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October 9, 2008

Landen Bain  
Liaison to Healthcare  
CDISC  
15907 Two Rivers Cove  
Austin, TX 78717

Dear Landen:

The HIMSS Electronic Health Record (EHR) Association is a trade association of Electronic Health Record (EHR) companies, addressing national efforts to create interoperable EHRs in hospital and ambulatory care settings. The EHR Association operates on the premise that the rapid, widespread adoption of EHRs will help improve the quality of patient care as well as the productivity and sustainability of the healthcare system.

The EHR Association is comprised of industry experts in the field of healthcare information technology with a broad scope of expertise such as medical and clinical informaticists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and technology experts who not only represent the EHR software industry but also interact and represent the entire healthcare community.

The association is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and operates as an independent organizational unit within HIMSS for companies who are EHR software solution providers. The EHR Association helps HIMSS establish its strategic direction and official positions on issues related to the electronic health record.

The EHR Association supports the use of the IHE Integration Profile Retrieve Form for Data-capture (RFD), as an effective first step in integrating EHR and clinical research systems. We welcome the cooperation of CDISC, a standards development organization in the clinical trial space, with IHE in developing integration use cases for clinical research data capture using the RFD profile. The use of this approach benefits the sites in the following ways:

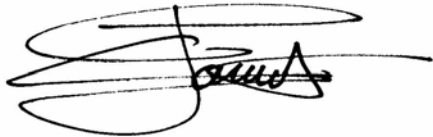
- RFD extends the benefits of EHR data beyond the walls of the hospital or ambulatory site out into the full continuum of the healthcare research community striving to improve the quality of human life. It expands the use of EHRs in clinical research and further promotes the adoption of EHRs.
- The use of RFD facilitates site participation in clinical trials. Patient care sites that have EHRs will be able to input clinical research data into one system. Typically this is not the case today, as many sites have to enter research data into one or more stand-alone data capture systems. We support testing RFD interoperability at the IHE Connectathon and a joint demonstration with the clinical research community at the HIMSS 2009 Interoperability Showcase.

- The use of RFD will improve data quality. Since data is entered only once, and in some cases data will automatically populate from the EHR, redundant data entry will be reduced and the quality of data will improve.
- RFD will continue to reduce redundant work. RFD is not a static approach, but will continue to improve. Future applications will provide for better drug safety reporting and greater workflow integration with research protocols.
- As a bridge between the Healthcare IT and Clinical Research realms, RFD strengthens EHR Association's mission of not only representing the needs of the EHR software industry but also, the broader scope of medical, clinical, and technological participants in the healthcare community.

Many healthcare sites would like to participate in clinical research for the betterment of health science. If this participation is to be feasible to the sites, the burden of participation must be eased. RFD, collaboration between healthcare IT and clinical research sponsors, will open the door to widespread, cost-effective clinical research participation.

We offer ourselves as a resource and thank you for the opportunity to provide input in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Parisot', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Charles Parisot,  
Chair, EHRA Standards & Interoperability Work Group

cc: Justin Barnes  
Andy Ury  
Davin Hills  
Gail Arnett  
Jeff David

#### About HIMSS EHR Association

HIMSS EHR Association is a trade association of Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendors that join together to lead the health information technology industry in the accelerated adoption of EHRs in hospital and ambulatory care settings in the US. Representing a substantial portion of the installed EHR systems in the US, the association provides a forum for the vendor community to speak with a unified voice relative to standards development, the EHR certification process, interoperability, performance and quality measures, and other EHR issues as they become subject to increasing government, insurance and provider driven initiatives and requests. Membership is open to HIMSS corporate members with legally formed companies designing, developing and marketing their own commercially available EHRs with installations in the US. The association, comprised of more than 40 member companies, is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and operates as an organizational unit within HIMSS. For more information, visit <http://www.himssehra.org>.