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## Collaboration between

### OASIS and HL7

#### in the coordination of systems interoperability initiatives

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Due to mutual desire to serve cross-profession practitioner communities including the unique cross-domain interoperability required for Emergency Responders and Emergency Departments to effectively and efficiently serve the “Continuum of Care” of emergency patients, in order to minimize potential confusion for standards implementers, and avoid potential inconsistencies and unplanned overlaps between developed and published standards within each domain, the Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) HL7 and OASIS seek to collaborate in areas of mutual interest.

Both HL7 and OASIS are dedicated to providing open standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic information. While HL7 focuses on health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services, the EDXL suite of messaging standards published by OASIS focus on information that supports emergency and disaster response, management, and coordination across jurisdictions, organizations, and professions. Historically these standards have addressed data exchange “within their own domains” – i.e. EDXL within the “emergency” domain and HL7 within the “Health and Healthcare” domain. While there has been some coordination based on contributions of individuals involved in both domains, there is no formal mechanism to share information, Intellectual Property implementation experience and eliminate inconsistencies

Recognizing the long and broad lifecycles of data elements and messages exchanged in the use cases being examined by a wide variety of stakeholders, data architects have begun to address “dovetail” information sharing areas; for example where information from the emergency scene may assist preparation of definitive care facilities to care for incoming patients. Both HL7 and OASIS have recognized the value of collaboration to pro-actively address potential process and data-sharing “dove-tail” areas in order to pursue and communicate a clear vision of standards direction and intended usage, and minimize potential inconsistencies and confusion within the user and development communities.

Initial discussions between HL7, OASIS and various stakeholder organizations began in September 2009, and now standards development progress has reached a point where direct collaboration is desired and required.

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## 2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to set a foundation for discussion and agreement between HL7 and OASIS workgroups for collaboration in common areas which potentially affect or support common domain areas, users, systems and organizations. This collaboration opportunity is driven by two primary areas:

1. The concept of “standard message routing”, used to send, receive and make use of standard data payloads.
2. The draft EDXL-Tracking of Emergency Patients (TEP) standard is approved by the practitioner process and is now beginning the OASIS standards development process. The EDXL-TEP standard is aimed at increased effectiveness of emergency medical services (EMS) management and patient tracking. A formal objective of the standard involves TEP information exchange with Hospitals *prior to patient arrival*, thus increasing preparation and ensuring continuity of continued patient care. The practitioner community identified this as a key driver of significant value.

## 3.0 OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Common message routing.** Collaborate on common method(s) to send, receive and make use of standard data payloads between organizations and systems that utilize EDXL standards and HL7 standards. While EDXL and HL7 each utilize their own “routing header”, an approach to the routing of payloads to and from these traditional domains is desired. The OASIS and HL7 workgroups managing these standards artifacts should be encouraged to cross-participate, cross-contribute material, and define a common approach to allow messaging parties to interoperate among those two methodologies.
  2. **Tracking of Emergency Patients (TEP) and Tracking of Emergency Clients (TEC – evacuee tracking) standard development.** Engage collaboration in the standards development process and promote effective and consistent use of HL7 concepts applicable to the development of OASIS EDXL-TEP, EDXL-TEC and others as applicable.
    - a. Facilitate common understanding of the intent of TEP as a standard for data exchange and input to incoming patient care.
    - b. Define and implement a process for collaboration between OASIS and HL7 in the development of the TEP standard.
    - c. Coordination of standards development activities including draft document review, ballot cycle coordination, comment disposition and sharing of implementation experience.
    - d. Identify the appropriate role of the HL7 RIM in the development and use of applicable OASIS EDXL standards and opportunities for HL7 / NEMESIS RIM and other vocabularies to fill the requirements of applicable OASIS message elements or constructs.
    - e. Identify the appropriate use of Healthcare Data Types in applicable OASIS EDXL standards based on ISO 21090 Health Informatics.
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- f. Provide opportunities for feedback and participation from the appropriate HL7 stakeholders communities in applicable OASIS EDXL standards.

**3. Facilitate TEP Recognition and Adoption.**

- a. Facilitate appropriate endorsement and/or recognition of the TEP standard, encouraging (among others) Hospitals and other definitive care providers to adopt and implement the TEP standard, and use that data in their existing applications to improve preparation for emergency patient definitive care. Facilitate appropriate level of collaboration and communication with HHS, facilitating support and communication.
  - i. Investigate the potential need and challenges to an agreement between DHS and HHS.
  - ii. Pursue common grant language across DHS and HHS

**4. Consistently support HIPAA and Privacy Requirements.** Assist in pro-actively addressing potential privacy concerns or perceptions, and address HIPAA requirements in the implementation of the standard. Review of the TEP / TEC standards should include opportunities for feedback and participation from both stakeholders' communities regarding assistance in pro-actively addressing potential privacy concerns or perceptions.

(NOTE: This is also a sub-task under the EDXL-TEC practitioner Steering Committee process)

- 5. **Outreach and education.** HL7 and OASIS members should actively seek other points of possible interoperability or mapping, and opportunities to collaborate in development of policy, procedures, adoption materials, whitepapers, presentations, conferences or other appropriate forms of guidance or communication to assist education, outreach, adoption and perceptions as they may exist.
- 6. **Standards Maintenance.** Investigation of the need for coordinated maintenance of the standards to ensure continued effective use.
  - a. Maintenance Agency (Normative elements in standards) and/or
  - b. a Registration Authority (implementation requires elements to be registered, but they are not part of the standard) Implementation of standard requires

**HEALTH LEVEL SEVEN  
INTERNATIONAL (HL7)**

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