

Abstract

The Standard is written from the assumption that an event in the real world of healthcare creates the need for data to flow among systems. The real-world event is called the trigger event. For example, the trigger event a patient is admitted may cause the need for data about that patient to be sent to a number of other systems. The trigger event, an item is used from floor stock on behalf of a patient, may cause the need for information about the patient and the item used to be sent from the patient care system to the patient accounting system and materials management system. When the transfer of information is initiated by the application system that deals with the triggering event, the transaction is termed an unsolicited update. HL7 allows the use of trigger events at several different levels of data granularity and inter-relationship. For example, most ADT trigger events concern single objects (such as an admit event, which creates a message that contains data about a single person and/or account). Other ADT trigger events are concerned with relationships between more than one object (e.g., the merge events, which specify patient or account merges). Some ADT trigger events pertain to a collection of objects that may have no significant interrelationships (e.g., a record-oriented location-based query, whose response contains data about a collection of inpatients who are related only temporarily by local geography).