



GE Medical Systems

Legal Operations

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August 29, 2002

VIA FAX

Wes Rishel
Chairman, Board of Directors
Health Level Seven, Inc.
3300 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 227
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-677-6622 (fax)

Re: U.S. Patent No. 5,995,937, entitled "Modular Health-Care Information Management System Utilizing Reusable Software Objects";
U.S. Patent No. 6,314,556, entitled "Modular Health Care Information Management System Utilizing Reusable Software Objects"

Dear Wes:

This is a follow up to our conversation and our counsel's letter dated June 14, 2002 regarding the above two patents. GE Medical Systems believes strongly in the mission of Health Level Seven, Inc. ("HL7"), and in fact, GE is a benefactor of and very active in HL7. GE also values its intellectual property rights. The purpose of this letter is to clarify GE's position with respect to the patents owned by GE, as those patents relate to HL7 standards.

The primary purpose of the letter was to provide HL7 with notice of GE's patents that may relate to the HL7 standard, as standard setting organizations frequently require disclosure of any patents that may cover implementations of a standard. GE wished to provide its patent information to HL7 as soon as possible to avoid any appearance that GE desired to avoid disclosing the patents to HL7. Some courts have held that certain actions, such as failing to disclose ownership of patents covering a proposed standard, may raise defenses to later claims of patent infringement. GE did not and does not wish to in any way act unfairly; nor does it wish to lose any of its patent rights.

We asked HL7 to provide GE with any information or prior art that may affect the validity of these patents. We understand that HL7 does not wish to expend resources looking for prior art. We hereby retract our request that you do so. GE has also listened to your clients concerns regarding the licensing of the patents. Rest assured that a licensing program would be made available



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under reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination. Presently, GE is considering all of its options with respect to the patents.

GE desires to keep the lines of communication open with HL7 on the topic of these patents. Also, thanks for your approval to communicate with you directly on this matter. Feel free to contact me to discuss any questions you or your client may have

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Conroy

cc: John Poser, Esq. ([via email](#))
Jason E. Pauls, Esq. (via email)