



IT Management Terms and Definitions	
Accession Number	An identifier, in the RIS, of the scan being done, linked back to the patient's MRN. Every study has an accession number.
ADT	Admissions, discharges, and transfers-essentially patient demographic information.
Batch (Mode)	Some HL7 messages, typically billing data, are accumulated and sent in batches at a specific time of the day.
CAD	Computer-aided diagnostics. Some systems have the ability to produce a diagnostic result from imaging studies.
Data	Any patient, radiology study, order, results information.
DICOM	Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine
Download	A download occurs when you receive data "down" from another system, typically in a batch mode.
Exam Code	A facility-defined code for a radiology study. There should be a separate exam codes in your RIS for initial/annual scan and follow up (1/3/6 month) scans
Export	An export is the process of extracting data from your system for inclusion in another system. Usually, once you export data from your system, it is uploaded into another.
First Product Use	Typically, the first time you actually use your software outside of testing and staging.
Go-Live	Your "go-live" event is when you start using your system to manage and track patients. You're no longer testing or staging, but actually managing your program using the management software.
Hardware	Computer parts such as the computer on your desk or a server.
Historical Data	Retrospective patient data from your current system (and that system can be a set of Excel spreadsheets or an Access data base), that can be included in your new system via an import/upload, so that you have patient history.
HL7	Health Language 7, a standard language that clinical systems use to send and receive patient information. HL7 information is sent to MESSAGES which are composed of SEGMENTS.
Import	An import is the process of including data from another system to yours. Usually, this data is obtained using a download.
Interface	An interface is a connection between two or more clinical systems, allowing patient data to be transferred amongst those systems. Interfaces can be inbound, from another system to yours, or outbound, from your system to another. Tech folks like to call this process "going across (the interface)" or "crossing over (the interface)".
IT Department	Information technology. Your computer team.
LCSPMS	Lung cancer screening program management system, the software you use to manage your program.
LIS	Lab information system, a clinical system used by laboratory departments to manage patients and lab tests. Pathology information would come from here.
Message	HL7 messages contain different types of patient information. There are messages for ADT, orders, results, and billing. All messages are composed of multiple segments.
MRN	Medical record number
HL7 ORM	Order Request Message contains orders for Lung Cancer Screening, provides smoking details for the order. If not provided, the end user will need to manually enter.
HL7 ORU	Observation Result (Unsolicited) Radiology (reports for LCS and ILN) and Pathology/Tissue (follow up for LCS/ILN, if not provided, end user will need to manually enter)
PACS	Picture archival and communication system. This is a system that is mainly used by radiology departments (but can be used by other departments) to provide economical and convenient access to image studies such as x-rays, CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds and other imaging.
Parallel	If you have an older system that you're migrating over to a new one OR if you're using a manual system, you may choose to use both that and your new software management tool at the same time to see if you're getting the same results. This helps you validate that your new system is working as designed.
Peripherals	Or "peripheral devices". Other hardware such as a printer, desk scanner, mouse and keyboard.
Platforms	Platform can refer to a few things. Platform can be used to reference the type of server (Windows, Linus) your system will be running on. It can also refer to the type of instrument being used for a study. In radiology terms, a platform may refer to CT scan, MRI, x-ray, or even the machine brand you're using, for instance, "Our platform is the Siemens Definition Flash"
Production Environment	Once changes are validated and your system is working properly, they're moved to the production environment. That's where you'll do your actual work.
Real Time	Most HL7 messages are sent in real time, as the transaction occurs in the clinical system.
Relevant Exams	Other radiology studies that also look at the thoracic cavity. Examples include CTA, PET scan
RIS	Radiology information system, a clinical system used by radiology department to manage patients and imaging tests.
Segment	A part of an HL7 message that contains specific information about a patient. For instance, a PID segment contains patient demographic information. An IN1 contains patient insurance information.
Server	A server is a type of computer that can handle multiple users and applications concurrently. Your RIS, LCSPMS, and RIS (amongst other systems) run on servers.
HL7 SIU	Scheduling Information (Unsolicited) Display all schedule details for the LCS program. If not provided, the end user will not have scheduling details.
Software	Computer programs such as RIS, LIS, LCSPMS, Excel, Word and PowerPoint. The software you use for a particular purpose is called "application software".
Staging Environment	A staging environment is the step after the test environment, where changes are released to users to test after the changes are made by the developers. If issues are found, they are used by developers to before those changes are sent to users for review.
Statement of Work (SOW)	This is a document included in the contract with your LCSPMS vendor that details exactly what is to be included in your implementation. The SOW will enumerate the tasks that the vendor will perform, the testing and training included and the responsibilities of your IT department and your program.
Test Environment	A test environment is where a new clinical system is installed so that it can be tested initially and when changes are made to the software. Test environments are used by developers before those changes are sent to users for review.
Trigger Event	An event in a clinical system that causes an HL7 message to be sent, such as a patient registration, order or result.
Upload	An upload occurs when you send data from your system "up" to another system, typically in batch mode. Patient information from your LCSPMS will be uploaded to the ACR LCSR.
Validation	The process of ensuring that the data in your new system is correct, up-to-date and accurate.
Workflow	Sequential steps taken by the healthcare team, from patient referral to test result. This would include physician's order, appointment scheduling, patient registration, scan, result and follow up.

Special thank you to the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer for allowing Thynk Health to revise their presented documented at the 2020 virtual Summit. 9/13/2021

Kim Parham, RN, BSN, CN-BN

Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Clinical Liaison

Thynk Health

P: 855-633-6963 x707

E: kim.parham@thynkhealth.com

W: thynkhealth.com