



Health Level Seven® International

For Immediate Release

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HL7® and Sync For Social Needs Coalition Embark on Second Year

Stakeholders aim to standardize the sharing of patient data on social determinants of health

Ann Arbor, Mich. – March 7 2024, – Health Level Seven International (HL7®), a leading standards-development organization, is collaborating with multiple stakeholders to better integrate nutrition information within a patient’s electronic health record (EHR) by accelerating a standards-based approach to implementing universal social needs screening.

Launched by the Biden-Harris administration as part of the [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health](#) in September 2022, the Sync for Social Needs Coalition unites HL7, leading health technology companies and health systems, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, to standardize the sharing of patient data on social determinants of health, including food insecurity. The administration’s vision is ending hunger and reducing diet-related diseases like diabetes, obesity and hypertension by 2030 – all while closing disparities among the communities that are impacted most.

Participants in the Sync for Social Needs Coalition have committed to developing consensus on standards and piloting real-world testing of an HL7® Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®)-based approach for the collection and sharing of social needs screening results to meet upcoming Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) program requirements.

"While much work has been done to standardize the sharing of social needs screening assessment data, particularly on defining a set of data elements for inclusion within electronic health records systems, there remains a gap when screening is administered in different EHRs and/or in third party applications outside of a certified electronic health record," said Charles Jaffe, M.D., Ph.D., HL7 CEO. "The coalition will test

and refine a standards-based approach for collecting and sharing social needs screening data across different vendor systems and settings.”

In addition, HL7 and other health care standards-setting bodies are committed to working with coalition participants to scale these approaches to further lower clinician burden to screen for social needs.

To support this important work, three new stakeholders – Auxa Health, Open Referral and GroundGame Health – have joined the ranks of the following coalition members: the National Quality Forum, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Joint Commission, HL7 International, Epic, Oracle-Cerner, Rush University System for Health, Tufts Medicine, Riverside Health System, SCAN Health Plan, Sanford Health, SSM Health, Higi, BayCare, Geisinger, Meditech, FindHelp, Wellsky, UniteUs, Graphite Health, Saffron Labs, HT4M, Cope Health Solutions and XanthosHealth.

The White House launched a nationwide call to action to meet the ambitious goals laid out by President Biden as part of the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Across the whole of society, Americans responded – and advanced more than \$8 billion in private- and public-sector commitments in 2022 and another [\\$1.7 billion in new commitments in 2024](#).

About HL7

Health Level Seven® International (HL7) is an ANSI-accredited, not-for-profit standards developing organization with the mission of empowering global health interoperability. With affiliates in over 30 countries, HL7’s global membership envisions a world in which everyone can securely access and use the right data when and where they need it. Widely implemented by vendor and healthcare systems, and required by governing bodies around the world, HL7 standards deliver solutions for health information technology, including HL7® Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®), Version 2 (V2) and Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®). For more information, visit HL7.org. www.HL7.org

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