

# Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC<sup>®</sup>) Translation Users' Guide

## 1 Preface

Since its inception, LOINC has been developed as an open standard that is distributed freely worldwide. Volunteers have been key to many aspects of LOINC's success, in particular with respect to creating translations in other languages. In LOINC, translations are treated as "linguistic variants", which accommodates storage of different dialects of the same language. There are many ongoing LOINC translation efforts, and Regenstrief continues to welcome new and ongoing translations of the LOINC terms and other LOINC documents (e.g. Users' Guide).

This document provides an overview of the process for working with Regenstrief to develop your translation and have it integrated into the main LOINC distribution.

## 2 Getting Started

Before translating any of the LOINC materials, please review the LOINC<sup>®</sup> license agreement and copyright at <http://loinc.org/terms-of-use>.

In addition, please contact Regenstrief via email at [loinc@regenstrief.org](mailto:loinc@regenstrief.org) to make us aware of your interests and help coordinate the process with you.

To download the source files for your translation, you will need an account on the LOINC website. If you don't already have a login, you can create one at: [https://loinc.org/join\\_form](https://loinc.org/join_form).

## 3 Process and Procedure

### 3.1. *Translation Process*

With each new LOINC release, Regenstrief generates a special file to serve as the source for language translations. This file contains a list of the unique atomic parts that make up the laboratory LOINC terms. Once you translate the atomic parts, we can re-generate a translation of the full LOINC name. This approach reduces the overall translation work, because the same part (e.g. "Glucose") can appear in many different LOINC term names but the translation only has to be done once.

For example, in LOINC version 2.26, there were approximately 11,000 unique parts in the translation file that make up the full LOINC names for more than 35,000 laboratory LOINC terms.

### 3.2. *Downloading the Translation File*

Regenstrief provides the translation source file as a Microsoft Access database. Once

Regenstrief grants your user account the appropriate “translator” privileges (you’ll need to confirm with us), the source file can be downloaded from:

<https://loinc.org/international/translations/source-files>

Navigate to the directory containing the content you are interested in translating. In this part of the website, there are sections for LOINC, the RELMA Manual, and LOINC presentations. Each section has the files separated by version.

When you save the source file on your local computer, we recommend adding the name of the translation language and your organization into file name (before the extension). For example, the file name could become:

20090410\_v226\_LabLOINCparts\_TranslationFile\_Spanish\_RegenstriefInstitute.mdb

### **3.3. Translating the LOINC Part Terms**

The translation file generated by Regenstrief contains data about the parts from LOINC and places for you to enter and store your translations.

We provide two “names” for the LOINC part that will help you determine how the concept should be translated. The “Formal Name” is the label used in the LOINC term name, whereas the “Display Name” is a more user-friendly common name that we use in the hierarchy tree. The Formal Name is what you should translate, but the Display Name may provide additional information to help identify the concept.

The full set of fields in the translation file and their descriptions are:

#### **PART\_NUM**

The field contains the LOINC part number for the concept. This number allows for automated processing of translation files.

#### **PART\_TYPE\_NAME**

This field classifies the kind of part within the LOINC name (e.g. System, Component, Suffix, etc). The classification is broken down more finely than the LOINC axes, so as to reduce the number of concepts needing translation.

#### **FORMAL\_NAME**

The Part name as it appears in the formal LOINC name. *This is the concept you are translating.*

#### **DISPLAY\_NAME**

A more user friendly, common name for display name for this Part. It is used in the hierarchy tree and the Long Common Name for the LOINC term. *This name is provided for reference.*

#### **YOUR\_TRANSLATION**

This field is intentionally blank so that you can enter your translation of the part.

### **YOUR\_SYNONYMS**

This field is intentionally blank so that if you wish, you can include synonyms or related terms for this Part that may aid in searching. *This field is optional.*

*If you wish to include more than one synonym, separate the synonyms with a “;” (no spaces in between) as shown in the example below.*

The full set of fields in the translation file with a populated example row and the field descriptions are given below:

PART_NUM	PART_TYPE_NAME	FORMAL_NAME	DISPLAY_NAME	YOUR_TRANSLATION	YOUR_SYNONYMS
LP7720-8	SYSTEM	WBC	White blood cells	白细胞	白血球;白血细胞

### **3.4. When You Have Finished Translating All of the LOINC Part Terms**

Once you have completed translating the terms in the file, please attach the Microsoft Access database to an email sent to: [translations@loinc.org](mailto:translations@loinc.org)

### **3.5. Building the Fully Translated LOINC Term Names**

After we receive your translated parts file, Regenstrief will use the Parts you have translated to construct a translation for the full LOINC name. When we have completed this process Regenstrief will email you a draft of the fully constructed names for your review and comment. After your review, send any comments back to us by email at: [translations@loinc.org](mailto:translations@loinc.org)

It is possible that it may take a few cycles of review to finalize the translation. Once approved by Regenstrief, the translation will be included in the next LOINC release.

### **3.6. Translating Other Documents**

If you are interested, we also welcome translations of the LOINC Users' Manual, RELMA Users' Guide, and the LOINC/RELMA tutorial.

### **3.7. Updating a Previous Translation**

Regenstrief is still working out the details of this process, but if you will be performing an update to a previous translation Regenstrief will work with you to produce a file of the same format as the usual Translation File that contains only the LOINC Parts that have

changed or been added as new since your last translation. Working from this subset will ensure that you do not have to do duplicative work.

## 4 Troubleshooting

If you have any question or concerns along the way, please do not hesitate to contact Regenstrief at [translations@loinc.org](mailto:translations@loinc.org)