

Minutes
Laboratory LOINC Meeting
October 7, 2003

Committee Members and Guests in Attendance:

McDonald, Clem - Chair	Regenstrief Institute
Aller, Ray	Los Angeles County Public Health
Autry, Susan	LabCorp
Banning, Pam	3M
Case, Jim	AAVLD, AVMA & UCDAVIS
Dale, Jane	Mayo
Hill, Gilbert	Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
McCormack, John	Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Mercer, Kathy	Regenstrief Institute
Steindel, Steve	CDC

1. News & Discussions

- HHS Adopts LOINC -follow-up:
 - The use of LOINC for non-laboratory observations is now being explored.
 - CDC is planning to use RAQbuild for developing surveys for following outbreaks.
 - The use of RAQbuild for other documents is being considered.
- Report from Ontario (Gil Hill)
 - The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funds healthcare in Ontario. There are currently a few projects being undertaken
 - eCHIN (Electronic Child Health Network) has been in operation for 4-5 years. It currently links 5 hospitals and will be expanding to 25.
 - OLIS (Ontario Laboratory Information System) will be a system for laboratory order entry and result reporting. The RFP for this project has been issued.
 - EPP (Electronic Physicians Project) is being planned to speed up the delivery of laboratory results to the physician.
- FDA
 - FDA is encouraging the use of LOINC and may soon require that it be used.
- LOINC website
 - RAQbuild and LOINC database changes will soon be available for download
 - A bibliography page will be added to the site.
- RELMA remote (CITRIX)
 - Users can use RELMA via the internet to access the most recent version of the LOINC database, but they cannot currently import their local file (LMOF).
 - We are considering more frequent updates of the database that is used with CITRIX. One suggestion was to update quarterly.

- New RELMA release
 - General approach to trees:
 - Enter the text to find item(s) in tree that contains the string
 - Expand and collapse the whole tree
 - Open one branch of the tree at a time
 - The fully spelled out name (rather than abbreviation) will be displayed
 - The tree can be printed
 - New hierarchies
 - Now includes Method
 - The component tree now contains most lab terms
 - Hierarchies for property, time aspect and scale have been created and can be used when creating a submission for a new term
 - There is still more clean-up of the trees planned.
 - New Feature: Submit new term
 - Based on part structure that currently is used to manage synonyms, short names and hierarchies
 - Can use an existing LOINC term as a model, or start from scratch
 - Uses hierarchy model
- Order names & panels
 - Stan Huff and Jim Campbell have been working on the development of explicit panels/batteries to be used in “decision support”. As a result, we will be defining specific LOINC terms as panel elements.
 - For most panels, the elements will be methodless codes, but any method specific term could qualify. Explicit panels will be created as necessary.
 - Qualifiers will be included for each LOINC term:
 - Order only (e.g. panel)
 - Observation only (e.g. % lymphs)
 - Both (term can be ordered and reported)

2. Other Issues

- Genetic testing
 - Partners in Boston have been proposing a number of genetics terms.
- Environmental testing
 - Mike Morgan has forwarded additions to the LOINC database on behalf of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).
- Public Health Data Standards Consortium
 - Bob Kambic presented a summary of this group’s activities with standards for Public Health organizations.
 - The following websites provide more information:

- <http://www.phdatastandards.info/> - Web Based Resource Center for the Consortium containing knowledge resources, tutorials, bibliographies, etc. (Within the next 6 months or so this will become the official site for the consortium.)
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/otheract/phdsc/phdsc.htm> - Provides information on the Consortium's goals, mission, membership etc. (Within the next 6 months or so the information on this site will be updated to reflect the Consortium's new non-profit status and transferred to the first site. Once that has been accomplished this site will cease to exist.)
- Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)
 - Steve Steindel discussed some of the activities of this project which is one of 25 egov projects. They will be recommending standards which will apply to federal agencies. It is hoped that the private sector will use the same standards.
 - So far, standards for messaging (HL7) and laboratory test names (LOINC) have been recommended.
 - Upcoming recommendations may include:
 - Demographics (HL7 demographics set)
 - Laboratory results (SNOMED CT)
 - Interventions & procedures (lab LOINC and SNOMED)
 - Medications
 - Immunizations
 - Anatomy & physiology (SNOMED)
 - Billing
 - Disabilities