

# MINUTES

## Laboratory LOINC Meeting December 6, 2005

1. Announcements/ News
  - a. NPRM for attachments ([HANDOUT #1](#) – the Ambulance attachment in NPRM)
  - b. International connections
    - DIMDI has translated LOINC Users Guide to German. The June 2005 version is posted on our [website](#)
    - Representative from Health Ministry of Peoples Republic of China joined Dr. McDonald on recent AMIA panel. Forest Lin , who has coordinated the LOINC translation effort, was not able to come. In his place, Ms. Ting Shu presented the China plans for health informatics standards.
    - New Zealand and Australia
    - Saudi Arabia – plans for LOINC
  - c. Senate Bill 1418 – Passed senate unanimously (House still to go) defines a new committee and requires adoption of CHI standards – which includes LOINC ([HANDOUT #2](#) - pages 1 and 12)
  - d. RELMA enhancements were demonstrated ([HANDOUT #3](#) – Release notes)
    - Use of common tests as restriction
    - Squiggly line to signal when an entered word is not known to LOINC (Spell checker signal)
    - Use of intelligent mapper for lab tests and for radiology (clean up of form)
    - Use of grouper-hierarchy (and where we are going)
    - De-activation of ACS synonyms - (add too much to the match list in searches)
    - “Force” use of units in restrictions
  - e. CDC’s engagement
    - Four new HIV viral load tests (simpler and make the reporting distinction needed)
    - LOINC terms for bacterial identification biochemical work up
  - f. Panels – added roughly 50 (30 from Pam Banning). Issues about what we want to do/encourage.
    - Numeric test as one result - Ordinal based on cut off (Positive) in another - instead of use of abnormal field

- g. SNOMED Standards Development Organization (SDO) proposal.
2. LOINC - CPT Mapping Status Report ( Stan Huff): The project is moving forward. They have mapped around 2,000 codes which includes mappings that others provided to them. It has been given to the NLM and they are waiting to get permission to distribute.
  3. Canadian Activities Status report (Gil Hill):
    - Electronic Children’s Health Network (eCHN) involves about 90% of the province of Ontario. Participation is voluntary and involves 20 organizations. Laboratory results, Radiology reports and Clinical Notes are being exchange electronically.
    - Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS) will incorporate all laboratories in the province. Early adopters will begin early in 2006.
    - Federally, a laboratory standards group, called Infoway, has been established.
  4. Steve Steindel provided an update on a number of CDC and Federal activities.
  5. Microbial terminology changes:
    - Jim Case observed that viral name changes are not reflected in either the component or the short name.
    - In fact, the component and short name IS changed when we know about them. The older nomenclature is maintained as a synonym so that the terms can be found with RELMA.
    - Regenstrief Institute staff need to be informed when nomenclature changes have occurred.
    - A bulletin board will be set up to assist in the communication process.
  6. Reports sent as globs – (test name is the order name)
    - a. Seen in our local systems—mostly as send outs
    - b. Some times it is the receiver preference
      - Susceptibilities as globs though the lab can send as discrete results ([HANDOUT #4](#))

There was discussion as to whether LOINC codes should be created for this type of report. The committee members and guests strongly recommend that we do NOT create LOINC codes for the purpose of reporting information that would be better resulted as discrete results.

7. Dimensionless quantities and how to distinguish % from pure fraction (Gil Hill) ([HANDOUT #5](#))
 

The problem is that fractions can be reported as either a decimal fraction or as percent. Several options were discussed – creating new codes by adding a ^ to the property field or adding something to the component field. It was decided that the LIS should be responsible for storing these different values. The committee recommendation was that new LOINC codes would not be created, but that the

example units field would be changed from “%” to “decimal fraction or %”. This change was made before the public release of version 2.16.

8. Unit differences:

A question has arisen about whether to distinguish real units differences in the LOINC name or in another structure. What is feasible? E.g. mg/dL vs g/dL.

Some organizations store a converted ‘normalized’ value as well as the value received, but weights and temperatures are more difficult. Other places (including RI) create separate local codes for each unit.

One option is to use “preferred units”. Committee members are asked to provide RI with a list of LOINC codes and their units.

8.5 Sample of mapping success ([HANDOUT #6](#)) – example of VA mapped terms.

9. Discussion of various cases within 3M’s non-matched terms - and strategies that are needed to deal with each case. ([HANDOUT #7](#)). This was taken from a paper presented at AMIA in which 3M said that not all of their terms could be mapped to LOINC.

- a. Should a code be created for component of ALCOHOL LEGAL?
  - The committee felt that a legal alcohol test is not performed any differently, nor have a different value than routine ETHANOL tests.
  - The same applies to other tests that are performed for legal reasons – Chlamydia, HSV, HIV, drug screen, etc.
- b. Chlamydia
  - 3M will send a complete list of unmapped Chlamydia terms to RI.
- c. Tick
  - Some of these could be valid terms. 3M was asked to send a complete list of terms.
- d. Interpretation
  - We will accept requests for terms with property = IMP for groups of tests, but perhaps not for single observations.
- e. AFP panels
  - 3M, Partners and Quest will send in their panel elements to assist in the creation of panel codes.
- f. Culture and smear
  - We will create panel codes for these
- g. Confirmation
  - Does this mean the same as repeat? If so, new term not required.
- h. Clot retraction
  - Need to see example results
- i. HLA comment
  - See interpretation above. Suggest using NTE segment.
- j. Long chain fatty acids/carnitines – Dr. McDonald asks are these the same thing?
- k. Pseudocholinesterase

- Addressed at an earlier meeting. The LOINC code is 2098-2|CHOLINESTERASE|CCNC|PT|SER|PLAS|QN|  
Synonym = pseudocholinesterase
10. Question about whether and how to include all method distinctions in the LOINC name – or another field in HL7 ([HANDOUT #8](#) – LOINC lab parts that are lab methods) (Stan Huff)
    - HL7 field for methods
    - CLIA might have list of methods
    - CDC did review in 1995 and found 300 methods for one test.
    - No enthusiasm for doing anything different, but we will expand the list of methods in the Users’ Guide
  11. Question about short names. How to make them better - how to keep them unique ([HANDOUT #9](#) –short names for common tests sorted by Class)
    - Proposal to survey users to see if there is a need to modify the short names.
  12. Proposal for specific POC tests – using POC as a method to signify the uncertainty about methods, procedures and sub specimen (has Yings and Yangs) ([HANDOUT #10](#))
    - Previous suggestion to create POC terms will result in the creation of too many terms
    - A related issue is specimen vs system – is it really whole blood that is being tested, or is it the serum or plasma component
    - Issue was tabled
  13. Statistics of delta check sent along as results or add field to HL7 – ala normal range (Jim Case email [HANDOUT #11](#))
    - The terms in question are Reference Change Value .99 and Reference change value .95. These terms, requested from the HL7 lab SIG are replacing delta checks. Version 3 does not have a field for reference range.
    - Committee questions the usage in HL7.
    - Terms will be created along with a new class for normal range statistics
  14. Possible revision of micro test names – ([HANDOUT #12](#))
    - Redundant to have the same word in the system and in the method (eg. Blood culture)
    - Redundant to have same word in component and in the method (eg fungus culture)
    - Decision was to change the method to say CULTURE, AEROBIC CULTURE, ANAEROBIC CULTURE, etc. “routine” will also be removed.
    - Shell vial culture is distinct from viral culture and will be added to the list of methods
  15. Request from Australia about LOINC for sending graphical content ([HANDOUT #13](#)) – shows example TIFF from Michael Osborn’s email
    - Committee agrees with creation of term

16. Other business
  - a. Pam Banning requested that a mechanism be set up in RELMA to find all panels that a particular LOINC term is part of.
  - b. Pam Banning asked that a function be added to RELMA to allow a panel to be proposed.

## **Handout List**

1. Ambulance Attachment
2. Senate Bill 1418 – pages 1 and 12
3. RELMA – release notes
4. Susceptibilities as globs – (Vaughn Kinder)
5. Dimensionless quantities – (Gil Hill)
6. Indianapolis VA LOINC Mapping
7. 3Ms sample of non-mapped terms (questions and lessons) (Gail T.)
8. Laboratory Methods in LOINC
9. LOINC Parts for Common Tests with Short Names
10. POC test proposal LOINCS
11. Delta checks statistics – (Jim Case)
12. Micro culture methods in LOINC + 3 sorts of micro culture terms- (Pam Banning)
13. LOINC for sending graphical content – (Michael Osborne)