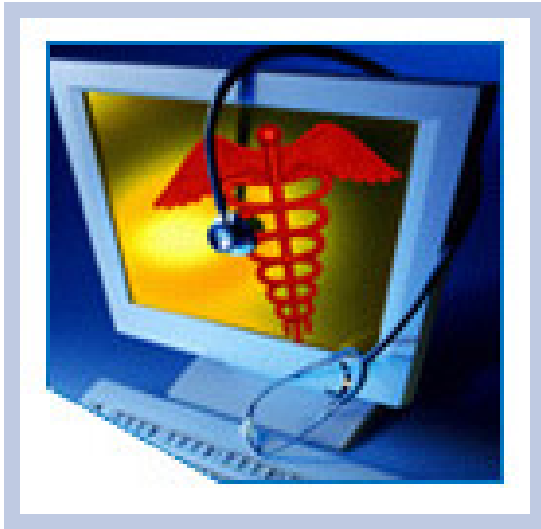


November 24, 2008

HITSP Versioning Verbiage



Submitted to:

Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel



HITSP Versioning Verbiage
Reference
20081124

NOTE: Regarding version numbers for the HITSP Interoperability Specifications (and underlying constructs called Components, Transactions or Transaction Packages):

- As the HITSP documents are being developed by the six Technical Committees, version numbers are assigned for tracking the documents through the HITSP Interoperability Specification lifecycle.
- When the Technical Committee completes the working draft of a document, it is published on the hitsp.org public web site as a Review Copy and is made available for public comment. Comments that are submitted within the four-week comment period are dispositioned by the appropriate Technical Committee. The document is then released to be approved by the Panel. Upon approval of the document by the Panel, the version number is updated and the document is posted on hitsp.org as Released for Implementation.
- When a HITSP document is in a state of Released for Implementation, Healthcare Information Technology (HIT) developers are encouraged to begin implementation. The American Health Information Community (AHIC) also recommends the document to the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary for Acceptance. Once Accepted, the document undergoes testing for a year before it is presented to the ONC/HHS for Recognition. Upon Recognition, the HITSP document is named in the Federal Register Notice.
- HITSP has two versions of public documents – major versions and minor versions
 - Major versions increment on significant change, e.g., the scope or intent of the document has been changed; referenced standards have versioned; changes in a fundamental method of execution (of a transaction)
 - Minor versions increment when there have been editorial or typographic corrections applied to documents but do not change the scope and intent as well as when minor technical corrections are noted, e.g., an incorrect value was transcribed from a referenced specific
- The HITSP documents use a **M.m.w** structure for version numbering.
 - M** – Denotes the version number that is incremented for HITSP Interoperability Specification documents that have *major* changes
 - m** – Denotes the version number that is incremented for HITSP Interoperability Specification documents that have *minor* changes
 - w** – Denotes the version number that is incremented with each working draft or Review Copy that is produced by the Technical Committees.
- HITSP Interoperability Specifications that are approved by the panel to be Released for Implementation to the public present a **M.m** structure for publication versioning, e.g., 1.1, 2.0, 2.1.
- Review Copy documents will have versions such as 1.2.5 (to indicate the fifth version of development edits applied since Version 1.2 was published). Upon completion of the current edit



cycle, the document will advance to Version 1.3 if the edits are *minor* or editorial, or will advance to Version 2.0 if the edits represent a *major* change since prior publication.

- HITSP documents will be Accepted or Recognized based on version numbers at the major version level (for example, Version 3) and any *minor* version increments will be considered Accepted or Recognized as well. These minor version increments will contain only changes of a *minor or technical nature or editorial changes* and an implementer should refer to the document with the highest major and minor version increment available to-date for direction on implementation.
- This versioning method allows HITSP to make *minor* version increments to a document without having an impact on the Federal Register Notice content. Any change to the *requirements* within the construct constitutes a *major* version increment (e.g., Version 3 to Version 4), in which case the updated version of the affected document would need to go through the Approval and Recognition processes to be included in the Federal Register Notice.

REFERENCE

