Health Level Seven® International
For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrea Ribick
+1 (734) 677-7777
andrea@HL7.org

HL7 Publishes Release 2 of FHIR® DSTU
Draft standard gets overhaul based on broad industry feedback from trial use

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA – September 23, 2015 – Health Level Seven® International (HL7®), the global authority for interoperability in healthcare information technology with members in 55 countries, today announced that it has published Release 2 of the HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) Draft Standard for Trial Use (DSTU). The new version is the culmination of 18 months of extensive work on the standard to incorporate the necessary changes received from implementation partners including the Argonaut Project.

HL7's FHIR is a next generation standards framework that leverages the latest web standards and applies a tight focus on implementation. FHIR includes a RESTful API, which is an approach based on modern internet conventions and widely used in other industries. The standard represents a significant advance in accessing and delivering data while offering enormous flexibility. For patients and providers, its versatility can be applied to mobile devices, web-based applications, cloud communications, and EHR data-sharing using modular components.

The list of updates and changes made to FHIR DSTU Release 2 is extensive:
- Simplified the RESTful API
- Extended search and versioning significantly
- Increased the power and reach of the conformance resources and tools
- Defined a terminology service
- Broadened functionality to cover new clinical, administrative and financial areas
- Incorporated thousands of changes in existing areas in response to trial use
- Invested heavily in the quality of the process and the specification

A full list of changes to the FHIR standard can be found at:
http://HL7.org/fhir/history.html#history.

In addition to these changes to the base specification, DSTU2 is published along with three US-realm specific implementations developed in association with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). These are as follows:

- U.S. Data Access Framework (DAF) FHIR Implementation Guide (IG)
- Structured Data Capture (SDC) Implementation Guide
- Quality Improvement Core Implementation Guide

The FHIR specification is expected to undergo further revisions in the future as it is still a draft standard for trial use. In response to the constantly evolving nature of the standard, HL7 has developed the FHIR Maturity Model to help implementers understand how the various parts of the standard are advancing toward completion to a full ANSI-approved standard. The model can be found here: http://HL7.org/fhir/resource.html#maturity.

 For more information on HL7's FHIR and to download the standard, please visit:
www.HL7.org/FHIR.

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 1,500 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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