

Press Information

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Philips and Health Language team up to advance semantic interoperability in healthcare

Companies present prototype solution focusing on language standardization at HIMSS 2007

Vienna, Austria – Royal Philips Electronics (AEX: PHI, NYSE: PHG) and Health Language, Inc. (HLI), have launched a technology initiative to advance speech recognition-powered system interoperability in healthcare. The companies aim to automate the conversion of free text into consistent medical terminology, to enable direct storage in the electronic medical record (EMR). This will increase patient safety by providing physicians with a central, reliable source of medical information. At HIMSS 2007, booth #6137, (New Orleans, LA, 2/25 – 3/1/2007) the companies are showcasing a prototype solution which extracts information from freely dictated text and allocates it to the corresponding fields in the EMR.

Interop 6.1 extracts findings, diagnoses, drugs, allergies and other relevant information from dictated reports. Subsequently, the information is formatted for upload to the EMR. The solution generates codes that support the classification of medical conditions and the structuring of clinical data, such as the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes and the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED) codes.

Interop 6.1 also identifies medical terms from the history of present illnesses (HPI) to be indexed in the EMR. The indexed terms can be used for statistical evaluation, thus helping to improve hospital procedures related to patient safety, medication and continuity of care.

“Healthcare communities need to enable the interoperation of existing systems and augment them with new integrated solutions focused on the patient” said Marcel Wassink, managing director for Philips Speech Recognition Systems. “The ability to exchange data accurately, effectively and consistently is key to eliminating cross-organizational boundaries and ensure the uniform and secure availability of critical information. This will eliminate documentation errors and improve the quality of care.”

Recent reports on the alarming rate of medical errors have raised the consciousness of the medical industry to this crisis. A primary cause of medical errors is misinterpretation of patient data. A standardized medical language can help reduce those errors. HLI's enabling technology automates the incorporation of controlled medical terminology (CMT) and coding standards in healthcare IT applications.

“Due to the lack of adequate support systems, most clinicians still practice memory-based medicine with wide variances in diagnoses, treatments and outcomes. Although the EMR provides physicians with a reliable source of patient information, only one out of five US physicians are currently using one. With our technology initiative, we hope to drive the adoption of the EMR by providing tools that significantly ease interaction with the system, as well as the processing of data,” said George Schwend, CEO, Health Language.

Philips and Health Language, two highly experienced companies, have set out to provide easy-to-use tools for greater documentation accuracy. Philips document creation platform SpeechMagic is installed at more than 8,000 professional sites in 45 nations, it supports 23 speech recognition languages and provides more than 150 specific recognition vocabularies. HLI's Language Engine™ is built on experience gathered from projects with leading healthcare IT providers as well as major healthcare organizations such as the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

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About Royal Philips Electronics

Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHI) is a global leader in healthcare, lifestyle and technology, delivering products, services and solutions through the brand promise of "sense and simplicity." Headquartered in the Netherlands, Philips employs approximately 121,700 employees in more than 60 countries worldwide. With sales of USD 34 billion (EUR 27 billion) in 2006, the company is a market leader in medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring systems, energy efficient lighting solutions, personal care and home appliances, as well as consumer electronics. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter.

About Health Language Inc.

Aurora, Colo.-based Health Language, Inc. (HLI), develops and delivers state-of-the-art software solutions that automatically incorporate medical vocabulary and coding standards into healthcare information technology (HCIT) applications. HLI's Language Engine (LE) allows centralized access to medical terminology standards and generates mappings to create a common pool of standardized codes and concepts that enhance patient safety, facilitate clinical outcomes analysis and accelerate reimbursement. It also provides standards for modeling, storing, updating and distributing information consistently for interoperability between hospitals, regions and countries. LE solutions seamlessly integrate with EMRs for clients such as Cerner, McKesson, Misys, Partners Healthcare and Great Britain's National Health Service. For more information, visit www.healthlanguage.com.