

The Version 3 development by HL7 represents a major worldwide landmark in the developments of standards for electronic information flows in healthcare. It has already received substantial endorsement in a number of countries and also now forms the basis for an ISO international standard on healthcare message development.

The V3 documentation is substantial and not easy to get familiar with. HL7 UK decided to sponsor the development of this Primer to help its membership get started on V3. Great care was taken in writing and revising the material to ensure that anyone using the Primer should be able to rapidly get to grips with the key elements of the V3 methodology.

Since its original publication in 2003, the Primer has sold more than 2500 copies and has been translated into French and Japanese. During this time the Version 3 standard has changed significantly. This Primer has been completely revised and updated to reflect this and to align with the Normative Edition of the standard. It is essential reading not only for newcomers to HL7, but for purchasers of previous editions of the Primer.

Through this Primer, we hope that many more thousands of people throughout the world will be in a position to understand the implications of HL7 Version 3 and how it can help with development of healthcare communications in their organisation.

## **Andrew Hinchley**

## **Understanding Version 3**

A primer on the HL7 Version 3 Healthcare Interoperability Standard - Normative Edition

