified voice for standards, policy and funding, AIRA is a resource for data exchange standards development, information sharing, education and training. AIRA members are comprised of IIS and Immunization Program professionals including state, local, registry vendors, electronic health record (EHR) vendors and other interested individuals and organizations. AIRA has worked for the last 15 years to foster knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning that benefit IIS at all levels of development. For more information about AIRA, go to http://www.immregistries.org

Contacts:
Andrea Ribick
HL7 International
Director of Communications
734-677-7777 x165
aribick@hl7.org
www.HL7.org

Alison Chi
AIRA
Program Manager
202-527-7000 Ext. 3
achi@immregistries.org
www.immregistries.org