

## LOINC Change file format

With each release of the LOINC database we include a separate file which lists all of the records that have been added or changed since the last release. The file, available from our web site, is a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Within the database are 2 tables. The “STARTENDDATES” tables contains a single record that shows the time span covered by this file. In the currently available file, the table looks like this:

STARTENDDATES	
StartDate	EndDate
10/6/2003	2/9/2004

The main table is named “LOINC\_UPDATES.” In it is one record for each LOINC coded added since the last release and two records for each LOINC that has been modified since the last release. Each record in the table contains all of the fields for the LOINC code plus an additional “RecType” field.

The “RecType” field will contain one of the following values:

VALUE	DESCRIPTION
ADD	This LOINC is new since the last release
BEFORE	This record contains the LOINC field values as they existed at the time of the previous release
CHANGED	This record contains the LOINC field values as they exist at the time of the current release

Here is an example of a record that show that a LOINC code has been added to the database since the last release. (NOTE – only a few of the fields are shown. The actual record contains all of the LOINC fields)

EXAMPLE OF A NEW RECORD (NOT ALL FIELDS SHOWN)							
RecType	LOINC_NUM	COMPONENT	PROPERTY	TIME_ASPT	SYS TEM	SCALE_TYP	METHOD_TYP
ADD	34964-7	OSMOTIC FRAGILITY	IMP	PT	RBC	NOM	

Below is a example of the record that has been updated for this release. Note the difference in the COMPONENT and PROPERTY fields between the two records.

EXAMPLE OF CHANGED RECORD (NOT ALL FIELDS SHOWN)							
RECTYPE	LOINC_NUM	COMPONENT	PROPERT Y	TIME_AS PCT	SYST EM	SCALE_TYP	METHOD _TYP
BEFORE	11559-2	OXYHEMOGLOBIN.TOTAL	NFR	PT	BLD	QN	
CHANGED	11559-2	OXYHEMOGLOBIN/HEMOGLOBIN.TOTAL	MFR	PT	BLD	QN	