

Press Release

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HL7'S EHR-S DSTU PROVIDES STRONG BENEFITS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND REFLECTS LEGAL ASPECTS OF A HEALTH RECORD

BALTIMORE and CHICAGO, May 13—HL7's Electronic Health Record (EHR) System Functional Model Draft Standard for Trial Use (EHR-S DSTU) serves as strong secondary benefit for public health systems and meets the legal aspects of health record according to studies conducted on behalf of the EHR Collaborative.

At the request of the EHR Collaborative, the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) launched a PHDSC Ad Hoc Task Force on Electronic Health Record – Public Health (EHR-PH) to evaluate the EHR-S DSTU from the public health perspective. According to the Consortium's EHR-PH Task Force, cross mapping the HL7 EHR functions to core public health functions and interventions demonstrates that core public health functions are well represented in the EHR-S DSTU, and that the EHR-S DSTU provides a foundation for integration of healthcare and public health services and has the necessary functionality for reporting and sharing information.

"Electronic transmission of standardized data from the patient health record to public health agencies via the EHR is essential to support key public health functions and services, and supply public health data repositories," said Janet Marchibroda, co-chair of the PHDSC Ad Hoc Task Force, Board member of PHDSC, and chief executive officer, eHealth Initiative.

"Adopting the EHR would not only enhance the information, data, and communication systems within the public health infrastructure, but would also increase the capacity of the organizational and system components of the infrastructure" said Anna Orlova, co-chair of the PHDSC Ad Hoc Task Force and executive director, PHDSC.

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) also cross-mapped the EHR-S DSTU and finds that it reflects legal aspects of a health record. "It is important for the EHR to serve as a legal health record," stated Michelle Dougherty, RHIA, practice manager at AHIMA. "If the EHR is not the legal health record when it is implemented, the paper record will need to be maintained as the legal source. While the EHR system may improve quality of care, it won't be as cost effective for an organization if they must also keep a paper record." The EHR

Collaborative urges the healthcare industry to adopt HL7's Electronic Health Record (EHR) System Functional Model Draft Standard for Trial Use (EHR-S DSTU).

For a copy of the PHDSC Ad Hoc Task Force White Paper, "Electronic Health Record: Public Health Perspectives," visit www.hl7.org/ehr or <http://phdatastandards.info>

PHDSC is a national non-profit member-based partnership of public and private sector organizations and individuals dedicated to developing, promoting, and implementing data standards for public health practice and research through collaboration of local, state, federal, and private sector organizations to ensure that these efforts are appropriately integrated with broader health data standards development initiatives in the US and abroad. For more information about the Consortium, go to <http://phdatastandards.info>.

AHIMA is the national association of health information management (HIM) professionals. AHIMA's 46,000 members are dedicated to the effective management of personal health information needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA is committed to advancing the HIM profession in an increasingly electronic and global environment through leadership in advocacy, education, certification, and lifelong learning. For information about the association, go to www.ahima.org.

The EHR Collaborative is a joint collaboration involving AHIMA, American Medical Association (AMA), American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), eHealthInitiative (eHI), Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and the National Alliance for Health Information Technology (NAHIT). The goal of the EHR Collaborative is to facilitate rapid input from the healthcare community in this and other development initiatives that advance the adoption of information standards for healthcare.