

Jim Case Attachment B

Email from Jim Case 6-8-06 – subj. another agenda item – this was the attached document

Use of the Impression (IMP) property in LOINC

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The property IMP (Impression/Interpretation of Study) has few defined uses within the LOINC manual. These include genetic identify testing and clinical observations. The manual allows for the use of IMP in laboratory testing as well stating:

“IMP is used to represent the property when the evaluation is a mental abstraction based on one a collection of measurements and or data.”

The scale allowed for this property may be either NOM or NAR.

A recent set of terms submitted from the CDC that requested the use of the IMP property were rejected with the suggested property being changed to PRID or ACNC. Extended discussions at the CDC to develop these proposed terms resulted in the initial assignment of the IMP property, based on the definitions in the user manual as well as detailed descriptions of the use cases for the terms.

Both the public health and veterinary domains require these types of summary terms, based on a series of screening and confirmatory tests used to identify agents of interest to these communities. We seek a clarification of the use of the IMP property in the laboratory environment when the purpose is to convey a summary conclusion based on a series of tests (each with their own defined LOINC terms). As stated in the LOINC manual, these summary interpretations are “almost always generated by a professional.”