

Minutes

Laboratory LOINC Meeting
August 24, 2004

Committee Members and Guests in Attendance:

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| McDonald, Clem - Chair | Regenstrief Institute |
| Aller, Raymond | Integrative Clinical Systems |
| Banning, Pam | 3M |
| Case, Jim | AAVLD, AVMA & UCDAVIS |
| Dale, Jane | Mayo |
| Forrey, Arden | University of Washington |
| Hill, Gilbert | Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto |
| Leland, Diane | Riley Hospital for Children |
| McCormack, John | VA |
| Mercer, Kathy | Regenstrief Institute |
| Steindel, Steve | CDC |
| Suico, Jeff | Lilly |
| Tomashefski, Gail | Regenstrief Institute |
| Vreeman, Daniel | Regenstrief Institute Fellow |
| Several participants via conference call | Partners |

❖ News and Discussions

- HEDIS 2005 includes LOINC codes in the Technical Specifications section – [Handout A](#) (selected pages from HEDIS 2005 document)
- Draft HHS attachment standard – requires LOINC codes. New XML version passed HL7 ballot. Probably NPRM in November – [Handout B](#) (Addition Information Specification 0005: Laboratory Results Attachment)
- LOINC web site now provides access to a file containing changes made since the previous LOINC database release – [Handout C](#) (selected pages from Update file)
- Urban Forsum from IUPAC has asked to meet with Dr. McDonald in the fall. It was decided that Dr. McDonald, Dr. Huff and Dr. Hill should meet with him to explore the possibility of a merger
- Health Informatics Standards Organization (HISO) in New Zealand is adopting LOINC usage within the biological research community
- New RELMA
 - New features
 - Old “Map Local Terms to LOINC” screen has been retired
 - Hierarchy showing actual LOINC codes

- Highlight of deprecated terms
 - Editing of unknown units as well as unknown words
 - Improved intelligent mapper
 - Submission of new terms
 - >2000 new radiology terms have been created, but are not included in this release because they need further review.
- Translations
 - Chinese:
 - The February versions of the LOINC and RELMA User's Guides and have been translated into Simplified Chinese. Translation of LOINC terms has also started. The Chinese group has expressed an interest in setting up a mirror of the LOINC web site. – [Handout D1 \(First 2 pages of translated RELMA User's Manual\)](#) , [D2 \(Examples of LOINC codes translated into Chinese\)](#) & [D3 \(Chinese Interface for LOINC PowerPoint slides\)](#)
 - German:
 - Discussions continue with Deutsches Institut fuer Medizinische (DIMDI) for the German translations of LOINC, (in addition to CUMUL translations), RELMA and the User's Guides. They are also interested in setting up a German mirror web site.
 - Spanish:
 - Dr. Guillermo Reynoso of InTerm (International Medical Terminology Research Center) in Argentina has translated 95% of LOINC 2.12. – [Handout E \(Examples of LOINC codes translated into Spanish\)](#)
 - The Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) has expressed an interest in translating the User's Guides into Spanish. IMSS is the largest public health care provider in Mexico with a population of about 50 million patients. They also have a chain of >400 laboratories and want to adopt LOINC as a standard for laboratory order and results data exchange. They also have some leverage to make LOINC the official Mexican standard for all health care organizations.
 - An LIS company, Informatica Tesi de Italia, S.A. de C.V., is implementing systems in 109 public hospitals in Mexico and is mapping their terms to LOINC.
 - Translations will be posted on the LOINC web site as they become available. <http://www.loinc.org/international>
- NLM has provided funding for the mapping between LOINC and CPT. The AMA has agreed to this. The project is expected to be completed in 4-6 months.
- Report on progress in Ontario wide reporting (Gill Hill)
 - eCHIN (Electronic Child Health Network) continues to make fair progress. It is LOINC based for laboratory and radiology results.
 - OLIS (Ontario Laboratory Information System) will be a part of a government sponsored e-physician project.

- Issues regarding central vs. distributed mapping: Experience from Toronto, Indiana, and Boston has shown that it is difficult to get mapping done peripherally and it is recommended that mapping for a group of sites be done centrally. The ideal would be for reference labs to provide their own mapping, but Partners reported that they observed that 50% of the mapping that came from a reference lab is incorrect.
- Arden Forrey reported that AACC, NIOSH and other groups are looking at the use of LOINC codes to reflect environmental measures. LOINC codes have been created for about 70 drinking water contaminants found on the EPA web site. A standard panel term will also be required.
- HUPO plasma proteomics project has identified ~10,000 different proteins. There is a potential need for LOINC terms for these proteins. We will discuss further steps with Betsy Humphries and Amy Patterson. – [Handout F](#) (selected slides from Dr. Omenn's PowerPoint presentation)
- Steve Stindel argued for a national conference on implementing LOINC and HL7. Participants would include specialty disciplines, CDC and other federal agencies such as CHI. Outcomes from the conference could include validation, outside certification, models for implementation, etc.
- Method specific terms have been requested by a group in Germany. It was decided that rather than having LOINC codes for every conceivable method, a separate table for method codes should be created and maintained by the German group. – [Handouts G1](#) (Methods from selected analytes) & [G2](#) (email from Gil Hill)
- As LOINC is being exposed to people who have their own parsing tools, it was suggested that the hierarchies be made available separate from RELMA. A different licensing agreement will be required.
- Update on LOINC activities:
 - VA
 - Using LOINC codes in HL7 messages for both VA and DoD
 - Data repository uses LOINC
 - TheraDoc interface uses LOINC
 - LOINC mapping is being done at the local level
 - John McCormack is going to be sending updated files to Regenstrief for review
 - Mayo
 - Progress has been slow
 - Reportable diseases mapped to LOINC
 - Use RELMA
 - LA County
 - Nothing LOINC to date
 - Plan to map 100 labs
 - Veterinary
 - Laboratories aren't transmitting results electronically, so only a few selected projects are taking place

- 5 labs are using a subset of LOINC
 - Mappings are being validated

- The property for red cell enzymes such as pyruvate kinase was reviewed. Jane Dale from Mayo will find out details of the specific test and Gil Hill will review all of the enzymes.

- Specific LOINC questions - [Handout H](#)
 - *Is 17-HYDROXYCORTICOSTEROIDS the same as 17-KETOGENIC STEROIDS?*
No. 17-KS is less specific than 17-OHCS.

 - *Is there a difference between 17-ketosteroids and 17-ketosteroids, total neutral?*
No. “total neutral” will be removed from the LOINC term.

 - *Should carnitine esters be considered a synonym of acyl carnitine?* Acyl carnitine is a carnitine ester. In theory, there could be other kinds of esters, but committee members suspect that these are the same test. Partners reported that at least one lab reports both carnitine esters and acyl esters. Gil Hill will send more information. It was noted that the specific carnitine terms have different systems in LOINC and it was decided that all terms in the database will be changed to SER/PLAS.

 - Related names vs. specimens for the acetylcholinesterases. From what we understand:
 - Acetylcholinesterase=cholinesterase=True cholinesterase=RBC cholinesterase=brain cholinesterase but these are different from Pseudocholinesterase (Plasma cholinesterase)... Pseudocholinesterase (the Plasma form) can do the same thing (catalyze the hydrolysis of acetylcholine to choline and acetate) but is far less efficient (i.e. less specific) than true cholinesterase. Included on spreadsheet
 - Gil Hill will be sharing some information on this topic.

 - *How does Glycerol Free differ from Glycerol?* These are probably the same and the free term will be corrected.