January 22, 2007: The Clinical Care Classification (CCC) nursing terminology has been accepted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Michael Leavitt as a named standard within the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) Interoperability Specification for Electronic Health Records, Biosurveillance and Consumer Empowerment as presented to a meeting of the American Health Information Community (AHIC), a federal advisory group on health information technology, on October 31, 2006.

In accepting the HITSP recommendations, Secretary Leavitt stated the Interoperability Specifications were advanced in a public consensus process that included more than 265 industry stakeholders who contributed more than 12,000 hours of effort to make the specifications available and advance health information technology (IT) standards toward implementation and facilitate the use of secure, interoperable health information systems.

The Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel is a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors for the purpose of achieving a widely accepted and useful set of standards specifically to enable and support widespread health information interoperability in local, regional and national health information networks for the United States.

The Clinical Care Classification (CCC) System is the first national nursing standard accepted for the encounter message component in clinical data for Chief Complaint and Nurses/triage Notes for the Electronic Health Record. The Clinical Care Classification is recognized by the American Nurses Association as a comprehensively coded nursing terminology designed for computer processing and the electronic documentation of diagnoses, interventions and outcomes. The Clinical Care Classification terminology was developed at Georgetown University by Virginia K. Saba, EdD, RN, FAAN, FACMI and colleagues.

For more information:

<www.clinicalcareclassification.com> or <www.sabacare.com>; and <www.HITSP.org>. 