



Health Information Technology: The Basics

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What is the purpose of collecting the information?

- “If it is not written down, it did not happen”
 - *Attributed to various sources during the medieval ages*
- *“If all pertinent negatives were recorded along with positive findings, the record would exceed 700 pages single spaced”*

IOM

1971

- *To support the billing processes*
 - Attributed to a large number liability defense attorneys*

As the practice of medicine becomes more specialized, communication between disciplines becomes logarithmically more complex.

- The number in generalist practices are declining apparently.
- Some markets lack of standardization of this communication
- Manufacturers output frequently is proprietary

The Boston Massachusetts Experience



Ancillary Services

- Laboratory data in one form
- Radiology data in different forms (DCOS)
- EKG data displayed in high quality graphs



Solutions:

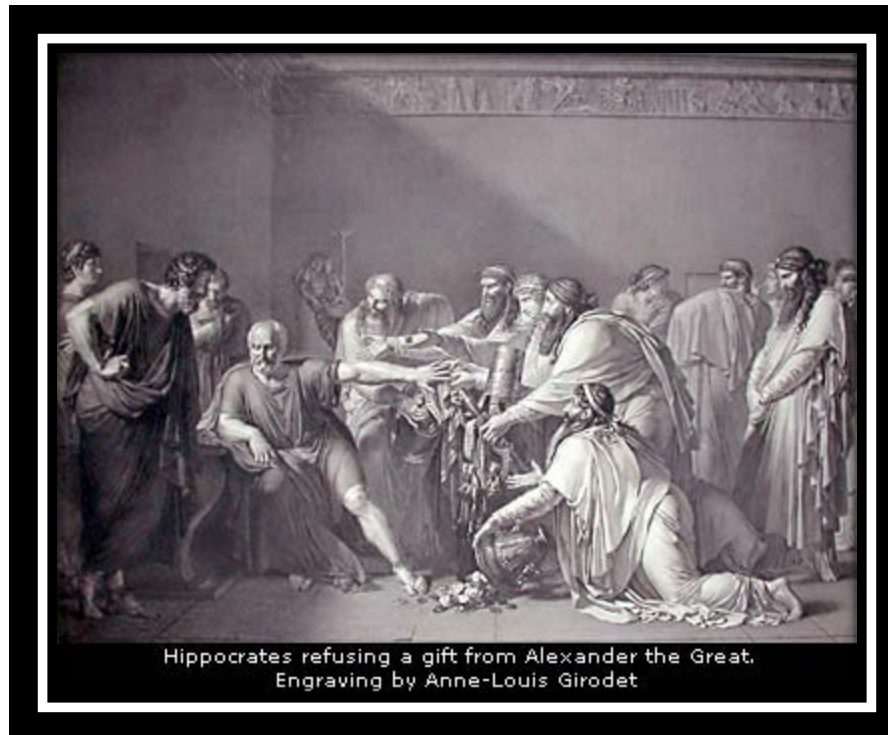
The HL7 Interface

Origin

- HL7 was founded in 1987 to produce a standard for hospital information systems. HL7, Inc. is a standards organization that was accredited in 1994 by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).^[5]
- HL7 is one of several American National Standards Institute accredited Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) operating in the healthcare arena. Most SDOs produce standards (sometimes called specifications or protocols) for a particular healthcare domain such as pharmacy, medical devices, imaging or insurance (claims processing) transactions. Health Level Seven's domain is clinical and administrative data.
- Today, HL7 has been adopted by several national SDOs outside the United States. Those SDOs are consequently not accredited by ANSI. However, HL7 is now adopted by ISO as a centre of gravity in international standardization and accredited as a partnering organization for mutual issuing of standards. The first mutually published standard is ISO/HL7 21731:2006 Health informatics—HL7 version 3—Reference information model—Release 1.

Doctors have embraced technology since the days of Hippocrates

- New instruments
- New test
- New Methods



But there must be a rationale to accept this.

- Coercion by government
- Punishment by the church
- Changing social morays
- Seldom is altruism the sole attraction towards adoption
- “Doing it because it the right thing to do:”

Sen. H. Clinton, President B. Obama, Speaker Newt Gingrich 2003

IOM Study

- Now coming under fire as non-reproducible
- May not affect medical error rates when subjected to double blind independent testing.
- Probably different errors in different practices

Moving Targets


R U S H
MOVING PICTURES



Maybe the old ways are best



Allegedly attributed to Charles Darwin



...be careful what you wish for,
lest it come true...

Monkey's Paw

Edgar Allen Poe