



GS1 and HL7 Join Forces to Develop Global Standards to Improve Patient Care

Two complementary global standards organizations will collaborate to develop global healthcare standards to reduce medical errors and to increase the effectiveness of the healthcare supply chain.

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ANN ARBOR, MI, U.S.A, and BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, June 13, 2007 -- HL7 and GS1 have announced today they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that begins an era of collaboration in developing global standards for improving patient care.

GS1 aims to adapt their existing global supply chain standards to the specific needs of the healthcare sector. GS1's global standards for automatic identification (through bar codes and radio frequency identification) provide the opportunity to make the healthcare supply chain more efficient and accurate, and thus safer. Medication errors can be avoided by automatically matching product data to patient data. These standards also enable effective traceability and reduce counterfeiting.

HL7's clinical interoperability standards, such as the Version 3 Messaging Standard, increase the effectiveness and efficiency in exchanging, managing, and integrating electronic healthcare information. HL7 has been successful in improving information sharing at the time and point of care to enhance quality and reduce errors.

"For the past 20 years, HL7 has been successful in improving interoperability of healthcare information sharing at the time and point of care, that improves the quality of patient care and reduces errors," said Dr. Charles Jaffe, CEO of HL7, "The partnership with GS1 will accelerate the development and adoption of global standards for sharing information among our stakeholders."

"GS1 is committed to the healthcare sector to facilitate the development and adoption of global supply chain standards, first and foremost to improve patient safety". Michel van der Heijden, President Healthcare, GS1, "We are convinced that the collaboration with HL7 will be at the benefit of the healthcare community by aligning the standards development and joining forces in promoting global standards in the healthcare community."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About Health Level Seven (HL7)

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (www.HL7.org) is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited standards developing 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 2,400 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Booz Allen Hamilton, Boston Scientific Corporation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI); Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; Epic Systems Corporation; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Novartis; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; Progress Software; QuadraMed Corporation; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; Solucient, LLC.; St. Jude Medical; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

About GS1

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility in supply chains. GS1 is driven by more than a million companies, who execute more than five billion transactions a day with the GS1 System of Standards. This makes it the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world. GS1's diversified portfolio ranges from GS1 Bar Codes to GS1 eCom (electronic commerce tools) to next generation technologies and solutions such as GS1 GDSN (Data Synchronisation), EPCglobal (using RFID technologies) and traceability. GS1 is truly global, with local Member Organisations in 108 countries, and with Global Offices in Brussels, Belgium and Princeton, U.S.

The GS1 Global Healthcare User Group (GS1 HUG) has been primarily focused since 2005 to develop global standards for automatic identification in Healthcare. The GS1 HUG consists of participants from all stakeholders of the Healthcare supply chain: manufacturers, wholesalers & distributors, as well as hospitals and pharmacy retailers. GS1 HUG also maintains close contacts with regulatory agencies and trade organizations worldwide.