

About HL7

About HL7 Standards

HL7 develops standards for handling the interchange of information about patient administration, orders, queries, financial management, test reports, master files, information management, reservations, patient referral, patient care, laboratory automation, application management, and personnel management. HL7 stands for Health Level Seven, which refers to the seventh level of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) seven-layer communications model for Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) - the application level. The [HL7 headquarters in the United States](#) houses many technical committees for studying and creating new standards. These standards are issued after approval by members in the United States and the international affiliates. In Japan, HL7 standards are used for systems in university hospitals and standardization activities.

About HL7

Founded in 1987 in the United States, Health Level Seven International (HL7) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing and promoting international standards for interchanging information between healthcare information systems. As of September 2009, 32 nations, including Argentina, India, the United Kingdom, Australia, Holland, Canada, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, China, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Turkey, Japan, New Zealand, Finland, Brazil, South Africa, Lithuania, and Russia, act as international affiliates.

Establishment of HL7 Japan

In the course of standardization and implementation in Japan, we found that specifications specific to Japan needed to be examined and reflected in the HL7 standards. In July 1998, the principal members of the Japan Association for Medical Informatics and JAHIS held an inaugural meeting founding HL7 in Japan. On that day, Japan was unanimously approved as the seventh international affiliate of HL7, and HL7 Japan was born with its headquarters in the JAHIS office. As of September 2009, HL7 Japan had 376 organizational members and 104 individual members, for a total of 480 members.

HL7 Japan Activities

- Providing members and non-members with HL7 standards and implementation guides translated into Japanese
- Holding open seminars to promote HL7 standards
- Sponsoring special HL7 lectures by senior members of Health Level Seven International in the United States
- Organizing and operating technical groups consisting of volunteer members for studying and investigating the next term's HL7 standards
- Sending two to four delegates three times a year from HL7 Japan to overseas international meetings to obtain the latest information and further discussions for incorporating Japan-specific functionality in the next standards
- Providing information and developing public relation activities via the HL7 Japan website
- Providing members with newsletters and brochures published by HL7 international in the United States
- Publishing its own *HL7 News* newsletter in Japan
- Promoting interaction among and supporting international affiliates