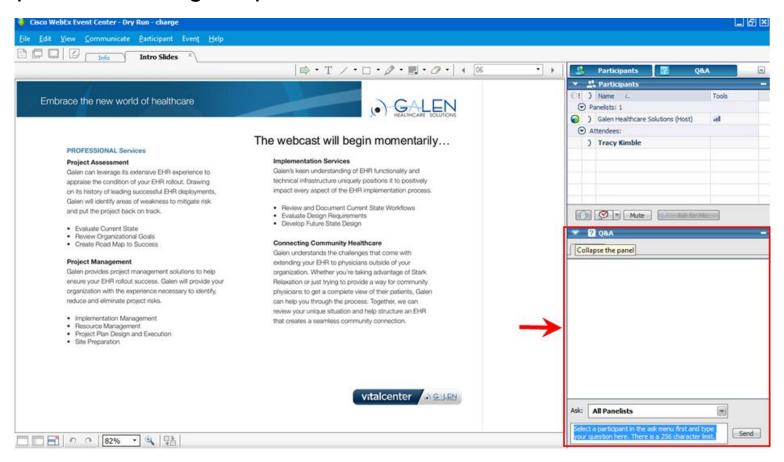


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# **HL7 Fundamentals**

Presented by: Kim Tremblay

February 2014





#### Welcome

- Background of HL7
- How does it work?
- Messages
  - Common message types
- Trigger Events
- Segments
  - Common segments
  - Repeating segments
- Delimiters
- Sample Message
- ACK and NACK
- Data Exchange Standards
- Future of HL7
- Steps to Successful Interface Development
- Q&A



#### What is HL7?

- Founded in 1987
- Health Level Seven (HL7) is an application protocol for exchanging healthcare data among different applications.
- The HL7 protocol is a collection of standard formats that support the implementation of interfaces between computer applications and different vendors.
- HL7's purpose is to facilitate communication and sharing of data in healthcare settings.
- The primary goal is to eliminate or substantially reduce the custom interface programming and program maintenance that may otherwise be required.



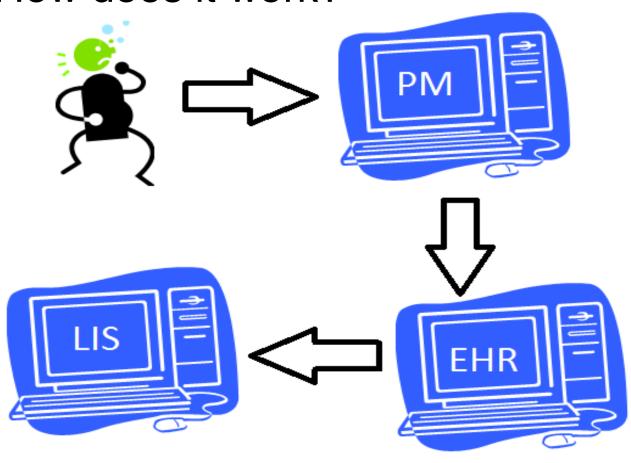


#### What is HL7?

- HL7 provides a method for disparate systems to communicate clinical and administration information in a normalized format with acknowledgement of receipt.
- HL7 was created as a framework for negotiation to enable independent systems to communicate with one another.
- Highly adaptable
- Allows many different types of systems to communicate via a base format



# How does it work?





## Messages

- Messages are the base format used for all HL7 communication
- Every message contains:
  - Message type
  - Segments
  - Fields
- Trigger event initiates an exchange of messages



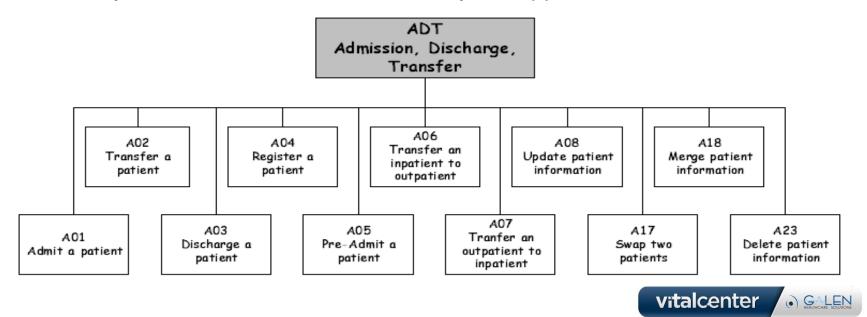
## Most Common Message Types

- ADT (Registering, admitting, updating, or discharging a patient)
- SIU (Scheduling)
- ORM (Order)
- ORU (Result)
- DFT (Charge)
- MFN (Dictionary updates)
- ACK (Acknowledgement)



## **Trigger Events**

- Each HL7 transaction set supports many different types of activities.
- These activities are referred to as 'events'.
- An event is used to identify what triggered the creation of the HL7 message.
- Quite often, an application that receives HL7 messages will use the event to identify how the data should be used by the application.





#### Segments

- Logical grouping of data fields
- May be required or optional
- There are over 120 types of segments that can be sent
- Each segment is given a name and three-character code
  - Example: Message Header (MSH), Event Type (EVN), Patient ID (PID)



#### Segments



MSH|^~\&|AHSADT|AHS|SMSADT|SMS|201312271@0|SECURITY|ADT^A01|MSG00001|P|2.3.1|

O

EVN | A01 | 201312271400 | | .

PID|||565256^^^GENHOS^MR~555-55-5625^^^US\$\A^S\$|253763|DOE^JOHN||19760306|

M|||276 EAST^^ALBANY^NY^12061^USA||(518)252-5344|



#### Common Segments

- MSH Message Header information about a message
- EVN Event Type event information
- PID Patient Identification information about a patient
- NK1 Next of Kin information about the patient's other related parties
- OBR Observation Request information about an order
- OBX Observation Report information about a result



## Repeating Segments

- Some segments such as OBX, NTE, or NK1 can be repeating
- An example is the NK1 segment which shows the next of kin/associated parties



#### **Delimiters**

- | Field Delimiter
- ^ Sub Field Delimiter
- & Sub-Sub Field Delimiter
- ~ Separator for Repeating Fields
- \- Escape Character



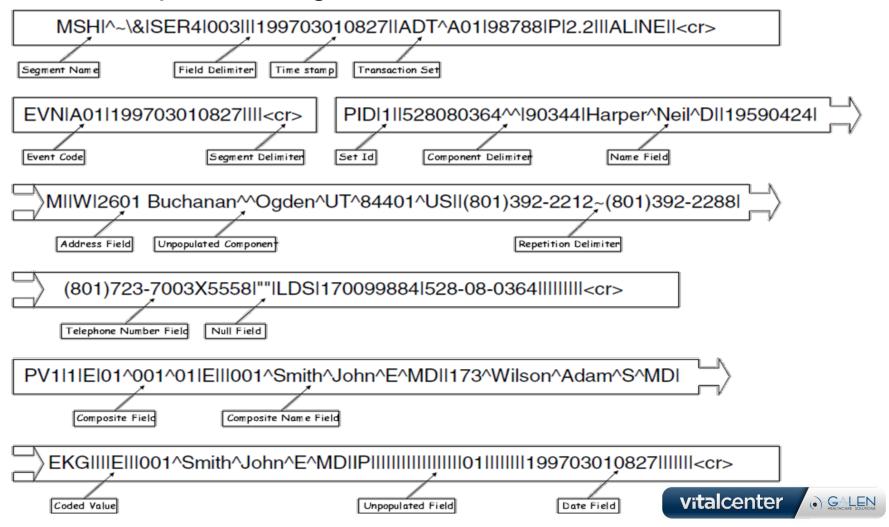
#### Characteristics of HL7 Messages

EVN|A04|20040301192350| PID|||H000000076||TESTCHRISTIANSEN^JOHN^||19931212|M|||1400 CHARLES PV1||O|HH.ADULT^^|ELE||^^|DEM^DEMING,RICHARD PD1||||DEM^DEMING,RICHARD E|| 😓 GT1|||TESTCHRISTIANSEN,JOHN||1400 CHARLES ST^^LOVES 📛 PARK^IL^61111|885-2277|||||SP|745-69-5847||| DG1||||TEST 🛑 IN1|1|MCR-A||MEDICARE|PO BOX 1602^^OMAHA^NE^68101||Y||||UNK|||||SP||||1||||||||||7896547 





## HL7 Sample Message





#### Mapping Example – Phone Number

- [34]-HomePhoneArea
  - Pce(Script InboundPhone(PID.1-[13]-Phone Number Home.1.1.0),-,1) | '0'
- [35]-HomePhoneExchange
  - Pce(Script InboundPhone(PID.1-[13]-Phone Number Home.1.1.0),-,2) | '0'
- [36]-HomePhoneLast4
  - Ext((Pce(Script InboundPhone(PID.1-[13]-Phone Number Home.1.1.0),-,3) | '0'),1,4)



#### ACK and NACK

 Every time an application accepts a message and processes the data it sends an Acknowledgement (ACK) back to the sending application.

MSH|^~\&||||SWA|201305221309||ACK|ADT1.1.9200|P|2.1|||| MSA|AA|ADT1.1.9198

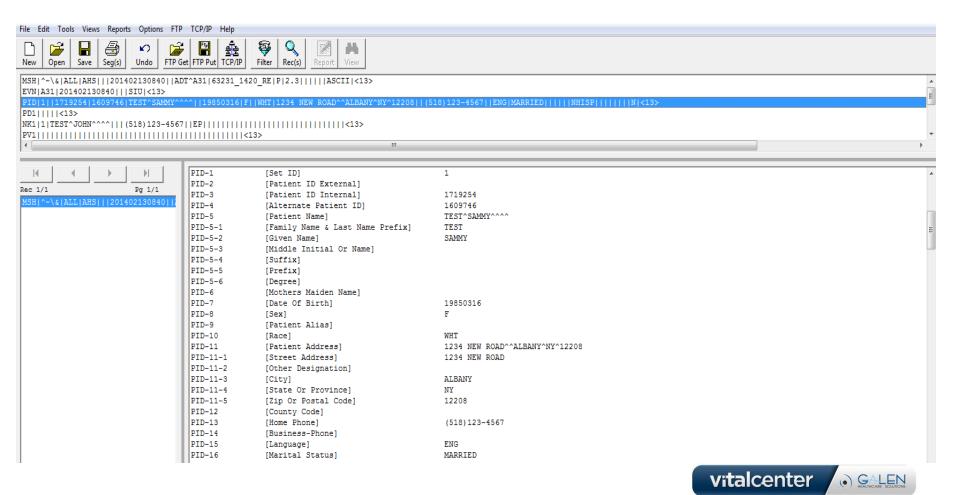
 A NACK is an ACK that contains an error that is sent back to the sending application.

MSH|^~\&||||201305221309||ACK|ADT1.1.9200|P|2.1|||| MSA|AE|000001 ERR|DRG\_DiagnosisRelatedGroupSegment^1^11^unexpected data found



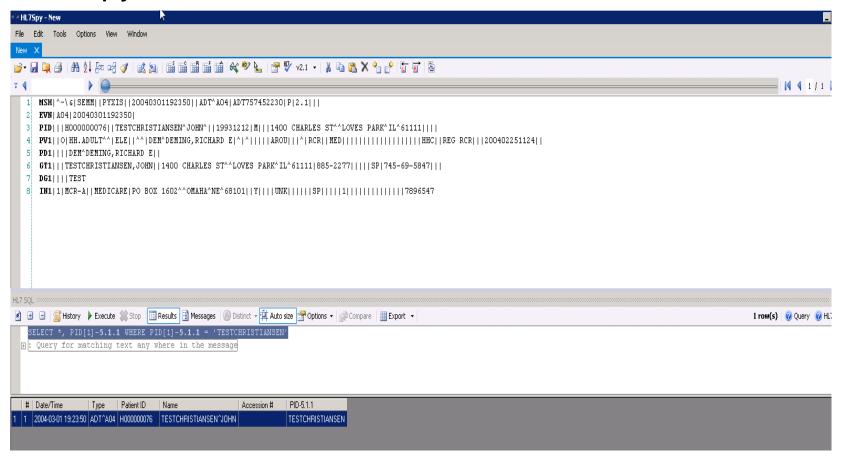


## Interface Explorer





## HL7 Spy

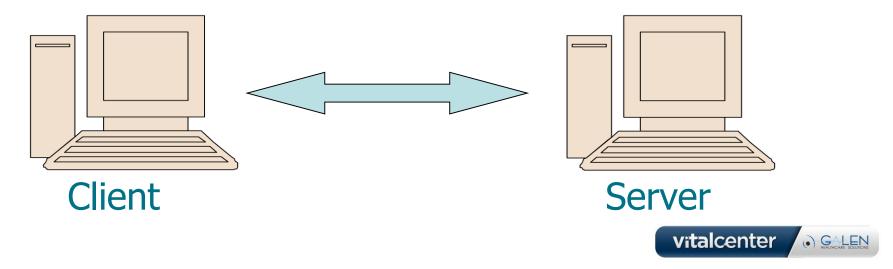






## Data Exchange Standards

- Typically moved via a network connection via TCP/IP
- One acts as the Client and the other acts as the Server.
- The Client will open a TCP/IP Socket with the Server.
- This connection will be exclusively used for these two systems to communicate.





#### Data Exchange Standards

 Once the TCP/IP Connection is established the sending system can deliver an HL7 message

```
MSH|^~\&||SEM|||200605221309||ADT^A04|ADT1.1.9198|P|2.1

EVN|A04|200605221309

PID|1||M000001327||TEST^RECURRING^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^^||^^^^||100000295

12|74

DG1|1|TX||PROTIMES

PV1|1|O|RCA^^||||TESTC^TEST^CAROL||TESTC^TEST^CAROL|||||||||RCR||U|||
```

 The receiving system will acknowledge the message using an ACK Message

```
MSH|^~\&||||SWA|200605221309||ACK|ADT1.1.9200|P|2.1|||| MSA|AA|ADT1.1.9198
```





## Data Exchange Standards

- The acknowledgment of the delivery of a message is a significant feature
- In the MSH of the sending message is a field called the Message Control ID (MCI).

```
MSH|^~\&||SEM|||200605221309||ADT^A04|ADT1.1.9198|P|2.1
EVN|A04|200605221309
PID|1||M000001327||TEST^RECURRING^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^^||19680215|F|^^^||19680215|F|^^^||19680215|F|^^^||19680215|F|^^^||19680215|F|^^^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||19680215|F|^||1968
```



## Other Data Exchange Methods

- Other methods can be used to deliver HL7 messages to the receiving system.
  - Send message via FTP
  - Download and copy to a shared folder
  - Batch mode



#### **Future**

- Version 2.x has been approved by ANSI since the early 90's and is used throughout the Healthcare industry almost exclusively.
- Version 3.x is a departure from the 2.x version in how the messages are formatted.
- Version 3.x is based on XML, which is a Web based language.
- XML CCD and Dictionary Updates



## XML Message

- <DictionaryEntry ID="93343:36">
- <Name>Other abdominal pain-R10.8</Name>
- <Code>R10.8</Code>
- <DxCode>R10.8</DxCode>
- <LastUpdate>ICD10 Upload</LastUpdate>
- <CreDt ID="63223">02/05/2014</CreDt>
- <CreTm>10:42AM</CreTm>
- <Crelni>KAT</Crelni>
- <UpdDt ID="63223">02/05/2014</UpdDt>
- <UpdTm>10:42AM</UpdTm>
- <UpdUsername>DGS</UpdUsername>
- <IcdCmDescription>Other abdominal pain/IcdCmDescription>
- <ld><lcdCmCode>R10.8</lcdCmCode></ld>
- <ld><lcdCmVersion>10</lcdCmVersion></ld>
- <VerNum>1</VerNum>
- <DeletedFlag></DeletedFlag>
- <IDXDictionaryInternalNumber>36</IDXDictionaryInternalNumber>
- <IDXDictEntryInternalNumber>93343</IDXDictEntryInternalNumber>
- </DictionaryEntry>





## Steps to Successful Interface Development

- Introductory Calls
- Calls to Vendors and Spec Exchange
- Kickoff Meeting
- Gap Analysis
- Plan Interface Design
- Build Interface in Test/Dev
- Deploy to Test
- Test Interface with Real Messages
- Was the Test Successful?
- Go-Live Prep
- Go-Live
- Was Live Testing Successful
- Post-Live Monitoring





# Q&A





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