Answers from the OASIS ebXML Joint Committee members:

Questions:
1. Which sector and/or group do you represent? (Healthcare, Business, ICT, Standardisation ....)?
The sectors that may apply include Information & Communication Technologies, Healthcare, Business, Manufacturing, Software Development, Standardization, etc.

To preface though, we are encouraged and excited about the potential for working with ISO TC 215/HL7. There is a good match between existing worldwide major national deployments of ebXML for healthcare (in line with ISO 15000 as indicated below), and future work. One focus could be to provide clear blueprints to encourage greater adoptions in the health care industry globally derived from these proven deployment models. Implementers need to have sound, proven, repeatable patterns to enhance their chances of success. We would envision ISO TC 215/HL7 could lead in providing the use cases and needs from their community and then collaborate on identifying and cataloguing suitable solution templates using these. Other horizontal and vertical sectors both related to health care services and products and elsewhere can then begin to also leverage these over time.

And, to answer more specifically your questions, the members of the ebXML Joint Committee represent their respective companies and organizations, but also represent the standards work of OASIS that was born from the original ebXML framework. The important point is that representation within ebXML technical committees spans across businesses, organizations, and government, covering business requirements for numerous domains.

These standards have been created by diverse committees and communities made up of participants from many industries. Many participants are members from vendor companies who are looking for standardization. They in turn are serving a wide spectrum of clients in industries and governments.

2. What do you think can be the benefit of using ebXML for TC215 and or HL7?
As OASIS Open efforts, there is an emphasis open standards irrespective of platform rather than tied to proprietary technology. The standards borne from ebXML framework provide a rich open-source community that allows a consortium such as HL7/ISO TC 215 to customize, own and shape their solutions for eBusiness, eGovernment or others. The core specifications have evolved and leverage, integrate and extend other emerging technology. The core elements also comprise the ISO 15000 parts 1-5 with two submissions anticipated:

- Collaboration Protocol Profile and Agreement (CPP/A)
- Message Services
- Registry Information Model and Registry Services. New submission is anticipated.
- Core Components
- Business Processes. New submission is anticipated after ebBP v2.0.4 was approved 21 December 2006.

The original framework and architecture were comprised of these components which can be used together or on a standalone basis. Within each component are semantics which have been defined, and considered within the architecture. The architecture was envisioned to span horizontally across domains, which enables domain-related issued to be secondary at the architecture level in the future. This allows the components to focus on interoperability and delivering the needed solution for eBusiness. These specifications can be extended and/or specialized, to further accommodate domain-related semantics as needed.
At a conceptual level, these functions accommodate and are relevant to the current or anticipated needs of the healthcare industry.

These provide clear reliable and proven standards for conducting electronic business in any domain. This is further supported by the work in the OASIS ebXML Implementation.

Interoperability and Conformance (IIC) Technical Committee that has produced, for example, deployment templates.

3. Which parts of ebXML are of most interest for TC215?

The ebMS (messaging) is usually considered as the baseline for eBusiness communication. The ebBP (business process and transactions), and CPPA (collaboration profiles/agreements) provide collaboration control and the ability to manage business participants. In more advanced phases of a deployment, the registry and repository provide value for governance and management functions.

Messaging and CPPA provide secure lightweight messaging using or leveraging web services infrastructure. Registry provides information management, records management and workflow, as well as providing semantics for registry objects. Core Components provide consistent methods for representing business semantics while Business Processes allows modeling or composition of simple to complex business interactions and business transactions between entities, such as care providers and accounting.

For example, ebBP is a business process definition for business systems to support the execution of collaborations between parties. It is based on roles and focused on completing a transaction. Healthcare is a business that is a series of transactions between and among changing roles. The ebBP allows for long-running and intentional business transactions. CPPA provides the parties to create profiles and agreement that enable the collaboration; the specifications are intended to work together or alone.

There has been specific work in these areaa of interest in health care, evidencing real-world interest and action by Middle East Technical University (METU). Either through the EU-funded RIDE or other projects, they have integrated use of these specifications to solve health-care business requirements related to the Integrated Health Enterprise (IHE). The IHE initiative also uses ebXML Registry for its Cross-Enterprise Document sharing (XDS), which is widely used to share patient records. Recent work at IHE also includes support for ebXML Messaging, CPPA and ebBP.

Another example is handling of semantic metadata. More examples are detailed in the following response to Question 4.

4. Which areas of the healthcare domain can use ebXML as it is (Patient records, reimbursement, ...)?

Many of the healthcare domains can use our standards now to provide eBusiness related care management and accounting transactions, including medical insurance reimbursement, emergency alerts, health care contracts for health care providers and suppliers. See National Health Services in UK, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, Artemis Project, the Norwegian e-Health Infrastructure Trygdeetaten Case Study, Navy Medical proposal and SAGE.

There is already an HL7 profile for the ebXML Messaging Service specification. This was used in the UK National Health Service (NHS) project. The latest release incorporates some feedback from that project and uses the IIC "deployment template" for ebMS.

In addition, health care is an industry that straddles other domains, which would suggest it should be most interested in standards that have broad acceptance. ebXML has already traction in eGovernment and financial services sectors, both of which healthcare will need to be compatible.

5. Is there a need for TC215 to support the ebXML development process in common (not only Healthcare)?

One opportunity is to develop profiles and/or usage practices, with all parties involved, even if a pilot deployment will be restricted to one sector in a first phase. In addition, common

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requirements have been identified across business domains for eGovernment, financial services, and health care. Initial deployment templates have been developed for Messaging Services, CPPA, and ebBP (package of three), and Registry (technical template) while a user related one is under development.

6. Organisational viewpoint: How can we work together in the future with ISO, OASIS, UN/Cefact and others for e-Business (New liasions, participation in other groups, a new WG or task Force within TC215, ...)?
For getting requirements, a usual liaison channel between OASIS Technical Committees (TCs) and TC215 WG (and its Executive Governance activities) may be sufficient. Given the specialization of your existing WGs ISO TC 215 might consider a broader picture by having specific activities performed by the governance/liaison group.

It is also important to have well documented use cases to aid in deriving requirements and development. Our TCs also encourage user consortiums to develop their "deployment profiles" of ebXML (user-defined conventions above the standard, as well as deployment practices) which OASIS TCs can publish. Some tighter cooperation to help on this profiling may be needed. For example, see how RosettaNet created task forces involving experts from RosettaNet, OASIS, and companies, to conduct work outside the OASIS umbrella. The very recently created http://ebxml.xml.org/ site from OASIS allows our users to create forums, blogs, etc. to facilitate collaboration and working together. We've also have ebxmlforum.net and other inputs such as http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebxml and the individual OASIS TC sites (see end note).[i]

Note that OASIS participates in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for eBusiness, which is the venue for strategic coordination between many SDOs. OASIS also has Category A liaisons with a number of ISO TCs, but not currently with ISO TC 215. It may make sense to set up such a liaison as it would allow health-related deliverables of OASIS ebXML groups (such as profiles) to be submitted to ISO for ratification as international standards, if this meets a need in the health care industry.

7. If a new TC215 WG is proposed, what should be the main target of this group?
One thought is to have this WG develop use cases and profiles specific to the health care industry needs for the various ebXML modules or compositions thereof. We see such efforts already beginning to occur in the health care domain (see previous references).

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[i] IIC: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=ebxml-iic
Messaging Services: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=ebxml-msg
CPPA: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=ebxml-cppa
ebBP: http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=ebxml-bp
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