



Joint Initiative on SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization

CHARTER

Final (v8) –August 29, 2007

Whereas:

- Standards Development Organizations (SDOs), their respective technical committees and their stakeholders for health informatics standardization have collectively identified a need and opportunity to collaborate, coordinate and cooperate in delivering global, implementable standards;
- Standards are a necessary enabler of interoperability in the health care domain to meet demands of all health care participants, to meet national and regional mandates for health care and thereby to create and sustain a global informatics market;
- The overarching vision for collaboration, coordination and cooperation is one of harmonization, where a singular set of standards and tests address a singular health business need
- Harmonization of standards involves an engagement continuum, from common scope and purpose, to aligned development and agreement on content, to a single best standard for each problem, and finally to full mutual recognition and endorsement of standards; and
- Working together, SDOs can leverage standards development resources, solve shared issues in a timely and responsive manner and avoid overlapping, counterproductive and counteracting standards.

It is affirmed that:

- Standardization in health informatics is vital to quality, safe, accountable, timely and coordinated health care;
- Standardization is the only real solution to semantic interoperability in health informatics and by working together SDOs will increasingly achieve interoperability on a global scale;
- There is a strong and positive will among the SDOs to collaborate, coordinate and cooperate to provide the set of standards necessary to resolve health care problems and fulfill health care requirements;
- Standardization is supported by volunteer subject matter experts that work with and among the SDOs, as well as by clients and stakeholders of standards created within SDOs;
- Standardization and standards coordination, collaboration and cooperation starts at the beginning of the standards life-cycle and extends through the full life-cycle – including the requirements identification, to development, testing, implementation and to support and maintenance, education, training and reissue or withdrawal phases;
- Individual SDO mandates (e.g EC Mandate, HL7 Mandate, ISO Mandate, etc.), member requirements, directives, contexts and processes are acknowledged and recognized within this multilateral joint initiative; and
- Openness, transparency, global awareness and flexibility are fundamental to all harmonization efforts.

It is further affirmed that, in their work together, the participating SDOs will:

- Use accepted best practices for standards development;
- Be business requirements driven with a project-based approach;
- Agree on expectations regarding commonality of strategy and process, using appropriate quality and risk management techniques;
- Coordinate work programs using collective and individual SDO resources and eliminate standards work that is overlapping or counterproductive;
- Acknowledge and utilize standards work that can be adapted or adopted for use in health care from other standards bodies and domains;
- Engage stakeholders, be customer-focused;

- Provide common communications to shared external stakeholders and communities of interest; and
- Be issue, work and results focused (not having an “umbrella organization” focus).

Purpose:

The **Joint Initiative on SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization** is formed to enable common, timely health informatics standards by addressing and resolving issues of gaps, overlaps, and counterproductive standardization efforts through:

1. A mutually agreed upon and used decision process for international standardization needs;
2. Coordinated standards strategies and plans, with the future goal of making all standards available through ISO;
3. An integrated work program and
4. Focused, specific resolution of overlapping or counteracting standards within the participating SDOs existing work programs.

Governance:

The Governance of the **Joint Initiative on SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization** is undertaken through:

1. Joint Initiative Council

This Council, operating as a council of equals and as liaison group under ISO/TC 215, consists of the respective leaders and appointed liaison members of the participating SDO's to a maximum of 3 members per SDO. The Council operates at the strategic level and is responsible to:

- Identify and make explicit emerging requirements for standardization;
- Proactively drive the identification of needs and the achievement of results to resolve gaps, overlaps and counterproductive health informatics standardization efforts;
- Achieve consensus on a work program-driven health informatics harmonization plan;
- Achieve consensus on common processes necessary to enable optimal collaboration, coordination and communication, including new member selection and decision making processes;
- Identify criteria and members for the Joint Working Group;

- Identify the individuals and lead SDO who have an interest, expertise and contribution to determine a course of action for resolving issues of gaps, overlaps or counterproductive health informatics standardization efforts;
- In the spirit of openness, transparency and flexibility, determine appropriate policies that are required and useful across participating SDOs and
- Determine an overall engagement and communications strategy, including full sharing of deliberations, with stakeholders from the health informatics standards community in support of standards harmonization.

Participating SDOs are ISO/TC215, HL7 and CEN TC251. Other SDOs may be invited to participate as appropriate to the work and domain of the Joint Initiative and that meet specific criteria as identified by Joint Initiative Council.

Representatives to the Council from the SDOs are chosen to support focus, continuity, relationship building and shared responsibility.

The Council is supported by the ISO/TC215 Secretariat.

2. Joint Working Group

This Joint Working Group is hosted by ISO/TC215 and operates at the direction of the Joint Initiative Council to provide the discussion, liaison, advisory and communication forum for achieving the goals of the **Joint Initiative on SDO Global Health Informatics Standardization**.

This Joint Working Group is a planning, process determination and coordinating group that makes recommendations to the Joint Initiative Council on resolving gaps, overlaps or issues of counterproductive standardization.

This Joint Working Group consists of committed representatives of the participating SDOs, as invited in principle by the Joint Initiative Council and in practice by the Joint Working Group co-Chairs, based on the work and agenda of the Joint Working Group. The Joint Working Group membership includes all convenors of CEN and ISO, a group of HL7 technical committee chairs as determined by HL7 Joint Initiative Council members, all Joint Initiative Council members, key representatives of stakeholders that use health informatics standards and is also open to other SDO-identified international participants.

The Joint Working Group undertakes the assigned work from the Joint Initiative Council and is responsible for:

- Identifying and analyzing, defining and documenting specific gaps, overlaps, issues and tasks to be addressed;
 - Using use cases and including all parts of the standards life cycle

- Developing, testing and using effective decision processes for international standardization needs; and
 - Developing common processes for harmonization in accordance with participating SDO processes

- Developing an integrated work program amongst the participating SDOs for approval by the Joint Initiative Council, including
 - Collection and summarization of participating SDO work plans;
 - Educating on and building awareness of, relevant standards activity;
 - Reviewing the work plans of participating SDO for purposes of coordination; and determining overlaps, gaps and counterproductive standardization
 - Monitoring and providing feedback on the outcomes of the Joint Initiative.

- Encourage stakeholder engagement and communicate output of the work programme.

The Joint Working Group is co-Chaired by three members as identified by the Joint Initiative Council.

The Joint Working Group meets up to 4 times per year, at the ISO TC215 meetings and at other SDO meetings.

Secretary support for the Joint Working Group is provided by ISO/TC215.

Signed and agreed upon, as of _____ (Month / Year) by:

Kees Molenaar
Chair, CEN TC251

Yun Sik Kwak
Chair, ISO TC215

Chuck Meyer
Chair, HL7