

# TheraOffice Interface Whitepaper

Version 2007.1.0.0

## Introduction

TheraOffice has been designed to work with other practice management systems via a standard HL7 interface which is an add-on component for TheraOffice Standard, and TheraOffice Professional, and is a standard component to TheraOffice Enterprise. This white paper describes how the HL7 based interface works with other systems and TheraOffice.

## Interfaces

The TheraOffice HL7 interface has 4 methods to send and receive data:

- 1) Inbound patient demographic interface – Incoming patient demographic information from another practice management system will update patient demographic information including certain case information such as insured information, and insurance information.
- 2) Outbound charges demographic interface – Completed / locked notes in TheraOffice Documentation will transmit the charges the therapist enters to the receiving practice management system.
- 3) Incoming scheduling interface – Incoming schedule changes from another practice management system will create new appointments and update existing appointments in TheraOffice Scheduling.
- 4) Complete Custom Interface – A purely custom interface based off the HL7 specifications. This interface would be specifically designed for the facility.

In certain situations these interfaces can be combined depending on the amount of data synchronization needed.

## HL7 Information

Hands On Technology Inc. is a member of the HL7 organization and implements the standards put forth by the committee. The TheraOffice interface engine supports the following HL7 standard versions:

- 2.3
- 2.3.1
- 2.4
- 2.5
- 3.0

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Since certain accommodations will usually need to be put forth for each interface implemented, some level of customization per the above standards can be performed by Hands On Technology Inc.'s interface implementation team. Such modifications include:

- Omission of non-required sending segments
- Inclusion of some Z-segments
- Minor data manipulation (Ex: 1 = Male, 2 = Female versus the standard M,F, and U)

### **Transportation**

Each interface can send messages real-time using TCP/IP protocol, or in a batch method, depending on the external system's requirements.

Using the TCP / IP socket method, a port number, and a static IP address are agreed upon. Sending and receiving occurs on different port numbers. EX: Incoming demographic information will be set to receive on a certain channel / port, and outgoing charges will be set to send on another port number.

Using the batch file method, an HL7 based text file is expected to be populated. During a set time, this batch file will be processed to update TheraOffice as needed. Requirements for this transportation method are an agreed upon file name, and file path as well as a timed interval to process the batch file.

It is recommended to use the TCP / IP transport for real time updates.

### **Logging**

The TheraOffice interface engine has a sophisticated logging mechanism that will log transportation errors, message parsing / processing errors, as well as errors updating the database. These logs can be sent via email to an administrative contact, or can be set in the system log for TheraOffice.

### **External System Documentation**

Although not required it is highly recommended to work with the other external system vendor to receive an interface specification before work starts on any customization. If no documentation is required, the Hands On Technology Inc. Interface Team can parse sample messages from the sending system to find the message format.

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## **Deployment**

All deployment of the TheraOffice Interface Engine(s) will be done via remote technical support. The customer will need to provide access to this server with a system administrative account. TheraOffice will need to be installed prior to the deployment of the interface.

## **Testing**

Once the interface is deployed a test TheraOffice database is created containing the interface staging tables and the standard TheraOffice database. This allows for testing to be done without affecting live patient data. Testing will be performed for usually 2 days. During this time the Hands On Technology Inc. Interface team will monitor via remote desktop any errors that occur. Testing will continue until there are no errors.

## **Updates / Upgrades**

Updates and upgrades between both TheraOffice and the external sending and receiving system could cause the interface to become non-functioning based off the standards set at the time of development. Prior to any system updates Hands On Technology Inc. should be notified to test and watch for any errors or changes that may occur. Any changes to TheraOffice that may affect the Interface will be updated under the standard subscription or standard maintenance support contract.