



Interchange

News from the Inforoute Standards Collaborative and Solution Architecture Group

Infoway Standards Collaborative: moving ahead on all fronts



Welcome to the Spring 2007 edition of Interchange. The work of the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative geared up this winter and you'll be reading about their activities in this issue of the newsletter. With *Infoway*-developed pan-Canadian standards now sharing a home with HL7, ISO TC/215, DICOM and the Partnership for Health Information Standards, the work of

coordinating the promotion of common standards is moving to a more active level.

With that in mind, I'd like to invite you to attend the spring Partnership conference which will be held May 16-18 in Calgary. Called *Blazing the Trail*, the conference will highlight the launch of the new Standards Collaborative Working Groups. Both domestic and international standards will be featured during the conference's presentations and the program includes in-depth and interactive meetings with key speakers. The Partnership/HL7 Conference which *Infoway* hosted last fall was extremely successful with nearly 200 attendees. We hope the spring conference will be just as, if even more, successful and I look forward to seeing you all there. (Please see page 4)

A notable event this winter was the IHE *Connectathon* held in Chicago in January. I had an opportunity to speak there and update attendees on our architecture and standards initiatives. I saw first hand a connectathon in action. A record numbers of IT vendors gathered to test interoperability among their products. That too was very impressive. Testing of *Infoway*-led developments, such as the HL7 version 3 implementations of Patient Identity Cross-reference (PIX) and Patient Demographics Query (PDQ), each incorporating the pan-Canadian Client Registry standards approved "Stable for Use," were part of the event and three international vendors passed the testing. (For more information, please see page 6.)

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The above is just one example of the momentum we are gaining on the uptake of our standards for interoperable EHRs. As many of *Infoway's* investment projects are moving into the implementation phases we are seeing a lot more uptake of the standards and Blueprint concepts. For example, last October 12 imaging and healthcare IT vendors successfully tested their implementation of XDS-I and the Patient Identity Cross-reference (PIX) profile. The Public Health Surveillance system (Panorama) is using all of the pan-Canadian standards as it needs to interoperate with all of the registries and clinical domain repositories. We have three drug information systems solutions (IBM, Deltaware and Emergis) who are all supporting the CeRx standard. In addition, a number of pharmacy system vendors are adapting their solutions to CeRx.

On the architecture front, we have launched the iEHR Technical Standards project. Work is well underway

to elaborate on some Blueprint concepts that will ensure interoperability. We have had record attendance at our webcasts by interested stakeholders. We encourage you to follow their work and contribute.

Interchange is growing in scope and content and I'm particularly pleased to welcome COACH, Canada's Health Informatics Association, to our list of contributors this spring. This organization is very involved in the drive to common standards to facilitate interoperable EHRs for all Canadians. (Please see page 7 for this article.)

I encourage all readers to feel free to pass this issue of *Interchange* along to others they think would enjoy reading it. Anyone who would like to subscribe to this publication, submit an article or suggest a topic for an article, please see page 10 for information on contacting us. And now – read on for detailed updates on all of our exciting developments and progress.

Dennis Giokas
Chief Technology Officer
Canada Health Infoway

Pan-Canadian Laboratory Messaging and Nomenclature (pCLMN) Standard Nearing "Stable for Use"

Infoway's Laboratory Information Systems program is aimed at accelerating the implementation of solutions that allow clinicians to electronically view laboratory results and reports for their patients from all hospital, community and public health laboratories. Specifications that enable the electronic exchange of laboratory data – both orders and results – are currently being devised through the pan-Canadian Laboratory Messaging and Nomenclature (pCLMN) Standards project.

The pCLMN specification establishes a rigorous HL7 V3 based data interchange profile that leverages existing specifications from both British Columbia and Ontario and incorporates major clinical nomenclatures, such as Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC®) and Systematized Nomenclature of MEDicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT®).

LOINC® offers a strong framework which clinicians, laboratories and jurisdictions can use to align test catalogues. By mapping existing tests to the corresponding LOINC® code and using this code in electronic data communications, senders and receivers can unambiguously exchange electronically transmitted test results. Moreover, a pan-Canadian test display name also has been established for each such test, based on specific test-naming principles, as documented within the specification.

SNOMED-CT® has been incorporated in a manner to enable, but not necessarily require, the coding of certain data pertaining to a particular laboratory order or result observation. For example, through the use of SNOMED-CT®, the pCLMN enables the coding of micro-organisms or the coding of certain laboratory observation result values (*i.e.*, "Positive Finding"). By providing this path, the specification is forward-looking and aims to encourage increased use of coding in electronic communication of laboratory test data. Such coding will allow clinicians, as well as public health surveillance users, to better leverage laboratory data within their information systems and, ultimately, can play a part in helping to improve health outcomes.

From a messaging perspective, the pCLMN supports not only the communication of basic laboratory results, such as chemistry, but has also thoughtfully addressed the unique requirements of sensitivity oriented testing (*i.e.*, microbiology) as well as text-heavy reporting as typically used in anatomic pathology. The specification also incorporates references to the HL7 V2.x standard, as applicable, to help ease the migration path.

A full candidate "Stable for Use" draft of the specifications was published on November 20, 2006, when the "Stable for Use" review period opened. The review period produced a significant amount of feedback that is currently being used to improve the specifications and it is expected that the revised version will be published this spring. A recommendation to designate this version as "Stable for Use" will be sought from the EHR Standards Advisory Committee (SAC) shortly thereafter. Once this specification is available, implementers of Electronic Medical Record/Point of Service solutions, as well as those jurisdictions developing Jurisdictional Laboratory Information Systems, can look to a truly pan-Canadian specification which will allow them to exchange laboratory orders and results.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to access the specifications through the Laboratory forum on *Infoway's* KnowledgeWay and to raise questions or provide feedback through the Lab forum discussion list at Labs-Discuss@forums.infoway-inforoute.ca. Going forward, it will be essential to gather and capture early adopter feedback – both of a technical and clinical nature – and to incorporate such feedback into the specifications as these journey towards final normative stage.

To access the pCLMN materials and to engage in online discussions please visit the applicable *Infoway* KnowledgeWay forum at <http://knowledge.infoway-inforoute.ca> or contact Marc Koehn at mkoehn@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— Contributed by Marc Koehn, Project Manager, Infoway

Pan-Canadian Public Health Surveillance Standards – A Brief Update

Infoway's Public Health Surveillance Program will implement solutions that support the identification, management and control of infectious disease cases and outbreaks that pose a threat to the public's health. In order to allow these solutions to interoperate, the Pan-Canadian Public Health Surveillance Standards project has been charged with establishing applicable messaging and nomenclature specifications. Since Public Health Solutions are intended to operate in a manner that integrates with the overall Electronic Health Record (EHR), this involves both the review and endorsement of existing standards for use within Public Health, as well as the development of key specifications in areas such as Immunization Management, Case Management, Outbreak Management and Investigations.

The Public Health Surveillance pan-Canadian Standards Group (PHS-pCSG) has already endorsed the use of important EHR specifications in the areas of Client, Provider and Location registries, as well as important clinical specifications pertaining to Drug and Laboratory information through the Stable for Use Canadian Electronic Drug ("CeRx") Messaging and the emerging pan-Canadian Laboratory Messaging and Nomenclature (pCLMN) standards respectively.

Among core public health surveillance transactions, the project has taken the immunization-related transactions from the CeRx specification and incorporated modest, but important, enhancements to ensure that these meet the needs of public health surveillance stakeholders. The project has also taken key transactions from the HL7 Patient Administration domain to establish draft pan-Canadian versions of HL7 v3-based Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT) transactions. Together with investigation-related transactions, these are intended to provide a solid linkage between other healthcare providers and the public health surveillance system.

Efforts are currently underway to publish draft transactions in the important Case, Outbreak and Investigation management areas. It is anticipated that net new specifications being devised by this initiative will move into a "Stable for Use" review cycle in the May/June timeframe.

To access the Public Health Surveillance standards materials and to engage in online discussions please visit the applicable *Infoway* KnowledgeWay forum at <http://knowledge.infoway-inforoute.ca> or contact Marc Koehn at mkoehn@infoway-inforoute.ca.

— Contributed by Marc Koehn, Project Manager, Infoway

iEHR Technical Project Overview

During 2006, *Infoway* interoperable-EHR (iEHR) projects from different jurisdictions prioritized components of the EHRs Blueprint that needed to be elaborated and defined at a pan-Canadian level to guarantee interoperability.

The following objectives were defined:

- Establish pan-Canadian interoperability to achieve similar functional behaviour of key components across all iEHR infostructure solutions in Canada; and
- Promote consistent communication protocols for all outward-facing interfaces.

This project will further expand on key interoperability items by defining guidelines and/or specifications for EHR infostructure (EHRi) communications protocols, service interfaces, and supporting data necessary for consistent behaviour of infostructure components in:

- The Health Information Access Layer (HIAL);
- The Longitudinal Record Services (LRS);
- Between the HIAL and the Registries and the EHR Data domains repositories; and
- Point of Service (PoS) to EHRi interactions.

The project will also evaluate the suitability of adopting existing industry standard protocols and the potential standardization necessary for those EHRi Services and HIAL/LRS functional components that need to be defined in more detail.

The five high-priority scope interoperability items validated by participating iEHR project teams at the October 2006 iEHR workshop in Montreal are:

No.	Name	Deliverable
1	Transport Level Interoperability (Message Protocols and Handling [SOAP, Wrappers, Payload])	Specification
2	EHR-Index & XDS-DI	Specification
3	Service Delivery / Location Registry	Specification
4	Consent Directive Management or Guidelines	Guidelines
5	ID Management - ECID/EPID/ELID Behaviour across domains (merge, split, etc)	Guidelines

Stakeholder Engagement

This project will engage EHR project public sector representatives from active jurisdictions as well as vendors. This project will be transparent in execution and will provide access to intermediate work products for all interested stakeholders, who can comment on the work via the online forum or in our online webcasts. Vendor participation will be assured by soliciting participation from members of the Canadian healthcare Information Technology Trade Association (CHITTA) and l'Association de l'industrie des technologies de la santé (AITS).

There will be monthly webcasts, an *Infoway*-hosted Project Discussion Forum <http://forums.infoway-inforoute.ca/ITP/> and a Face-to-Face workshop for each track to be held April 24 to 26, 2007. This workshop will consist of three tracks:

1. Message Protocol and Handling (SOAP, Wrappers, Payload) & EHR-Index & XDS-DI;
2. ID Management and Location Registry; and
3. Consent Management.

— Contributed by Hannah Cracower, Program Coordinator
iEHR/PHS, Infoway

Blazing the Trail at the Partnership Spring Conference



On behalf of the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative we are pleased to invite you to *Blazing the Trail*, the Partnership for Health Information Standards' Spring 2007 Conference from May 16 to 18, welcoming speakers and presenta-

tions on the latest in domestic and international health information standards, and highlighting the inaugural meetings of our new Standards Collaborative Working Groups.

This three day conference will be held in Calgary at The Fairmont Palliser. It will host in-depth and interactive meetings featuring work on standards in development and maintenance, dialogue with key decision-makers and the latest in standards education and training.

Information on the preliminary program for the upcoming event is available on *Infoway's* website at www.infoway-inforoute.ca or email us at: standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

Standards Collaborative Updates

The following are updates from the various service sectors of the Infoway Standards Collaborative.

SC Launches First Scheduled Maintenance Release of pan-Canadian Standards

Pan-Canadian Standards must evolve to remain up to-date clinically, technically and business-wise. The *Infoway* Standards Collaborative is launching its first Scheduled Maintenance Process this spring with the goal of ensuring selected pan-Canadian Standards remain relevant and continue to meet jurisdictional and stakeholder needs. New releases for the following standards are being planned: pan-Canadian Stable for Use (SFU) Drug (CeRx) Standard, pan-Canadian SFU Provider Registry Standard and pan-Canadian SFU Client Registry Standard. Other standards will be added to the Maintenance process in the future.

Scheduled Maintenance will provide an opportunity to make updates and changes to the pan-Canadian standards according to a pre-planned schedule and a well-defined process incorporating the involvement of various Standard Collaborative Governance Committees and Standards Collaborative participants.

More information on the Scheduled Maintenance Release Process will be available shortly and will include updated information on the *Infoway* website and a series of webcasts planned for early spring. An opportunity to discuss the proposed updates and changes to the selected standards will be a focus at the May Standards Collaborative Partnership Conference.

Client Services and SDO Relations Update

Are you an HL7 Canada or Partnership member? Are you looking forward to joining the new *Infoway* Standards Collaborative?

For the upcoming 2007-2008 membership year, the Standards Collaborative will be launching its new membership model. In addition to HL7 Canada, DICOM and ISO standards, members will soon also enjoy access to SNOMED CT and LOINC standards and related materials. Watch for coming announcements on these new materials.

These additional offerings, along with the Partnership for Health Information Standards, are part of the Client Services and SDO Relations efforts to provide its members with a full spectrum of access and support to health information standards. The membership drive, which began in March, is underway so join the Standards Collaborative and take advantage of the new standards and services we have to offer.

Education & Training Services Update

Enhanced education and training for health information standards are coming to Canada this year. In addition to the new offerings for HL7 v3 and ISO standards, the Standards Collaborative will expand to include training for SNOMED CT and LOINC. While planning of other education and training offerings is in the works, join us at the Spring 2007 Partnership Conference in Calgary May 16-18 and receive the latest instruction by experts from the field.

Standards Collaborative Engagement and Process Services

The Standards Collaborative Engagement and Process Service will facilitate engagement and partnership with standards stakeholders. Activities are underway to support the following service functions:

- Stakeholder Engagement Strategy & Framework;
- Clinical Alignment and Support;
- Communications and Marketing;
- SC Evaluation;
- Knowledge Management;
- Standards Uptake Strategies; and
- SC Governance and Transition.

Standards Collaborative Governance and Transition

Significant progress has occurred over the last few months towards establishing the new Standards Collaborative Governance Model including the following activities:

- Standards Collaborative Strategic Committee (SCSC) members were confirmed and a kick-off meeting was held on February 12-13;
- Standards Collaborative Transition – Change Management Advisory Group (SCTAG) members were confirmed and three meetings have been held to support transition items;
- HL7 Canada and the SC Governance Ballot is underway on the proposed approach for integrating the roles and responsibilities of the HL7 Canada Board of Directors and Committees into the Standards Collaborative Governance Model;
- Work is in progress to support transition of committees and establishment of the full Standards Collaborative Governance Model, including launch of the Standards Collaborative Coordinating Committee (SCCC) in the next month and the interim Standards Collaborative Working Groups (SCWG) at Partnership (May 16-18).

Implementation Support Services Update

Since October, work has continued in making the Standards Collaborative Implementation Support (IS) Service

operational. Key subject matter experts have been engaged to provide front-line support and assistance to implementations for Stable for Use pan-Canadian Standards. Working closely with early adopters of pan-Canadian standards the IS team continues to update and refine the implementation support materials including the development of enhanced message examples.

IS has launched the “48-Hour Response Challenge” for all implementation support requests. A key objective of the IS Service is to respond rapidly to queries and requests. Consequently the 48-Hour Challenge will ensure that questions submitted to the Standards Infodesk (standards@infoway-inforoute.ca) or the pan-Canadian Standards Group (pCSG) Forums (<http://knowledge.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/forums/overview.aspx>) will be responded to initially within 48 hours. Additionally – coming soon – responses to questions will be logged and published in an easy-to-use Question/Answer format.

IS is definitely open for business – come and test our challenge.

— *Contributed by the Infoway Standards Collaborative staff*

Advancing the Foundation for Interoperability – Standards 201 Sunday May 27th 9:00am-12:00 noon e-Health 2007 The Paths to Transformation Quebec City

Join us for a pre-conference workshop in Quebec City and learn more about the major developments in standards that have taken place over the past year.

Engage in dialogue about International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) and SNOMED CT, Security and Privacy Guidelines, and the new Standard Collaborative Working Groups.

If you are interested in learning more about standards and would like to participate and influence change through the standards lifecycle, then this is the workshop for you.

For more information, go to:

www.e-healthconference.com/workshops.htm

Canadians Prominent at IHE's North America Connectathon

Chicago was the site of the 8th annual Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) *North America Connectathon*, a week-long intensive conformance testing marathon that brings healthcare IT vendors together to test interoperability amongst their products, in real time. Record numbers of participants attended this year's event, held Jan. 15-19, 2007: 430 engineers representing more than 80 companies testing more than 160 individual application systems.

The Chicago event is one of three *Connectathons* held annually around the globe, part of the IHE mission to provide an environment where healthcare IT vendors and users work together to break down the interoperability barriers that prevent systems from sharing patient data within and across hospitals and health authorities.

Canada and the US each participate actively in *Connectathon* planning, execution and follow-up. This year's event saw a record number of Canadian organizations and individuals contributing as presenters, testing monitors, "scene" managers, and tour guides, complementing the Canadian vendors that were on-site to test their products. For the first time, a one-day conference and tour was part of the event, bringing thought leaders together to learn about IHE's impact on the development of the EHR. Keynote speakers included John Loonsk, M.D., Director of Interoperability, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology; Alisa Ray, Executive Director, Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology; and Dennis Giokas, Chief Technology Officer, Canada Health Infoway. Consultant Michael Nusbaum presented an overview of the *Connectathon* process, and then sent the audience of 130 on guided tours of the *Connectathon* floor.



IHE North American Connectathon, January 2007

Canada provides significant contribution to the development of IHE "integration profiles," many of which were tested for the first time at the 2007 *Connectathon*. Of note were the Infoway-led developments of HL7 v3 implementations of Patient Identity Cross-reference (PIX) and Patient Demographics Query (PDQ), each incorporating the pan-Canadian Client Registry standards that are approved "stable for use." (See "*IHE PIC-PDQ v3 Successful Testing*" below)

Testing also continued on *Infoway's* previous profile contribution, Cross Enterprise Document Sharing for Imaging (XDS-I), also a pan-Canadian standard "stable for use."

Canadians contributing to this year's *Connectathon* came from the following organizations: University Health Network, Canada Health Infoway, McGill University, University of Quebec, Smart Systems for Health Agency, as well as several consulting firms.

— *Contributed by Michael Nusbaum, healthcare consultant, Victoria, BC., formerly with the Infoway Standards Collaborative*

IHE PIX-PDQ v3 Successful Testing

On a cold, dark night in Chicago, three vendors huddled together at the 2007 IHE (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise) *Connectathon*, and made history.

Epic (IHE Actor - PDQ Consumer), Initiate Systems (IHE Actors - PIX Manager/PDQ Supplier) and Quovadx (IHE Actors - PIX Consumer/PDQ Consumer) successfully passed testing of the first HL7 v3 messaging (other than CDA) test profiles at an IHE North America *Connectathon*. IHE's mission is "to improve the way computer systems in healthcare share information."

Beginning in November 2005, IHE undertook to create a supplement to the IT Infrastructure Technical Specifications, with the goal of re-purposing the Patient Identification Cross-Reference (PIX) and Patient Demographics Query (PDQ) IHE Integration Profiles, to support HL7 v3 messages, as well as the pan-Canadian Client Registry standard. This supplement was authored, and funded, by Canada Health Infoway, and was completed in September 2006.

The PIX-PDQ v3 project team and vendors worked closely in the weeks and months leading up to the *Connectathon*, using Medical Enterprise Simulators and Analyzer (MESA) tests to verify the applications, fixing issues and bugs, and generally working together in a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation that is the hallmark of IHE.

The inclusion of HL7 v3 conformance profiles within the IHE environment provides a unique opportunity to elevate Integration Profiles to the level where the support of current and future-state standards is enabled.

Successful testing also allows the vendors to participate in the New Directions area of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) interoperability showcase, as well as the e-Health Conference.

For Canada, and for other countries around the world that are standardizing on HL7 v3 messages, this exercise provides the added benefit of engaging the vendor community through a full life cycle of development, conformance testing and demonstration; a key enabler for vendor adoption of the pan-Canadian HL7 v3 Client Registry Standards.

— *Contributed by Allie Grassie, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, eHealth Collaboratory, University Health Network*

Image-Sharing Demonstration, RSNA 2006

The image-enabled electronic health record (EHR) was successfully showcased at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting at McCormick Place, Chicago, Nov. 26 - Dec. 1, 2006.

The Image-Sharing Demonstration highlighted solutions that are based on the IHE Cross-enterprise Document Sharing for Imaging (XDS-I) Integration Profile. XDS-I is a pan-Canadian Interoperability Profile Standard, approved “Stable for Use,” for sharing and distributing medical images and reports across care sites and institutional boundaries.

More than 1,000 attendees visited the demonstration. Each attendee could register as a “patient” and could follow realistic clinical scenarios emphasizing the development of his or her medical history over several encounters at different simulated care sites. Multiple image data sets were generated at each site visit with different identifications, along with the attendee’s provided demographics. Visitors had a glimpse of how radiologists and care providers are able to share patient care records and access “live” from other sites, prior large imaging data sets as well as imaging reports with a small number of key images.

In preparation for the demonstration, a face-to-face interoperability-testing event took place in October 2006 where 12 imaging and healthcare IT vendors successfully tested their implementation of XDS-I and the Patient Identity Cross-reference (PIX) profile, also a pan-Canadian Client Registry Standard.

Canadian contribution was central to the realization and the success of the RSNA Image -Sharing Demonstration. In addition to the participation of Canadian vendors, the testing

and the demonstration management team was Canadian. Under the supervision of Dr Rita Noumeir, Professor at École de Technologie Supérieure, University of Québec, and with Alain Gauvin, RIS/PACS manager at the McGill University Health Centre, as the project manager, the management team organized, managed and ran the RSNA demonstration and the testing event, in addition to providing technical support for participants.

— *Contributed by Rita Noumeir, Ph.D, École de Technologie Supérieure, University of Québec*

Standards key in COACH’s vision of taking health informatics mainstream

COACH: Canada’s Health Informatics Association is advancing its participation and leadership on the Canadian standards scene. The appointment of COACH representatives to Standards Collaborative governance structures and COACH’s role as co-host of the standards-focused Global Summit III on March 25 are the most recent indicators of the organization’s strong commitment to health information standards.



Don Newsham, CEO of COACH

“Many COACH Board, executive and other members are very active in the standards community,” said COACH Chief Executive Officer Don Newsham, who co-Chairs the Canadian Advisory Committee (CAC) and is the Canadian Head of Delegation to the ISO Technical Committee for Health Informatics (ISO/TC215). “We firmly believe that standards are a critical foundation for effectively deploying and adopting health informatics

(HI) throughout the Canadian healthcare system and in establishing an interoperable EHR.”

Diane Salois-Swallow, IT Lead for the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and CIO for York Central and Southlake health centres, was recently jointly appointed by COACH and the Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA) to the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative Strategic Committee. In addition, two COACH HI representatives — one representing all of COACH and the second representing the healthcare delivery community (regions/hospitals) of COACH — are in the process of being appointed to the Standards Collaborative’s Coordinating Committee.

COACH also co-hosted Global Summit III, along with Canada Health Infoway and ISO TC/215 in Montreal. “The summit serves a very important means for the international standards community to connect with key clinicians, both in Canada and abroad,” said Mr. Newsham. The summit provides an opportunity to engage clinicians from around the world and better understand their perspectives on issues that impact the development and implementation of standards. COACH’s involvement with standards continues to grow through:

- Being a primary source and connection to members for Canadian Expert Task Groups on standards;
- Appointing and reporting from representatives to the Standards Collaborative;
- Being an active supporter of and participant in the Partnership for Health Information Standards;
- Participating on committees, Canadian Expert Task Groups (CETGs), upcoming standards collaborative working groups (SCWGs); and
- Leading the establishment of the first Canadian Interoperability Showcase at e-Health 2007 (Quebec May 27-30).

COACH is a vital source of Health Informatics (HI) expertise for representation, recruitment, feedback and advocacy for HI standards and is committed to supporting standards in mainstreaming HI and the EHR.

COACH, established in 1975, is an association of approximately 1,000 representatives of IT, healthcare providers, vendors, government and others who are interested in advancing the practice of HI in Canada. For more information, visit www.coachorg.com.

— *Contributed by RoseMary MacVicar-Elliott, Member Communication, COACH*

Infoway booth welcomes you at e-Health Conference

Visit the *Infoway* booth (# 412) during the e-Health Conference in Quebec City May 27-30 and meet up with friends and colleagues.

As the platinum sponsor of this conference, *Infoway* will host a number of thought-provoking sessions, from an in-depth workshop on standards to a presentation on EHR and patient safety and a whole lot more. Learn about the unprecedented number of e-health applications that are beginning to deliver benefits of improved patient outcomes and improved effectiveness in the delivery of care.

Appointments

The following appointment notices have been received. If you have an appointment you would like us to carry in this column, please send it to The Editor, *Interchange*, at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca

Canada Health Infoway Inc.

Standards Collaborative:

Marsha Bryan, SC Manager

Christine Bester, Registries Subject Matter Expert

Garry Cruickshank, CeRx Subject Matter Expert

Rajie Ragbeer, Messaging Standards Technical Subject Matter Expert

International

Dr. Charles Jaffe, CEO, HL7 Inc.

OHISC Update

Responsibility for the Ontario Health Informatics Standards Council (OHISC) Secretariat has moved from the Smart Systems for Health Agency to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, effective April 1. Taking on the responsibility for setting provincial informatics standards is in alignment with the ministry’s role as steward of the healthcare system. OHISC’s membership and work plan will not be affected by the move. The ministry is working to ensure that the OHISC Secretariat function is in place within the Health System Information Management Division as of April 1 to provide a seamless transition of support for OHISC.

OHISC looks forward to continuing its success as a contributor to an integrated Ontario healthcare system. The council’s website will remain www.OHISC.ca.

In other news, OHISC is pleased to announce it has approved the following Tier 1 and Tier 2 standards products:

Tier 1

- International Classification of Primary Care, version 2 (ICPC-2)
- International Classification of Nursing Practice (ICNP)
- Position Paper: Deploying Object Identifiers in Ontario

Tier 2

- The HOBIC Nursing Outcomes Classification System and Instrument

— *Contributed by Yaron Derman, OHISC*

ISO Technical Committee on Health Informatics 2007 Annual Plenary in Montreal

The ISO Technical Committee for Health Informatics (ISO/TC215) held its Annual Plenary in Montreal, March 26-29, 2007, and Canada Health Infoway was a proud sponsor of this event. ISO/TC215 is responsible for standards development in subject areas including: data structure, data interchange, semantic content, security, health cards, pharmacy and medicines business, devices, and business requirements for electronic health records.

Experts from all over the world gathered to further the work on key initiatives in health informatics, from architecture to terminology to security. Canada plays a leading role in many of these standards projects, including a newly proposed technical specification on the deployment of a clinical data warehouse. This work is being led internationally by Dr. Andrew Grant of the Université de Sherbrooke and domestically by Mark Fuller of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). The technical specification will provide clinical data warehouse implementation guidance and will illustrate general considerations of development and deployment, data aggregation and data modelling issues, as well as architecture and analytical approaches. This project falls under the scope of ISO/TC215 WG1 –Data Structure which is strongly supported by *Infoway*.

Another important project discussed in Montreal, a project jointly led by Canada and Australia, focuses on the requirements and specifications for health summary records. Dr. Marion Lyver, Vice-Convenor of ISO/TC215/WG8, is leading this project internationally, while Neil Gardner, of Saskatchewan Health, is the Canadian Expert Task Group Lead, ensuring a strong Canadian contribution. Domestic participation in this task group has been enthusiastically embraced, with representation from across the country and from a wide variety of stakeholders, including clinicians, vendors, academics and government officials.

The four-day Annual Plenary was instrumental in facilitating the important work of both existing and future international standards initiatives, such as the above-noted clinical data warehouse and health summary records projects.

Prior to these meetings, on Sunday, March 25, the Global Summit III – Connecting With Clinicians, took place, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the issues that impact the success and challenges of development, implementation and adoption of health information standards from a clinical perspective.

Contact Information Infoway Standards Collaborative

For any information or questions about the Collaborative, including HL7 Canada, Partnership and ISO, please use the following phone numbers:

Toll-free calls: 1-877-595-3417

Local calls in Toronto: 416-595-3417

Or send an e-mail to any of the following addresses:

standards@infoway-inforoute.ca

HL7Canada@infoway-inforoute.ca

Partnership@infoway-inforoute.ca

ISO@infoway-inforoute.ca

For more information on the Montreal meetings, or on ISO/TC215 in general, please contact Andrea Ciemny, Standards Analyst, ISO (aciemny@infoway-inforoute.ca) or Grant Gillis, Director, Standards Collaborative (ggillis@infoway-inforoute.ca).

— *Contributed by Andrea Ciemny, Standards Analyst, ISO, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

DICOM Update

The Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) Standards Committee exists to create and maintain international standards for communication of biomedical diagnostic and therapeutic information in disciplines that use digital images and associated data. The goals of DICOM are to achieve compatibility and to improve workflow efficiency between imaging systems and other information systems in healthcare environments worldwide.

The following activities were in review at the time of printing:

- A ballot for DICOM Correction Package 40; and
- Request for Comments on Draft DICOM Supplement 110 - Ophthalmic Tomography Image Storage SOP Class.

Those interested in imaging (DICOM) standards and who wish to participate in the work of DICOM, including ballots of the standard, are urged to contact Grant Gillis at Canada Health Infoway (ggillis@infoway-inforoute.ca).

— *Contributed by Grant Gillis, Director, Standards Liaison, Infoway Standards Collaborative*

HL7 Canada Update

Successful HL7 V2.5 Certificate Candidates

On behalf of HL7 Canada, we would like to congratulate the following individuals for obtaining the HL7 V2.5 Certificate after last issue's *Interchange* Newsletter went to press:

- Rahul Bhagat
- Jagtar Cheema
- Malkiat S. Sekhon
- Walid El-Hallak

For more information on HL7 certification testing, please visit the HL7 Certification website at: http://sl.infoway-inforoute.ca/content/disPage.asp?cw_page=infostand hl7can certification_e or contact us at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

HL7 Canada Domestic Ballots

HL7 Canada hosted two domestic ballots recently. The first involved the ballot of the Canada Health Infoway Cross Harmonization Project deliverables. The Cross Harmonization Project (XProject) Initiative's purpose is to streamline Common Message Element Types (CMETs), datatypes, and wrappers from existing pan-Canadian HL7 standards projects such as Client Registry, Provider Registry, CeRx, pan-Canadian Laboratory Messaging and Nomenclature (pCLMN), iEHR, Public Health Surveillance, National eClaims Standard (NeCST), and Chronic Disease Management (CDM). We would like to thank all HL7 Canada members who took time to review the content and provide their feedback. Disposition of the ballot results will take place via HL7 Canada Realm Localization teleconference calls.

The second ballot involved the proposal for the governance and structure of HL7 Canada to be transitioned and integrated into the new *Infoway* Standards Collaborative. In support of this important ballot, the HL7 Canada Secretariat hosted two Question and Answer webcast sessions where representatives of the HL7 Canada Board of Directors and the Standards Collaborative did presentations about the proposed transition and integration and provided answers and feedback to questions and comments. We would like to thank all HL7 Canada members who participated in the ballot. The results will be shared with HL7 Canada members.

HL7 Tutorials and Certification Examination:

HL7 Tutorials and the HL7 V2.5 Certification Examination will be available during the Spring 2007 *Blazing the Trail* Partnership Conference in Calgary, Alberta. For the first time in Canada, a tutorial will be available in preparation for the HL7 v2.5 Certification Examination. Stay tuned for more updates from Standards Collaborative. If you have any questions, please contact us at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

HL7 International Ballots:

HL7 Canada hosted the HL7 International January Ballot Cycle which ran from December 6, 2006, to January 4, 2007. Results of Canadian submissions were deliberated on at the HL7 Working Group Meeting following the close of the ballot cycle. HL7 Canada has contacted individuals who submitted negative comments. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the ballot. A note to all HL7 Canada members: The upcoming HL7 International May ballot cycle opened March 22 in Canada and will close on April 19. We look forward to your comments and feedback.

HL7 Working Group Meeting in Köln, Germany

The next HL7 Working Group meeting is slated for Köln, Germany April 30-May 4, 2007. If you plan to attend, please contact the HL7 Canada Secretariat so we can plan our support for the HL7 Canada delegation. To register for the Conference, please visit www.hl7.org. For more details on the Working Group Meeting, please contact the HL7 Canada Secretariat at standards@infoway-inforoute.ca.

Membership drive

The annual membership drive is underway and HL7 members now have increased benefits as their membership is part of the overall Standards Collaborative membership model. For more details see the article "*Client Services and SDO Relations Update*" on page 4 or watch your inbox for further details — and don't forget to take the opportunity to tell your colleagues about the many opportunities and benefits the HL7 world has to offer.

— Contributed by Grant Gillis, Director, Infoway Standards Collaborative



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Interchange

Interchange is an e-publication of the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative and the Solution Architecture Group. In addition to news about *Infoway*-developed standards, this newsletter also includes updates on HL7 and HL7 Canada, Partnership for Health Information Standards, Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) and ISO/TC 215 which are part of the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative. We welcome submissions on standards and architecture-related topics of general interest to the health informatics standards community.

To comment, submit or suggest a news item or appointment, please email Dennis Giokas at archinfo@infoway-inforoute.ca

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