



Health Level Seven, Inc.

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HL7, SNOMED SIGN ASSOCIATE CHARTER AGREEMENT

Formalization of Relationship will Advance Healthcare Interoperability Worldwide

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—June 24, 2005—Health Level Seven (HL7), Inc. has signed an Associate Charter Agreement with SNOMED® International, a division of the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The agreement, which is for a two-year term renewable for subsequent two-year terms, formalizes the organizations' long-standing relationship and enables HL7 to work with SNOMED to help to drive harmonization between SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) and the HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM).

“The RIM is the cornerstone of the HL7 standard for exchanging messages among information systems that implement healthcare applications,” said Franklin R. Elevitch, M.D. Chair, SNOMED International Authority. “Binding SNOMED CT to the RIM will further improve interoperability for all data exchange in healthcare and ultimately improve quality of care and enhance patient safety.”

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The Reference Information Model (RIM) is a large pictorial representation of the clinical data (domains) that identifies the life cycle of events that a message or groups of related messages will carry. It is a shared model between all the domains and as such is the model from which all domains create their messages. The agreement will help advance work to bind SNOMED CT to the RIM. SNOMED CT will provide the RIM with a standardized healthcare terminology including comprehensive coverage of diseases, clinical findings, therapies, procedures and outcomes. It provides the core general terminology for the electronic health record (EHR) and contains more than 357,000 concepts with unique meanings and formal logic-based definitions organized into hierarchies.

“HL7 is pleased to partner more closely with SNOMED,” said HL7 Board Chair Mark Shafarman. “Each of our offerings is unique and critical to one another. SNOMED CT is considered to be the most comprehensive multilingual clinical healthcare terminology available in the world and the RIM is essential to HL7’s ongoing mission of increasing precision and reducing implementation costs. The combination of the two will help us benefit practitioners, patients and users of healthcare information worldwide.”

About CAP

The College of American Pathologists is a not-for-profit medical society serving nearly 16,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world. It is the world’s largest association composed exclusively of pathologists and is widely considered the leader in laboratory quality assurance. The CAP is an advocate for high quality and cost-effective patient care and was approved in 1999 as an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited Standards Developer Organization (SDO). The College is located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cap.org>.

About SNOMED International

SNOMED International, a division of the College of American Pathologists, is committed to the excellence of patient care through the delivery of a dynamic and sustainable scientifically validated healthcare terminology and infrastructure that enables clinicians, researchers and patients to share health care knowledge worldwide, across clinical specialties and sites of care. In 2003, the CAP received American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval for the Healthcare Terminology Structure Standard of SNOMED Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT). SNOMED International is located on the World Wide Web at <http://www.snomed.org>.

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About HL7

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven, Inc. (<http://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 2,000 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, including 90 percent of the largest information systems vendors serving healthcare. Recently, HL7 joined 12 other healthcare stakeholders in a collaborative response to the Request for Information (RFI) issued by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) to learn how widespread interoperability of health information technologies and health information exchange could be achieved through a National Health Information Network (NHIN). The Collaborative response can be viewed in its entirety at: http://www.hl7.org/Library/General/Collaborative_RFI_Responsefinal.pdf. The HL7 additional response specific to *Standards and Policies to Achieve Interoperability* can be found at http://www.hl7.org/Library/General/HL7Q14-18_final.pdf.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Capgemini; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Documentum; Eclipsys Corporation; Eli Lilly & Company; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Medical Systems; Guidant Corporation; IBM; IDX Systems Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technologies; Microsoft Corporation; Misys Healthcare Systems; NHS Connecting for Health; NICTIZ National ICT Institute for Healthcare in The Netherlands; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Pfizer, Inc.; Philips Medical Systems; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Science Applications International Corporation; Siemens Medical Solutions Health Services; the U.S. Department of Defense; Military Health System; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

International affiliates have also been established in 27 countries throughout the globe including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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