

Membership in Committee E31

E31 committee membership includes clinicians, provider institutions, administrators, patient advocates, vendors, and others from throughout the healthcare industry, as well as strong support from the CCR sponsors. CCR sponsors collectively represents over 500,000 practitioners, over 13,000 IT professionals, over 200 IT companies—over 19,000 managers of over 11,000 organizations in which 240,000 physicians practice, and over 12,000 institutions in the long-term care community that provide care to over 1.5 million elderly and disabled. The ASTM standards development process and membership on Committee E31 is open to all interested parties.

The benefits of technical committee membership in ASTM International include the receipt of all committee information, access to the “Members” section of the ASTM website, discounts on ASTM publications, a free subscription to ASTM’s monthly magazine, *Standardization News*, and a free volume of your choice of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*. The annual fee to be an informational or participating member of ASTM International is \$75.00. To join, visit the Membership section of the ASTM website (www.astm.org). Annual membership provides access to multiple technical committees at no additional cost.



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ASTM International

100 Barr Harbor Drive
PO Box C700
West Conshohocken,
PA 19428-2959, USA

PHONE: +1 610/832-9500 | FAX: +1 610/832-9555

EMAIL: service@astm.org | WEB: www.astm.org

New ASTM International Specification for the Continuity of Care Record



The Continuity of Care Record is a revolutionary new ASTM International standard that will change how healthcare professionals communicate and transfer healthcare information about their patients.

The ASTM specification for Continuity of Care Record was developed by Subcommittee E31.28 on Electronic Health Records, which is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E31 on Healthcare Informatics.

www.astm.org



The Continuity of Care Record is a core dataset to be sent to the next healthcare provider whenever a patient is referred, transferred, or otherwise uses different clinics, hospitals, or other providers. The CCR will bring an end to physicians and other healthcare professionals having to act “blindly,” without easy access to relevant patient information. It provides the necessary information to support continuity of care, thus reducing medical errors, achieving higher efficiency, and creating better quality of care.

During the past three years, U.S. President George W. Bush has called for greater interoperability of electronic medical records and personal health records. ASTM E 2369-05, Standard Specification for the Continuity of Care Record (CCR) represents a major step forward in assisting vendors and healthcare organizations in their search for simple, yet powerful tools that will help meet the president’s objectives.



Numerous sponsoring organizations have supported the efforts of ASTM Subcommittee E31.28 on Electronic Health Records throughout this process, including the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Healthcare Information and

Management Systems Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the Patient Safety Institute, the American Health Care Association, the National Association for the Support of Long-Term Care, the Mobile Healthcare Alliance, the Medical Group Management Association and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

“The wide range of sponsors for the CCR initiative demonstrates its uniqueness as well as its strength,” notes CCR task group co-chair **Claudia Tessier**. “Clinicians, both individually and through their membership organizations, have been the main drivers of the CCR. Through them we have identified the most relevant patient information to be shared among providers. Thus, they and their patients will be its main beneficiaries.”

One of the sponsoring organizations, the American Academy, of Family Physicians, has launched Project Continuity of Care, an initiative designed to raise awareness of E 2369, to develop and deploy field-capable CCR-compatible software applications and tools, and to accelerate integration of the CCR into existing electronic health record software.

“We now have the CCR standard, an affordable technology for capturing a patient’s most relevant health information and making it personal, private and portable,” said **Douglas E. Henley, M.D., executive vice president of the AAFP**, in announcing Project Continuity of Care. “Our aim is to provide physicians and other caregivers with access to this summary medical information when and where it is needed, and to give patients the assurance they deserve that they won’t suffer in an emergency because of lack of information about their personal illnesses or treatment plans.”

SUBCOMMITTEE E31.28 on ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

CCR Initiative Co-Chair: **Claudia Tessier**

Mobile Healthcare Alliance (MoHCA)

Washington, D.C.

phone: 202/352-3019

email: ctessi@attglobal.net

All approved E31 standards are published annually in Volume 14.01 of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*. Standards are available in hard copy, CD and virtual volume format. They can be obtained online at www.astm.org or by contacting ASTM Customer Service at 610/832-9585. The scopes of all ASTM standards can be viewed on the ASTM website.



ASTM CONTACT

ASTM Staff Manager for
Committee E31:

Daniel Smith

Phone: 610/832-9727

Email: dsmith@astm.org



About ASTM Committee E31 on Healthcare Informatics

ASTM Committee E31 on Healthcare Informatics develops standards related to the architecture, content, storage, security, confidentiality, functionality, and communication of information used within healthcare and healthcare decision making, including patient-specific information and knowledge.



Established in 1970, E31 meets semi-annually as a committee in May and November. Members and visitors attend three days of meetings that include technical subcommittee sessions and a plenary meeting. Some subcommittees occasionally meet on an accelerated basis. The committee, with a current membership of approximately 300, has six technical subcommittees that have over 30 approved standards and additional draft standards.

E31 OFFICERS

Committee Chairman: **Richard M. Peters**
Ptrx Inc.

Vice-Chairman: **Joseph H. Schneider**
Children’s Medical Center-Dallas

Recording Secretary: **David C. Kibbe**
American Academy Family Physicians