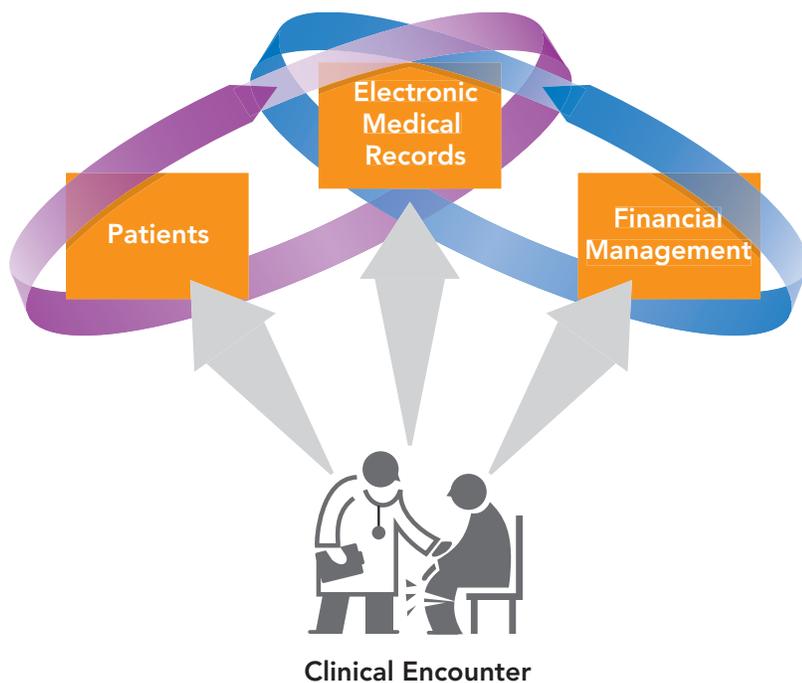


# Standards Leaders Collaborate to Create Interoperable Healthcare Infrastructure.

A few years down the road, the way we manage our health information could change. Imagine that you have a family history of heart disease and personally have many risk factors for developing the condition. You want to learn more about ways of preventing the condition, so you visit your networked personal health portal, a website that maintains your electronic medical information in a personal health record (PHR) and provides information about a variety of health concerns and conditions.



After reading up on the condition, you decide to begin a self-imposed regimen of low-dose aspirin. You navigate to a screen within your PHR where you enter information about over-the-counter medicines you are taking and record your intention to start low-dose aspirin.

After entering your information, you receive a drug interaction alert from the system telling you to avoid aspirin and to consult with your doctor. You had forgotten that you had experienced a bad reaction to aspirin as a child. Thankfully, the system is tied into a network that includes your provider's EHR system, where your medical history is stored, preventing a potentially adverse reaction.

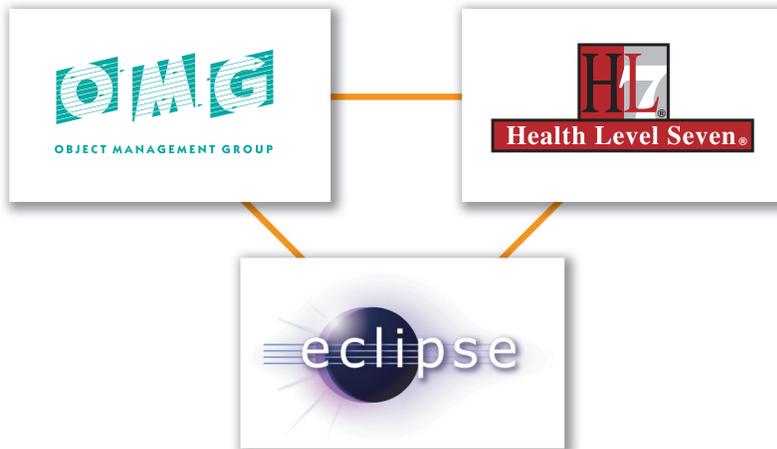
Your provider's EHR systems have access to your electronically available medical history and can instantly give alerts on drug interactions because in the year 2006, the US took action spurring the healthcare industry to rally around a set of commercial open standards. These

***Interoperability this broad and seamless can only come from a comprehensive and capable infrastructure of industry standards.***

standards allow their software to interoperate, performing functions such as identifying you, locating your information and retrieving it with your consent. This interoperability is the backbone of the electronic personal health record.

Interoperability this broad and seamless can only come from a comprehensive and capable infrastructure of industry standards. To provide the maximum benefit to healthcare workers and patients, applications built on this foundation must reflect and extend the way they work now; the IT architecture and standards must build on existing, proven technology; and the quality of the implementations must exceed the state-of-the-art. It will take a unique and diverse set of talents to produce the set

The Healthcare Services Specification Project (HSSP), is a collaboration of these three industry leaders:



This collaboration provides a business-focused approach to healthcare's technical challenges that no health industry standards organization could accomplish on its own.

of standards and the implementations that will bring them to market.

Health Level 7 (HL7) and the Object Management Group (OMG) have formed an unprecedented collaboration, the **Healthcare Services Specification Project (HSSP)**, to address these problems. They are leveraging their years of accumulated healthcare experience and information technology standardization practice to define the standards needed to integrate healthcare information throughout the industry with the accuracy that users need, and the security that regulations require. The Eclipse Foundation is an active participant in the HSSP. The Eclipse Foundation is contributing their

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experience in industrial-strength open source implementations to the project with the commitment to facilitate open-source reference implementations of specifications that come from the HL7/OMG collaboration.

These established successful organizations are pooling their talents and industry depth in solving interoperability problems to meet these challenges. This collaboration provides a business-focused approach to healthcare's technical challenges that no health industry standards organization could accomplish on its own. Born as a result of national and international interest, HSSP is actively supported by healthcare industry heavyweights including Kaiser-Permanente, the Veterans Health Administration Office of Information, the MedicAlert Foundation, the Mayo Clinic, and many others.

The HSSP solution leverages the strengths of existing technologies and standards. It adds new standards where necessary to complete an interoperable healthcare infrastructure ready to support the ever-growing patient load and the demands of tomorrow's advanced medical technology. HSSP improves on traditional approaches due to its focus on real-world solutions and not academic perfection.

The HSSP is underway now; HL7, OMG, and Eclipse are hard at work identifying the key software components, adopting corresponding standards, and producing the reference implementations. If you work in the healthcare or IT industries, you're welcome to join us. If you're in a position to help, we welcome your support.

The **OMG** writes and adopts the standards that integrate business, data, and application modeling with today's environment of XML and Web Services. OMG members have been writing healthcare-domain standards for almost ten years.

**HL7**, the preeminent healthcare industry standards organization, already defines how healthcare information is exchanged and managed; its specification of additional services will complete the interoperable environment the industry requires.

The **Eclipse Foundation** produces an open-source, multi-platform, multi-vendor extensibility framework that extends from interactive modeling and development environments to application components. Eclipse projects build on this framework in many areas including healthcare.

**To find out more about the project, and how you can participate or help out, go to <http://www.omg.org/hssp> or email [hssp@hl7.org](mailto:hssp@hl7.org) or [hssp@omg.org](mailto:hssp@omg.org).**