



## **Joint Initiative of SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization**

### **Press Release**

## **CEN TC, ISO TC and HL7 Launch first Joint Working Group and Integrated Work Program Activities**

**August 28, 2007  
Brisbane**

CEN/TC 251, ISO/TC 215 and HL7 launched their inaugural Joint Initiative Council and Joint Working Group at a meeting in Brisbane, hosted by ISO/TC 215. This was the culmination of months of planning by the standards development organization (SDO) leaders responding to the strong call for coordination and collaboration of health informatics standards developments from government, health provider and vendor communities across the world.

The Joint Initiative Charter provides the basis, purpose, and structure of the Joint Initiative on SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization. It has been ratified by all three SDOs and was confirmed by their respective Chairs. The Charter is available from each of the SDO Secretariats.

The Joint Initiative Council and the first Joint Working Group meeting confirmed their work will build on existing agreements and recognize existing standards collaboration work already in place. The readiness to engage with other SDOs and organizations that are involved in standardization work across the globe and that have potential common work products was also confirmed.

This first Joint Working Group meeting addressed their scope, structure and related processes and introduced the first set of work items that form part of the integrated work program. That set includes an EHR communications architecture standard, a joint data types standard, care information model standards requirements and patient and medication safety standards.

To satisfy health business requirements and to identify additional integrated work items the full lists of ISO, CEN and HL7 work programs was shared at the meeting. Along with strong support for ongoing sharing of all work programs the Joint Working Group initiated a process to identify gaps and overlaps and to rectify them.

It was noted with appreciation by all attending that there were many groups represented at the Joint Working Group meeting and the work such as the ICH pharmacy standards within ISO/TC 215 is a great example of collaboration and cooperation. Ed Hammond, newly elected Chair of the Joint Initiative Council stated “the contribution of the many experts from each of the SDOs, all working together, is a huge strength of the Joint Working Group and we fully support this collaborative work that is so essential in delivering shared care through interoperability of our health information systems.”

The next meeting of the Joint Working Group is scheduled to coincide with the CEN TC 251 meetings at Dublin on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

Kees Molenaar Chair, CEN/TC 251	Dr. Yun Sik Kwak Chair, ISO/TC 215	Ed Hammond Incoming Chair, HL7
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*ISO/TC 215 is the International Standards Organization Technical Committee for Health Informatics* <http://www.tinyurl.com/2m8qzk>  
<http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=ll&objId=529137&objAction=browse&sort=name>

*CEN/TC251 is the European Committee for Standardization Technical Committee for Health Informatics* <http://www.tinyurl.com/2vr954>  
<http://www.cen.eu/CENORM/BusinessDomains/TechnicalCommitteesWorkshops/CENTechnicalCommittees/CENTechnicalCommittees.asp?param=6232&title=CEN%2FTC+251>

*HL7 is the Health Level 7 Inc, an American National Standards Institute affiliated Standards Development Organization* <http://www.hl7.org/>

*ICH is the International Council on Harmonization*  
<http://www.ich.org/cache/compo/276-254-1.html>