



Health Level Seven® International

Unlocking the Power of Health Information

An ANSI accredited standards developer

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HL7 Offers Strategic Expertise and Leadership in New Interoperability Era

HL7 congratulates Dr. Karen DeSalvo on her new role as the Acting Assistant Secretary of Health for HHS and Dr. Jacob Reider, as he returns to work in New York. We also thank them for their steadfast support of the advancement of health IT. During this time of transition in national health IT leadership and of greater demand for a well-functioning public health infrastructure, HL7 offers its critical expertise and leadership to improve the care of our patients.

HL7 embraces the recent work of the ONC leadership on its Interoperability Roadmap and on the JASON Task Force recommendations. These are significant steps forward to achieving the promise of information technology in healthcare. These reports help to refocus our efforts to a true national health information exchange architecture based on open APIs, specifically HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®). FHIR is a free, simple-to-use format that offers great promise for enabling electronic health record systems as well as patient participation. Although FHIR became a draft standard for trial use in January, it has already been adopted by both the public and private sectors at unprecedented rates. HL7 has begun to coordinate with the ONC on accelerating the development of the FHIR standard.

The prioritization of standards-based interoperability and a commitment to long-term policymaking will enable healthcare to benefit from information technology in very tangible ways. HL7 welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the new Acting National Coordinator, Lisa Lewis, and the diverse healthcare IT community, to overcome the barriers to interoperability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles Jaffe MD PhD'.

Charles Jaffe, MD PhD
Chief Executive Officer

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