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Most Healthcare IT Professionals Understand Relationship Of Health Data Issues And Improved Patient Safety

Health Language Unveils 2nd Annual HIMSS Survey Findings

Aurora, Colorado – April 12, 2001 – Misinterpretation of patient records and data continues to be a leading cause of decreased patient safety, according to a healthcare industry survey released today by Health Language, Inc.

The survey of 609 attendees at the 2001 Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Conference, February 5th through 9th, in New Orleans, LA, showed that 98% of respondents believe misinterpretation of patient data to be “very” or “somewhat” likely to be a leading cause of medical errors. The survey sample included healthcare professionals and executives; healthcare information technology managers and vendors; and health organization executives. A brief summary of the findings from respondents in the HIMSS survey include the following:

- Virtually all respondents (98%) believe that medical errors are caused by misinterpretation of language between providers, with about half feeling that misinterpretation is a leading cause of these errors (i.e. Very Much). This is virtually identical to last year’s findings (97%).
- Most believe that standardized terminology would be instrumental in reducing error and inefficiency (99%), a large increase from last year’s findings (74%)
- Almost all think that standardized medical terminology would improve the tracking of clinical outcomes (98%) and assist in measuring provider performance (93%), results which are identical to last year’s findings. All (100%) also believe that tracking clinical outcomes would advance medical science, a significant increase from last year’s findings (68%).
- When asked about their familiarity with efforts to standardize medical language, most respondents said they are at least “somewhat familiar” with these products (75%). The standards familiar to most are ICD-9 (60%), CPT-4 (63%), and SNOMED (39%). Interestingly, percentages dropped from the previous year (77%, 61% and 40% respectively) whereas familiarity with emergent technology, such as Cyber+LE (14%), has increased overall (from 6% last year).

For a copy of HLI’s 2nd Annual HIMSS Survey report, please email survey@healthlanguage.com

About Health Language Inc.

*Health Language, Inc. is a software infrastructure company that services the healthcare industry. Cyber+LE, the company's Web-enabled product, creates a common medical index across disparate healthcare information systems, allowing for comprehensive integrated and intelligent management of all health data. Health Language, based in Aurora, Colorado, is a **CyberPlus Company** (www.cyberplus.com). Further information on Health Language, Inc is available at www.healthlanguage.com or by calling 303-307-4400.*

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