Background

LOINC terms are defined by their 6 major Parts, but each term also has many other attributes that are taken into account when determining when a term is updated. Every LOINC term has a VersionLastChanged value that provides the LOINC release version in which that term was last updated. For new terms, the VersionLastChanged value is the same as the VersionFirstReleased value.

Currently, the following fields are considered when determining the VersionLastChanged regardless of the type of term (e.g., Panel versus non-Panel):

- COMPONENT
- PROPERTY
- TIME_ASPCT
- SYSTEM
- SCALE_TYP
- METHOD_TYP
- CLASS
- DefinitionDescription
- STATUS
- CONSUMER_NAME
- CLASSTYPE
- FORMULA
- SPECIES
- EXMPL_ANSWERS
- SURVEY_QUEST_TEXT
- SURVEY_QUEST_SRC
- UNITSREQURED
- SUBMITTED_UNITS
- SHORTNAME
- ORDER_OBS
- CDISC_COMMON_TESTS
- HL7_FIELD_SUBFIELD_ID
- EXTERNAL_COPYRIGHT_NOTICE
- EXAMPLE_UNITS
- LONG_COMMON_NAME
- UnitsAndRange
- DOCUMENT_SECTION
- EXAMPLE_UCUM_UNITS
- EXAMPLE_SI_UCUM_UNITS
- STATUS_REASON
- STATUS_TEXT
- CHANGE_REASON_PUBLIC
- COMMON_TEST_RANK
- COMMON_ORDER_RANK
- COMMON_SI_TEST_RANK
- HL7_ATTACHMENT_STRUCTURE
- EXTERNAL_COPYRIGHT_LINK
- PanelType
- AskAtOrderEntry
- AssociatedObservations
- ValidHL7AttachmentRequest

Issue

To date, the VersionLastChanged for panel terms has been determined as described above based on the values for the Panel term itself. However, LOINC panels are defined by their 6 major Parts and ALSO by their children and attributes associated with their children. Presently, there is no signal for users when the child elements change (e.g. a new one is added) from version to version. We would like input on whether we should use the VersionLastChanged field for panel terms to reflect changes to panel data mode (child terms and their key attributes) as well.

A starting set of additional panel data model elements to include in the “change definition” might include:

1. Addition of child elements to the panel
2. Removal of child elements from the panel
3. Whether or not the child elements themselves were updated
4. Changes to values child attributes **in the context of the Panel**
a. Override Name for Form
b. Form Coding Instructions
c. Form Context
d. Reference Information
e. Addition of or edits to Override Answer List

[Committee Comments and Decision]