



First Flight Venture Center
2 Davis Drive, P.O. Box 12076
Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709

info@mi-corporation.com
www.mi-corporation.com
Tel 919.485.4819 • Fax 919.485.0621

Mi-Co's Ongoing Support for HL7 Protocols

Background on Health Level 7 (HL7)

Health Level Seven (HL7) is one of the ANSI (American National Standards Institute)-accredited Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) operating in the healthcare arena. SDO organizations in the health care arena generally produce standards for a particular domain such as pharmacy, medical devices, or insurance claims processing transactions. Health Level Seven's domain is clinical and administrative data.

The mission of Health Level Seven as stated on their web site is to: *"To provide standards for the exchange, management and integration of data that support clinical patient care and the management, delivery and evaluation of healthcare services. Specifically, to create flexible, cost effective approaches, standards, guidelines, methodologies, and related services for interoperability between healthcare information systems."*

Health Level Seven is a not-for-profit volunteer organization. Its membership which includes providers, technology vendors like Mi-Co, payers, consultants, government groups and others interested in the development and advancement of clinical and administrative standards for healthcare, develop the standards. Because the healthcare vertical is one of the key markets for Mi-Co software, Mi-Co staff has invested time and effort to ensure a thorough understanding of these standards by forming the HL7 Project Team

Mi-Co Membership in HL7 and Training

Mi-Co is pleased to be a member of the HL7 organization (see <http://www.hl7.org/>) As an active member, Mi-Co staff stay current on HL7 standards activities, has voting privileges on HL7 standards that are balloted by the general membership and may serve on HL7 technical committees and special interest groups.

Additionally, the Mi-Co HL7 Project Team, under the leadership of Senior Programmer Chris D stay current on HL7 activities through these activities plus formal training. The most recent training attended by Mi-Co staff was the extensive HL7 Control Certification Program and Test. Through successfully completing the course work and demonstrating a high level of knowledge through the testing in this program, Chris DiPierro, Mi-Co's HL7 Project Director attained the distinction of being certified as an HL7 V2.4 Control Specialist.

As part of the certification program, DiPierro completed three courses on HL7 including a course on Version 2 Implementation Control Review and another course on Version 2 Implementation Using the Messaging Workbench Tool. These courses were conducted by the Education Committee of the Health Level Seven Board of Directors.

The Mi-Co Project Team is also trained and has extensive programming experience with XML (Extensible Mark up Language), a powerful tool for the representation of health data including HL7 Version 3.0. Because of the importance of XML, the Mi-Co Project Team closely monitors the output from the two key committees on XML, the XML Special Interest Group (which provides specific recommendations on use of XML standards for HL7's) and the Structured Documents Technical Committee that, as its name implies, looks carefully at structured document standards for healthcare.

Mi-Co's Work with Specific Implementations

Because of Mi-Co's continuing work in the health care market segment, including providing products and services to the second largest teaching hospital in the US, Mi-Co continues to increase its working knowledge of HL7. If a specific implementation of the mobile data capture software from Mi-Co, the Mi-Forms Software System requires HL7 support, Mi-Co staff is prepared to review your specific implementations, templates and definitions and to discuss in detail where you are on the adoption curve regarding both Version 2.X and Version 3.

Since one of the prime objectives of HL7 is to simplify the implementation of interfaces between healthcare software applications and various vendors, Mi-Co's datapath technology (designed to send information from Mi-Forms to back end data bases and other processes) supports that objective through the seamless integration of the Mi-Forms System with the HL7. Mi-Co's commitment to the health care industry and HL7 will continue because the health care market is one of Mi-Co's most successful and our customers often require our implementations to adhere to that particular organization's implementation of HL7.