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For Immediate Release

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HL7's New Legal EHR System Functional Profile Will Help Reduce Administrative Burden, Reduce Costs and Inefficiencies

Legal EHR Profile derived from the HL7 EHR Functional Model Standard is published for public comment.

ANN ARBOR, MI, U.S.—June 18, 2007— Health Level Seven (HL7), a preeminent healthcare IT standards development organization with broad international representation, today announced the release of the Legal Electronic Health Record (EHR) System Functional Profile as the second registered profile based upon HL7's EHR System Functional Model standard.

Based on the ANSI-approved EHR System Functional Model standard, the Legal EHR System Functional Profile provides guidelines for how an EHR system can help an organization maintain an EHR for legal and business purposes. A system following a Legal EHR profile could reduce provider's administrative burden, and reduce costs and inefficiencies caused by redundant paper and electronic record keeping. To achieve the status and recognition as a legal EHR, organizations must have appropriate business policies and practices in place in addition to system functionality that supports the creation and maintenance of records that comply with the key characteristics of a legal electronic health record.

"Registering profiles that conform to the EHR System Functional Model is a critical step in the widespread adoption of this standard because EHR systems conform to profiles rather than the model itself," said Don Mon, PhD, vice-president of practice leadership, American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and HL7 EHR Technical Committee Co-Chair. "The Legal EHR System Functional Profile leaves the process of identifying the content for the legal record to care-setting specific profiles in order to account for their individual needs and requirements."

An EHR system must be able to create, maintain, and manage records within a framework of ever-changing jurisdictional rules, regulations, and laws that are intended to assure electronic records are valid, accurate, and trustworthy. The Legal EHR profile is a subset of requirements to assure data quality and integrity for all purposes and end-uses of health care data. Because legal validity is at stake for all uses of electronic records as admissible business records, including admissibility as medical records, the Legal EHR is of primary importance to health care operations and to interoperability.

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Providers, health information management and information technology professionals can use the Legal EHR Functional Profile as a guide in requesting functionality in EHR systems, while vendors can use the profile to develop functionality in their EHR products.

"The Legal EHR System Functional profile strengthens the EHR System Functional Model standard by identifying a number of new records management functions in the Information Infrastructure section, and is universally applicable because it provides a foundation for realms and jurisdictions to build a profile reflecting their specific laws and regulations," said Michelle Dougherty, RHIA, CHP, Director of Practice Leadership at AHIMA, and co-facilitator in the development of the Legal EHR System Functional Profile. "It identifies the functionality within an EHR System that helps organizations maintain a legally sound health record."

The EHR must be established as a trusted source in order to ensure widespread acceptance and implementation. This trust can be achieved through adherence to standardized EHR functionality. Both providers and patients are calling for greater transparency regarding how healthcare is delivered. Public trust along with data accuracy and reliability are the keys to the success of healthcare transparency issues. The Legal EHR System Functional Profile will help achieve these trust and transparency goals by reducing data duplication, gaps, omissions, confusion and including accurate secure information that is protected from loss, alteration and destruction.

In February 2007, HL7 announced the industry's first EHR Functional Standard that specifies the functional requirements for an EHR system. The standard outlines important features and functions that should be contained in an EHR system. The EHR Functional Model Standard provides the starting framework for the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology's (CCHIT) for the development of certification criteria.

HL7 encourages healthcare stakeholders to participate in the development of profiles to support specific uses across the continuum of care. In April 2007, the first profile developed to support clinical care was the Emergency Care Functional Profile that will help with the development, refinement and evaluation of information systems in the emergency department.

EHR Profiles currently under development include long-term care, behavioral health, general child healthcare, and regulated clinical research.

HL7 Legal EHR Profile

For those thinking about creating a profile, the *How To Guide for Creating Functional Profiles* is available on the EHR Technical Committee's Functional Profile webpage. In addition, the HL7 Electronic Health Record Technical Committee is available to provide further guidance. Any functional profile that conforms to the EHR System Functional Model standard can be registered with HL7. This registration

involves self-attestation of conformance by those submitting the functional profile for registration via a questionnaire that is completed at submission time. Registration can facilitate the adoption of the profile by making it publicly available for use. All registered profiles are available to the public through a searchable registry at http://www.nist.gov/profileregistry.

The Legal EHR System Functional profile is available for a 30-day public comment period by industry stakeholders at: http://www.HL7.org/ehr. The profile is expected to be balloted at the HL7 committee level later this year.

More information on other profiles and the HL7 EHR System Function Model standard can be found in a recent HL7 press release located at http://www.hl7.org/documentcenter/public/pressreleases/20070221.pdf

About 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.

For more information on registering profiles or to download a free copy of the EHR-S FM standard, visit http://www.hl7.org/ehr/downloads/functionalProfile.asp

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