# HL7 Patient Care Work Group Mission and Charter

# July 2017

**Mission**

The mission of the Patient Care Working Group (PCWG) is to define the requirements, design/validate standards specifications and implementation guides for the capture, communication, and use of information related to the management, execution and quality of care provision.

# Charter

## Work Products and Contributions to HL7 Processes

The PCWG provides a forum for all stakeholders concerned with clinical content related to patient care (including child health) information.  The WG works with and provides patient care guidance and recommendations to other WGs. The PCWG takes into account the experience of groups outside of HL7 (e.g., Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) Patient Care Coordination domain, SNOMED International).   Stakeholders include physicians, nurses, and other clinicians; healthcare technology experts; vendors; regulators; public health organizations; healthcare strategic organizations (e.g., US DHHS Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework, Dutch National ICT Institute for Healthcare (Nictiz), Canada Health Infoway, Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA); as well as other groups.

The WG will focus on products for patient care topics such as:

* Care structures [[1]](#footnote-1)
* Care records
  + Clinical Context
* Care transfer and referrals
* Allergies, intolerances, adverse events reporting
* Care plans
* Care coordination
* Health concerns and problems
* Assessment scales
* Procedures
* FHIR clinical resources

The products of the WG are designed to be usable in a broad range of standards, not only HL7v2 and HL7v3 messages, but also Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR), CDA and clinical statements in general.

The Work Group will develop specifications using the principles and language of the Services Aware Interoperability Framework (SAIF) Canonical Definition (CD).

# Formal Relationships with Other HL7 Groups

## Existing relationships with other HL7 Working Groups

Patient care has a long tradition of maintaining relationships with other working groups within HL7. This stems from the creation of Special Interest groups for clinical specialties, which obtained the Work Group status over the past several years. In 2017, the PCWG formally incorporated the active projects of the Child Health WG and aim to serve as reference for providers and patients of all ages. In addition, some other Work Groups have similar interest or work items for which it is effective to join efforts to share expertise, or the work crosses domains.

In particular, the following relationships exist:

* Patient Administration (PAWG). The PAWG and the PCWG share their Domain Message Information Model (DMIM) for the Care Provision and Patient encounters. Therefore, a common interest exists to maintain this shared domain and updates to the DMIM will be performed in collaboration with PAWG.
* Clinical Statement Work Group (CSWG). The clinical statement pattern is a cross domain design pattern, which is at the core of the Care Provision Domain Model. Patient Care contributes to the maintenance of this pattern and several change requests will also go through this channel. PCWG monitors the changes in clinical statement pattern in order to keep the Care Provision Domain Model current.
* Domain Experts Steering Division (DESD), as part of the new hierarchical structure of HL7 as organization.
* Community Based Collaborative Care (CBCC). This group has a focus on care in the community / non-hospital based care and domain content often overlaps with Patient Care.
* Pharmacy WG
* Emergency Care WG
* Structured Documents (SDWG) – and the CDA document series
* CIC and the creation of domain analysis models related to patient care topics
* Public Health and Emergency Response (PHER) issues
* EHR WG – collaboration around EHR/PHR elements
* Biomedical Research & Regulation (BRR)
* Templates
* Terminfo project
* Vocabulary WG, via our vocabulary facilitator
* MnM, via our modelling facilitator
* Clinical Decision Support (CDS) - the Order Sets model is one item of common interest with Clinical Decision Support
* Fast Health Interoperability Resources FHIR
* Clinical Information Modeling Initiative ( CIMI)
* Clinical Genomics WG
* Clinical Quality Information WG

## External relationships:

Informal relationships exist with the following external groups. The work is more or less harmonizing efforts via information exchange. IHE is using Care Record in one of their profiles. ISO and HL7 in future will file the DCM work as JIC project.

Listing of external groups in which HL7 Patient Care WG is collaborating:

* IHE Patient Care Coordination
* ISO TC215 (DCM TS13972)

## Scope

## The PC planning process accommodates a variety of project needs including near term needs dictated by the members of the WG. Strategic planning accommodates future projects such as detailed clinical models and other work to support the broader mission of HL7.

The scope for Patient Care is a subset of the healthcare delivery and management processes. The scope includes activities related to assessing and evaluating the patient/client/member, establishing the diagnosis/problem, developing and managing a plan of care/service/action, administering care or treatment based on the plan, documenting the administration of the plan of care, managing compliance and exception reporting, and reporting of clinical results/outcomes. The scope also includes defining how clinical information and pathways/protocols are supported in the communication as well as support of data exchange for concurrent/retrospective quality and/or outcomes analysis and management.

The scope does not assume stewardship of specifications generated by other HL7 workgroups. A goal of this committee is to continue to take advantage of and extend messages developed by other HL7 committees rather than develop redundant and independently maintained communication artifacts.

Further ongoing responsibilities, projects and new ideas can be found in the Patient Care WG business plan, formalized in the three-year plan. The idea of the Working Group is that this three-year plan is updated regularly in order to manage the projects.

Last update 11 July 2017

Patient Care WG approved on 07/11/2017 at the PCWG Co-chair conference call.

Approved by DESD on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Care Structures refers to the HL7v3 architectural concept of all PC data models [↑](#footnote-ref-1)