



Principles of Health Interoperability HL7 and SNOMED (Health Information Technology Standards)

By Tim Benson

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Health information technology (HIT) promises to deliver the right information at the right time and the right place. Everybody (patient, clinician, manager and payer) stands to benefit from more soundly based decisions, safer care and less waste, errors, delays and duplicated efforts.

This depends on us using computers to share information and make it available when and where it is needed in a way that meets privacy requirements. We need to use appropriate standards to link systems together within and across organizations.

Health Level 7 (HL7) and SNOMED CT are two of the key international standards, which underpin efforts to improve health care interoperability. HL7 provides the structure, rather like English grammar, while SNOMED CT provides words that computers can understand.

This book provides an introduction to healthcare interoperability in general, and these standards in particular, setting out the core principles in a clear readable way for analysts, students and clinicians to understand.

The second edition of this book has been completely revised and extended by four chapters, with new chapters on Privacy and IHE XDS (Cross-enterprise Document Sharing), clinical coding schemes and the SNOMED Concept Model. The book is organized in three parts. The first part covers the principles of health care interoperability, why it matters, why it is hard and why modelling is an important part of the solution. The second part covers the main HL7 standards: Version 2, Version 3 and CDA standards and related IHE profiles. The third part covers clinical terminology and SNOMED CT.

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By Tim Benson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #571126 in Books
- Published on: 2012-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .81" w x 6.10" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 316 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Interoperability between healthcare computer systems depends on us developing, implementing and deploying appropriate standards, such as HL7 and SNOMED CT, working together as a tightly specified language. The documentation of HL7 and SNOMED runs to tens of thousands of pages and creates a steep learning curve and barrier to entry. Principles of Health Interoperability HL7 and SNOMED provides a clear introduction to these standards, explaining the core principles for the health IT professional, student, clinician and healthcare manager.

About the Author

Tim Benson graduated from the University of Nottingham as a mechanical engineer and was introduced to healthcare computing at the Charing Cross Hospital in London (now part of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust), where he evaluated the socio-economic benefits of medical computing systems. In 1980 he founded Abies Informatics Ltd, one of the first GP computer suppliers where, with James Read and David Markwell, they developed the Read Codes, which evolved to become the national standard for UK primary care and one of the two sources of SNOMED CT. In 1990 he led the first European project team to assess the need for open standards in health informatics, which led to the European Committee for Health Informatics Standards (CEN TC251) and two decades of work on interoperability standards and collaboration with HL7.

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Users Review

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Elizabeth Brown:

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Shane Ward:

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Billy Shaner:

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