

# News Release



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## **McKesson Enhances Clinical Knowledge Management Strategy** *Agreements Announced with SNOMED, Health Language*

**ATLANTA, July 9, 2003** — As the next step in its strategy to utilize industry-standard tools for clinical knowledge management, McKesson Information Solutions announced today that it will incorporate solutions from SNOMED<sup>®</sup> International and Health Language, Inc., into its Horizon Clinicals<sup>™</sup> suite. Horizon Clinicals is McKesson's next-generation, integrated offering for physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other clinicians across a variety of care settings. The addition of SNOMED terminology and Health Language's software and services advance McKesson's strategy of offering clinicians integrated and customizable solutions that help to increase healthcare quality and efficiency, improve patient safety, and reduce costs.

McKesson's clinical knowledge management strategy integrates industry-standard content, terminologies, code sets, treatment guidelines and local content to deliver appropriate information to clinicians when and where they need it for decision making. A core component of McKesson's strategy is Horizon Knowledge Center<sup>™</sup>, a robust library of clinical terms, protocols, diagnostically appropriate order sets, rules, treatment advisors and reference information. This clinical content is delivered through Horizon Architecture<sup>™</sup>, enabling organizations to leverage both standardized and local knowledge and readily adapt it to their specific clinical needs. The combination of content and technology provides clinicians with the information they need as part of their existing workflow. As a result, clinicians are better prepared to make well-informed decisions as they deliver care.

"McKesson is committed to providing standards-based, yet flexible, knowledge management tools designed to enable better care," said Gene Markiewicz, McKesson's senior vice president for Horizon Clinicals. "Incorporating SNOMED CT content and Health

Language's services into our existing knowledge management framework positions us to deliver those kinds of adaptive solutions across our applications and across settings of care."

According to Tom Handler, M.D., a healthcare research director with Gartner, knowledge management is a critical component in the successful deployment of advanced clinical applications. "It is not simply enough to provide content as an adjunct to an application," said Handler. "To make an impact on clinical quality, clinical knowledge must be managed and presented as a part of the application workflow. It has to be relevant to the clinician at the point of care."

The Department of Health and Human Services announced an agreement last week with the College of American Pathologists to make SNOMED available without charge throughout the United States as part of the ongoing effort to develop the National Health Information Infrastructure. SNOMED Clinical Terms (CT) provides consistent, logical definitions for clinical concepts that enable decision support and outcomes analysis to support more effective care delivery. Health Language software and services will support the integration and delivery of a coordinated set of industry standard and customer-specific clinical knowledge. McKesson's use of SNOMED CT is consistent with its overall knowledge management strategy to incrementally implement health data standards in a flexible and extensible way to help improve care delivery. McKesson will incorporate SNOMED CT along with the existing knowledge assets of First DataBank and nursing-specific content to deliver the most value to its customers.

Dick Gibson, M.D., chief medical information officer for Providence Health System, Portland, Ore., applauded the government's announcement and commended McKesson for its ongoing commitment to the use of industry standards. "A SNOMED foundation for the data elements collected by our clinical information system is critical for supporting clinicians when they make decisions at the point of care," said Gibson. "The use of standard terminology should make our systems smarter and faster, guiding clinicians to deliver superior evidence-based care that results in better outcomes. And the timing of SNOMED availability couldn't be better – with clinical decision support and computerized physician order entry now being deployed across the country, we need to turn our attention to building the decision rules that will reshape healthcare practice in America."

***About McKesson***

McKesson Information Solutions is the leader in helping healthcare organizations worldwide provide quality care in the most cost-effective manner possible. Healthcare organizations use our comprehensive software and service solutions to improve patient safety, reduce the cost and variability of care, and better manage their revenue stream and resources. For more information, call 1-800-981-8601 or visit the Information Solutions section of our Web site at <http://www.mckesson.com>. McKesson Information Solutions is part of McKesson Corporation, which ranks No. 20 in the 2003 Fortune 500 with annual revenues of more than \$57 billion for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003.

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