LOINC and SNOMED CT

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Why am I here?

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

dated July 2013

Between

The International Health Terminology Standards
Development Organisation
(IHTSDO)

and

The Regenstrief Institute, Incorporated (RII)

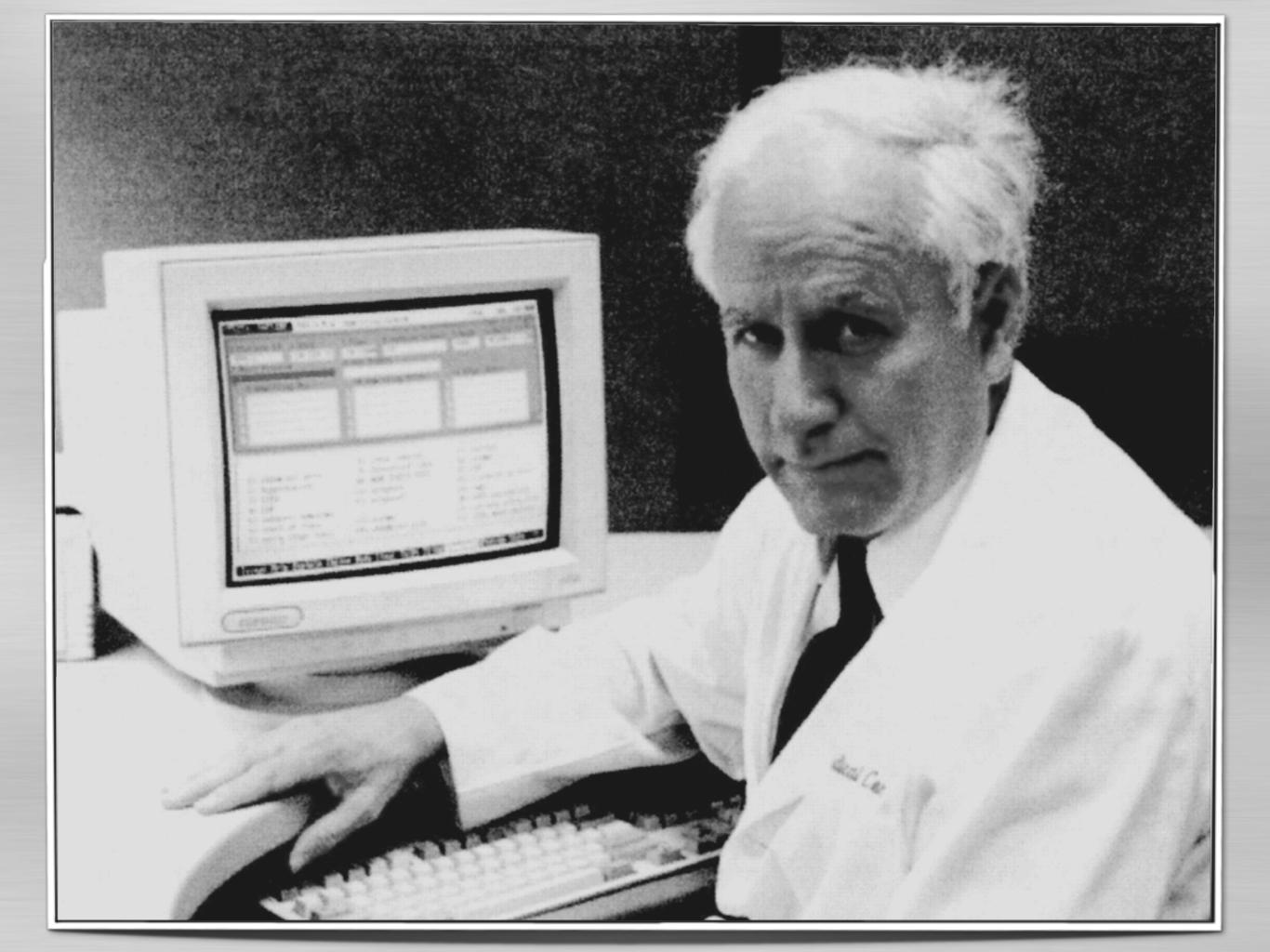








A universal catalog of laboratory and clinical observations





The rain forest canopy is a seamless web through which arboreal creatures efficiently move to reach the edible fruits without any attention to the individual trees.

Fundamental challenge:

Local systems have different ways of identifying the same concept. And, things that look alike aren't the same.

Same or Different?

What you see in the test catalog

Lab A

Test Name: Lyme Disease Serology

Lab B

Test Name: Lyme Disease Antibody

Same or Different?

What you see in the test catalog

Lab A

Test Name: Lyme Disease Serology

Measures: B. burgdorferi Ab IgG

Method: ELISA

Scale: quantitative

e.g.: Titer 1:40

Lab B

Test Name: Lyme Disease Antibody

Measures: B. burgdorferi Ab IgM

Method: Immune blot

Scale: qualitative

e.g.: Positive

LOINC Code = 5062-5

LOINC Code = 6321-4

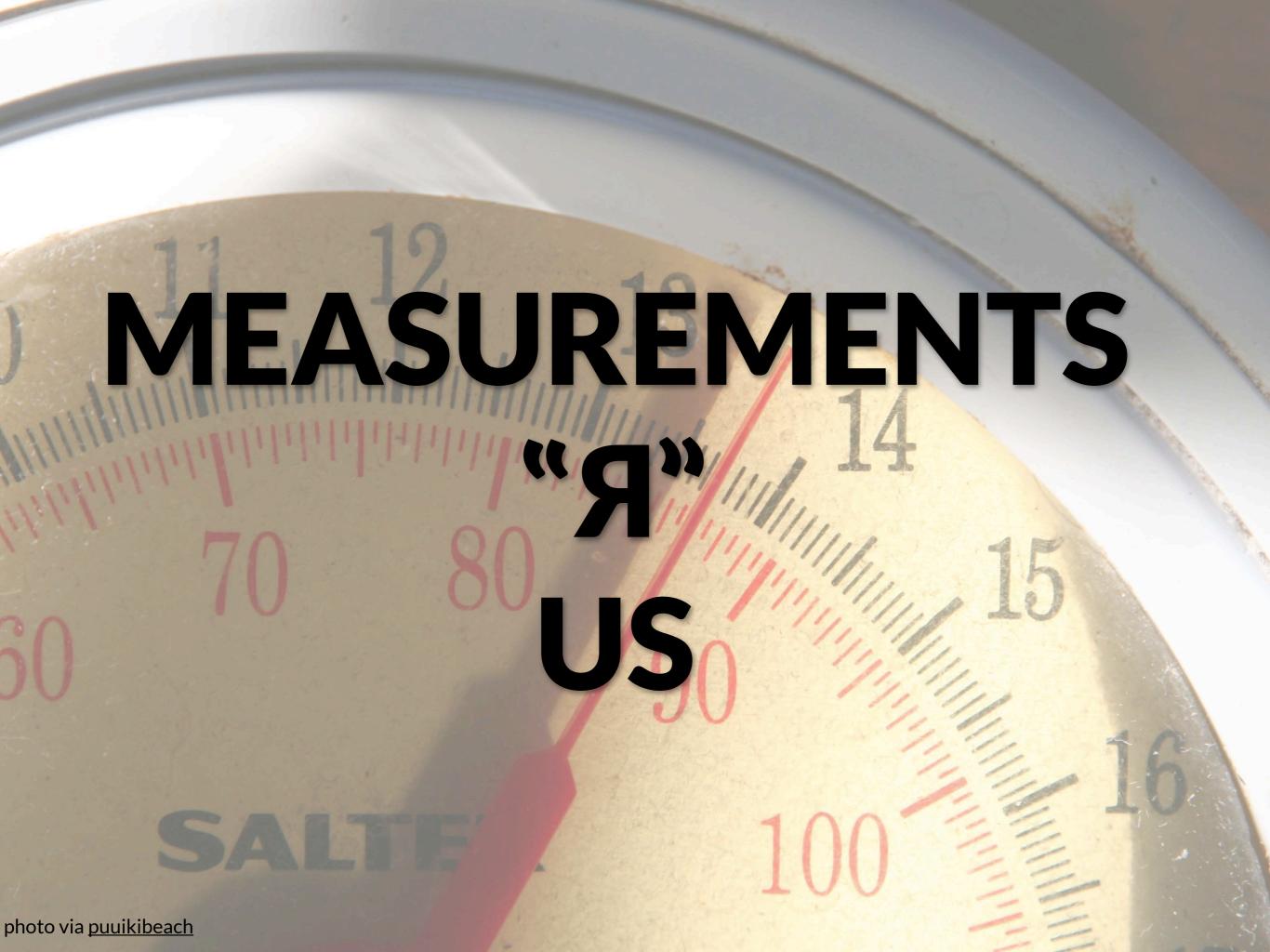




Logical Observation dentifiers ames and Codes

A universal code system that facilitates exchange, pooling, and processing of results





CD3+CD4+ (T4 helper) cells [#/volume] in Blood

24467-3:Cells.CD3+CD4+:NCnc:Pt:Bld:Qn:

CD3+CD4+ (T4 helper) cells [#/volume] in Blood

24467-3:Ce	IIs.CD3+CD4+	:NCnc:Pt:Bld:Qn:
------------	--------------	------------------

24467-3 LOINC Code

Cells.CD3+CD4+ Component

NCnc Property Measured

Pt Timing

Bld System System

Qn Scale

Method

CD3+CD4+ (T4 helper) cells [#/volume] in Blood

24467-3:Cells.CD3+CD4+:NCnc:Pt:Bld:Qn:

24467-3 LOINC Code

Cells.CD3+CD4+

NCnc

Pt

Bld

Qn

Component

Property Measured

Timing

System

Scale

Method

There are six major LOINC axes

CD3+CD4+ (T4 helper) cells [#/volume] in Blood

24467-3:Cells.CD3+CD4+:NCnc:Pt:Bld:Qn:

24467-3 LOINC Code

Cells.CD3+CD4+

NCnc

Pt

Bld

Qn

Component

Property Measured

Timing

System

Scale

Method



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Just don't use it to make another standard!
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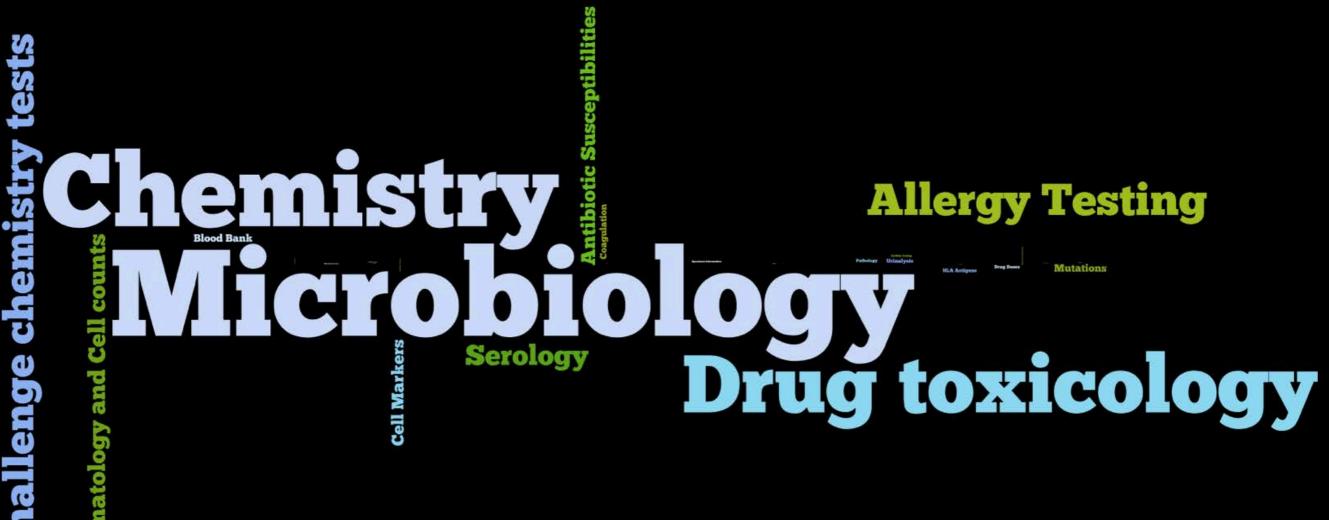


If an observation is a question and the observation value is an answer...

LOINC provides codes for questions

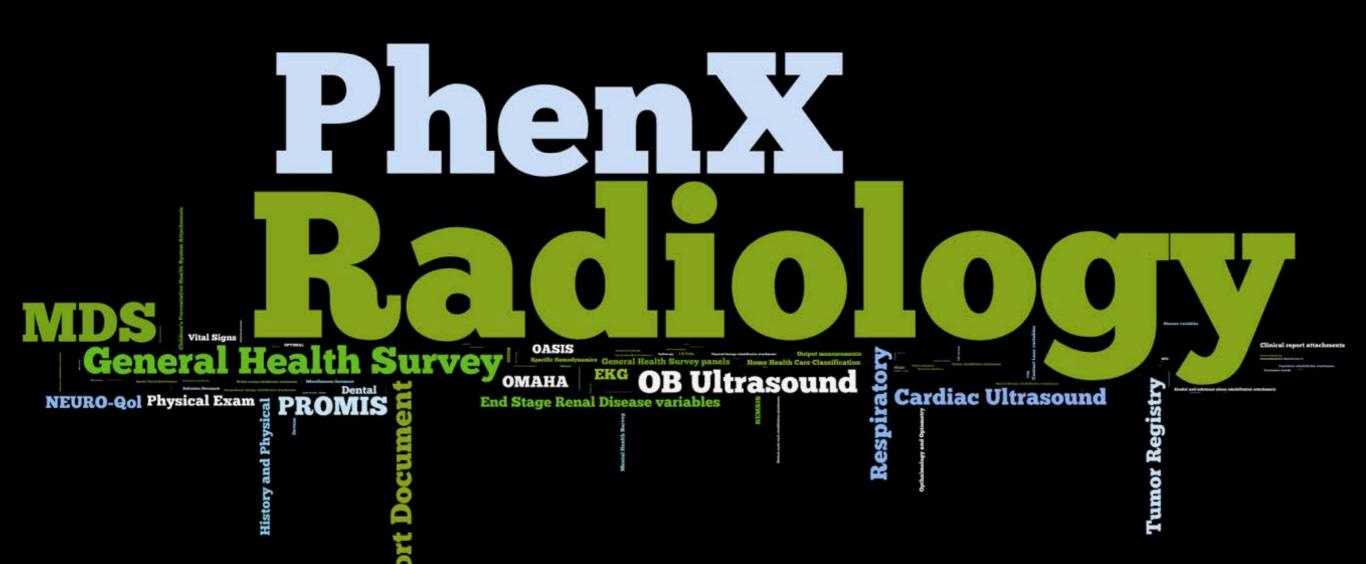
Where needed, other vocabularies provide codes for answers

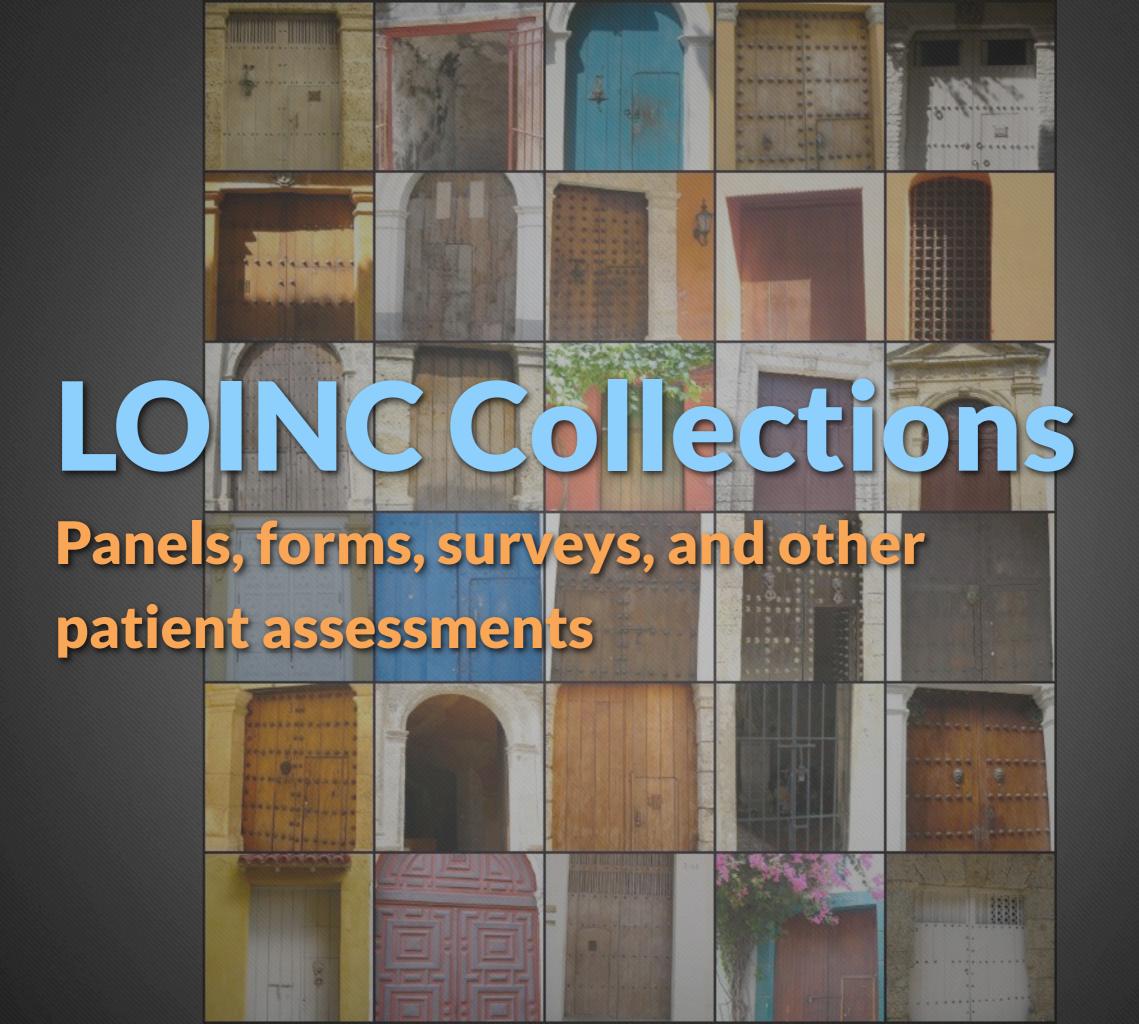
Laboratory LOINC



Challenge chemistry tests

Clinical LOINC





Standardized Assessments and Collections

Representing Patient Assessments in LOINC®

Daniel J. Vreeman, PT, DPT, MSc^a, Clement J. McDonald, MD^b, Stanley M. Huff, MD^c

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^bLister Hill Center, National Library of Medicine, Washington DC; ^cUniversity of Utah

and Intermountain Healthcare, Salt Lake City, UT

ABSTRACT

Without being included in accepted vocabulary standards, the results of completed patient assessment instruments cannot be easily shared in health information exchanges. To address this important barrier, we have developed a robust model to represent assessments in LOINC through iterative refinement and collaborative development. To capture the essential aspects of the assessment, the LOINC model represents the hierarchical panel structure, global item attributes, panel-specific item attributes, and structured answer lists. All assessments are available in a uniform format within the freely available LOINC distribution. We have successfully added many assessments to LOINC in this model, including several federally required assessments that contain functioning and disability content. We continue adding to this "master question file" to further enable interoperable exchange, storage, and processing of assessment data.

INTRODUCTION

Despite progress on many fronts, interoperable health information exchange continues to be hampered by the plethora of idiosyncratic conventions for representing clinical concepts in different electronic systems. Many times, the lack of interoperable connections between systems means that valuable results are unavailable to clinicians when they need it. LOINC® (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes) is a universal code system for identifying

representation of assessments since its early development when it included codes for standardized scales such as the Glasgow Coma Score and the Apgar Score. Prior work^{5,6} has demonstrated the capability of LOINC's semantic model to represent many assessments with only modest extensions.

Over time, we have both significantly refined LOINC's model for patient assessments and added much new content. Here we present a summary of this progress. Specifically, the purpose of this paper is to describe LOINC's model for assessments, the methods and rationale by which this model was developed, the current assessment content, and some of the lessons learned in the process.

BACKGROUND

Fully specified LOINC names are constructed on six main axes (Component, Property, Timing, System, Scale, and Method) containing sufficient information to distinguish among similar observations. Different LOINC codes are assigned to observations that measure the same attribute but have different clinical meanings. The LOINC codes, names, and other attributes are distributed in the main LOINC database made available at no cost in regular releases on the LOINC website (http://loinc.org). In addition to the LOINC database, Regenstrief develops and distributes at no cost a software program called RELMA that provides tools for searching the LOINC database, viewing detailed accessory content, and for mapping local terminology to LOINC terms.

Int. J. Functional Informatics and Personalised Medicine, Vol. x, No. x, xxxx

LOINC®: a universal catalogue of individual clinical observations and uniform representation of enumerated collections

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Stanley M. Huff

University of Utah and Intermountain Healthcare, 4646 W. Lake Park Blvd., Salt Lake City, UT 84120,USA E-mail: Stan.Huff@imail.org

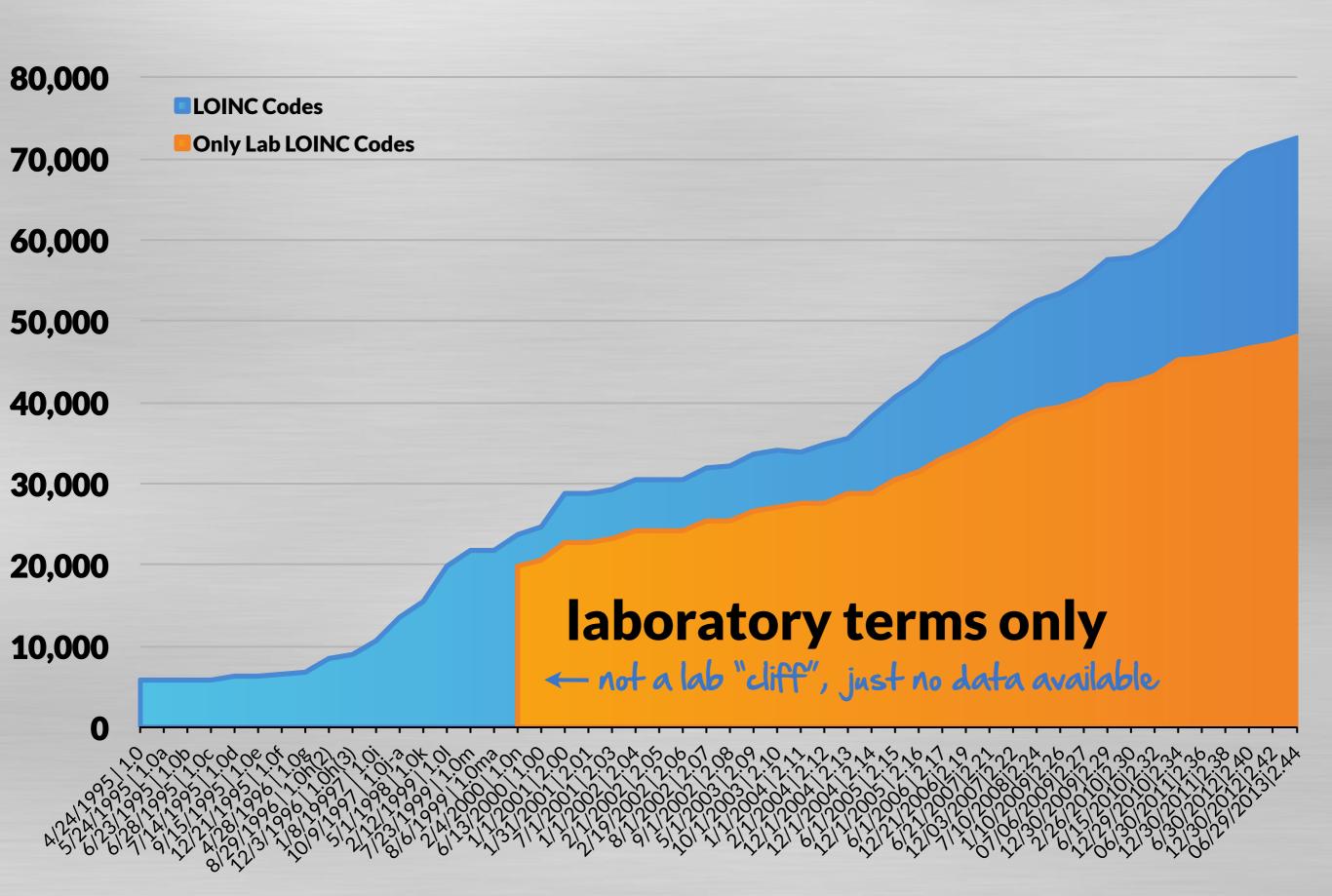
Abstract: In many areas of practice and research, clinical observations are recorded on data collection forms by asking and answering questions, yet without being represented in accepted terminology standards these results cannot be easily shared among clinical care and research systems. LOINC contains a well-developed model for representing variables, answer lists and the collections that contain them. We have successfully added many assessments and other collections of variables to LOINC in this model. By creating a uniform representation and distributing it worldwide at no cost, LOINC aims to lower the barriers to interoperability among systems and make this valuable data available across settings when and where it is needed.

Keywords: clinical observations; framework; health information technology; patient data; patient assessments; data sets; public health; research; standards; terminology.

Vreeman DJ, McDonald CJ, Huff SM. Representing patient assessments in LOINC®. AMIA Annu Symp Proc. 2010;832-836. PMID: 21347095.

Vreeman DJ, McDonald CJ, Huff SM. LOINC® - A Universal Catalog of Individual Clinical Observations and Uniform Representation of Enumerated Collections. Int J Funct Inform Personal Med. 2010;3(4):273-291.

LOINC Codes Over Time by Release







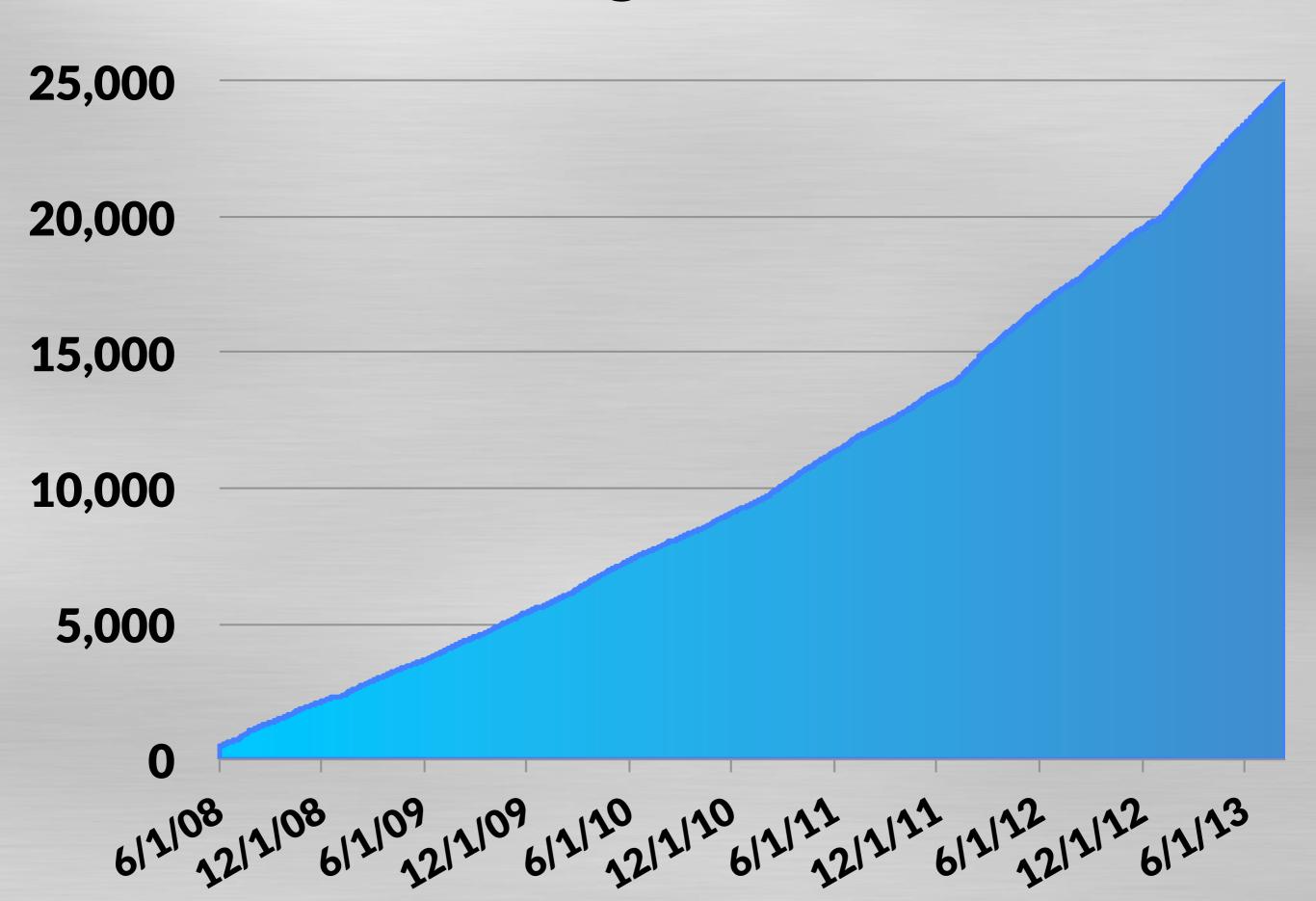
They require a critical mass of users before they become useful.

- Clem McDonald, MD 1998

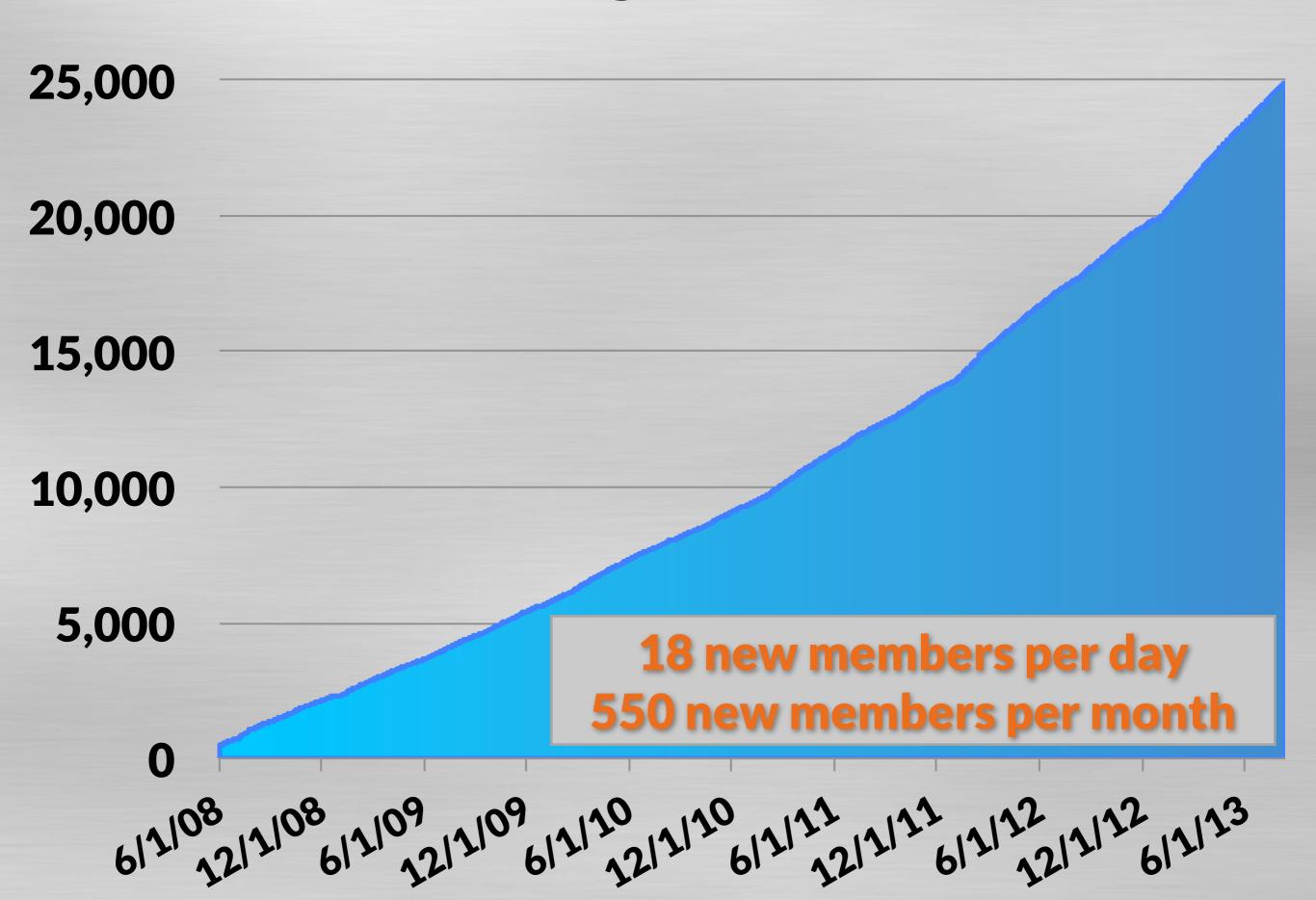
26,000+ users in 155 countries



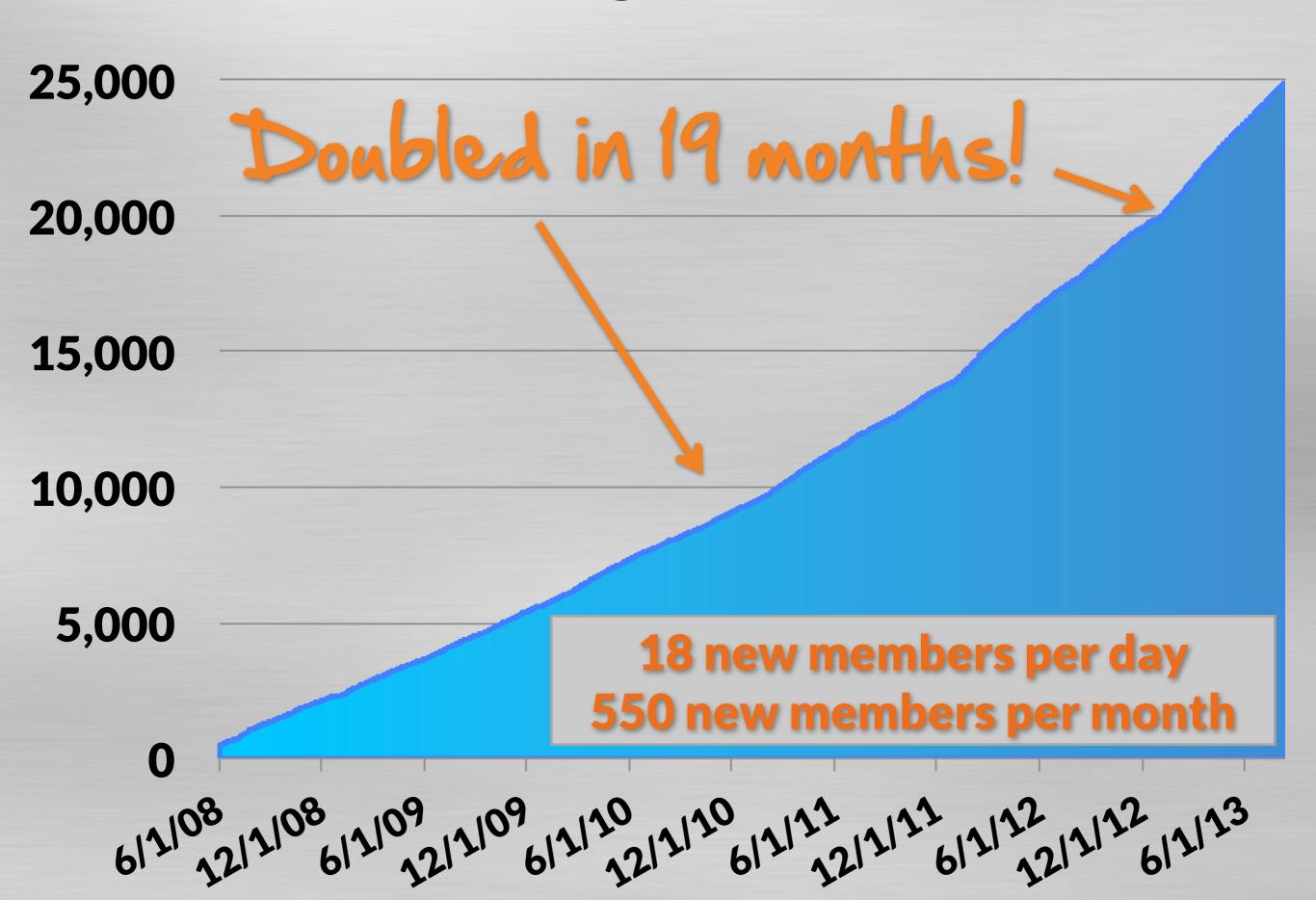
loinc.org members



loinc.org members



loinc.org members



LOINC Translators



22 organizations.

Currently translations into 17 variants of 11 languages

How do you say glucose?



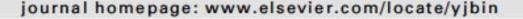
the lingua franca of clinical observation exchange

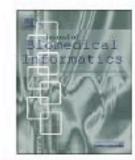




Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Journal of Biomedical Informatics





Enabling international adoption of LOINC through translation

Daniel J. Vreeman a,b,*, Maria Teresa Chiaravalloti c, John Hook d, Clement J. McDonald d

ARTICLE INFO

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Keywords: LOINC Vocabulary, controlled Multilingualism Translating Clinical laboratory information systems/standards Medical records systems Computerized/standards

ABSTRACT

Interoperable health information exchange depends on adoption of terminology standards, but international use of such standards can be challenging because of language differences between local concept names and the standard terminology. To address this important barrier, we describe the evolution of an efficient process for constructing translations of LOINC terms names, the foreign language functions in RELMA, and the current state of translations in LOINC. We also present the development of the Italian translation to illustrate how translation is enabling adoption in international contexts. We built a tool that finds the unique list of LOINC Parts that make up a given set of LOINC terms. This list enables translation of smaller pieces like the core component "hepatitis c virus" separately from all the suffixes that could appear with it, such "Ab.IgG", "DNA", and "RNA". We built another tool that generates a translation of a full LOINC name from all of these atomic pieces. As of version 2,36 (June 2011), LOINC terms have been translated into nine languages from 15 linguistic variants other than its native English. The five largest linguistic variants have all used the Part-based translation mechanism. However, even with efficient tools and processes, translation of standard terminology is a complex undertaking. Two of the prominent linguistic challenges that translators have faced include: the approach to handling acronyms and abbreviations, and the differences in linguistic syntax (e.g. word order) between languages. LOINC's open and customizable approach has enabled many different groups to create translations that met their needs and matched their resources. Distributing the standard and its many language translations at no cost worldwide accelerates LOINC adoption globally, and is an important enabler of interoperable health information exchange.

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⁴Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, US National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894, USA

Adopted as National Standard

Australia

Austria

Belgium

Brazil

Canada

Cyprus

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Iceland

Mexico

Mongolia

The Netherlands

New Zealand

Philippines

Portugal

Rwanda

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Thailand

Turkey

United States

Large Implementations

SIGA Saúde project

7+ Provincial systems in Canada

15+ Regional Health Information Exchanges in Spain ePSOS

Assistance publique - Hôpitaux de Paris

Hong Kong Hospital Authority

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

InFSE Project in 5 regions in Italy (LOINC Italia)



In USA, major driver of eHealth standards adoption is EHR Incentive Program

a.k.a. "Meaningful Use"

Stage 2 starting 2014



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

45 CFR Part 170

RIN 0991-AB82

Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology

AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: With this final rule, the Secretary of Health and Human Services adopts certification criteria that establish the technical capabilities and specify the related standards and implementation specifications that Certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) Technology will need to include to, at a minimum, support the achievement of meaningful use by eligible professionals, eligible hospitals,

CQM Clinical Quality Measure

CY Calendar Year

EH Eligible Hospital

EHR Electronic Health Record

EP Eligible Professional

FY Fiscal Year

HHS Department of Health and Human Services

HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

HIT Health Information Technology

HITECH Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health

HITPC HIT Policy Committee

HITSC HIT Standards Committee

HL7 Health Level Seven

ICD-9-CM International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification

ICD-10 International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision

ICD-10-CM International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification

ICD-10-PCS International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System

IHE Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise®
LOINC® Logical Observation Identifiers
Names and Codes

MU Meaningful Use

ONC Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology

NCPDP National Council for Prescription Drug Programs

NIST National Institute of Standards and

a. Ambulatory and Inpatient Setting

b. Ambulatory Setting

c. Inpatient Setting

10. Revised Certification Criteria

a. Ambulatory and Inpatient Setting

b. Ambulatory Setting

c. Inpatient Setting

11. Unchanged Certification Criteria

 Refinements to Unchanged Certification Criteria

b. Unchanged Certification Criteria Without Refinements

12. Gap Certification

13. "Disability" Status

B. Redefining Certified EHR Technology and Related Terms

1. Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT)
Definition

2. Base EHR Definition

3. Complete EHR Definition

4. Certifications Issued for Complete EHRs and EHR Modules

Adaptations of Certified Complete EHRs or Certified EHR Modules

IV. Provisions of the Final Rule Affecting the Permanent Certification Program for HIT ("ONC HIT Certification Program")

A. Program Name Change

B. "Minimum Standards" Code Sets

C. Revisions to EHR Module Certification Requirements

1. Privacy and Security Certification

Certification to Certain New Certification Criteria

D. ONC-ACB Reporting Requirements

E. Continuation and Representation of



LOINC adopted for:

- 1. View, download, transmit data to third party
- 2. Cancer case reporting to state registry
- 3. Send/receive electronic lab results in ambulatory settings
- 4. Provide a care summary at care transition
- 5. Provide clinical summaries for patients
- 6. Submit reportable lab results to public health

(EHR) Technology will need to include to, at a minimum, support the achievement of meaningful use by eligible professionals, eligible hospitals,

Health Information Technology NCPDP National Council for Prescription Drug Programs NIST National Institute of Standards and

- 2. Certification to Certain New Certification Criteria
- D. ONC-ACB Reporting Requirements
- E. Continuation and Representation of

Use in Quality Measures



September 9, 2011

Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Mostashari:

The HIT Standards Committee's (HITSC) Clinical Quality Measures Workgroup (CQMWG) and Vocabulary Task Force (VTF) jointly developed recommendations on the assignment of code sets to clinical concepts [data elements] for use in quality measures.

The CQMWG and VTF held a series of joint meetings to develop the set of recommendations. This letter transmits the recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the assignment of code sets to clinical concepts for use in quality measures. On August 17, 2011, the CQMWG and VTF reported on and discussed their findings with the HITSC, which were subsequently approved as outlined below.

LOINC Adopted For

Patient Characteristics

[Non-lab] Diagnostics studies

Patient experience

Family history

Functional status

Health record component

Interventions (that produce an assessment or measured results)

Laboratory tests

Physical exam

Patient preference

Risk evaluation

System resources (healthcare resources)

You too can fall for LOINC





4 Main Deliverables

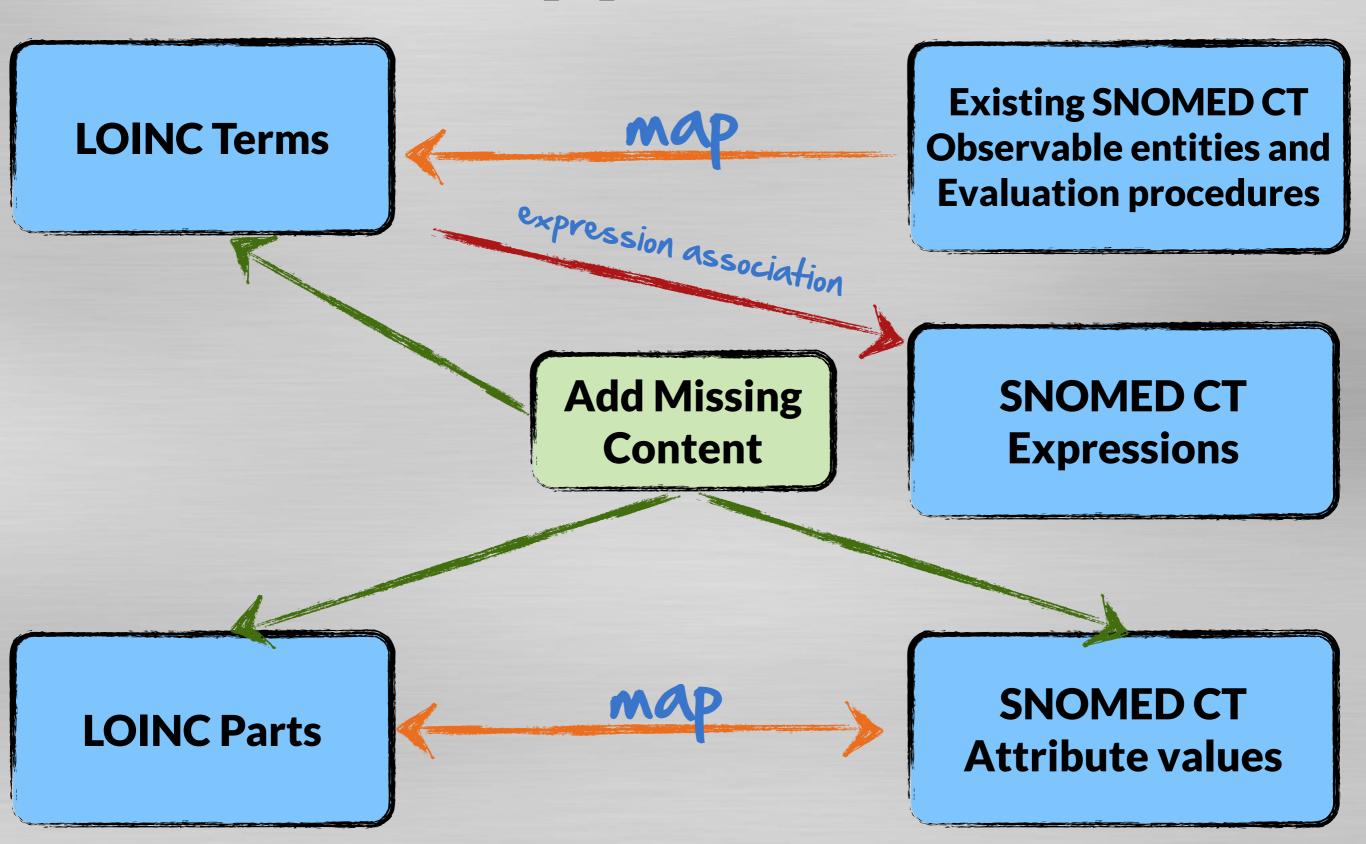
Mapping LOINC Parts to SNOMED CT concepts

Mapping existing SNOMED CT Observables to LOINC terms

LOINC terms associated with post-coordinated expressions

LOINC terms with categorical answer values linked to SNOMED CT answers

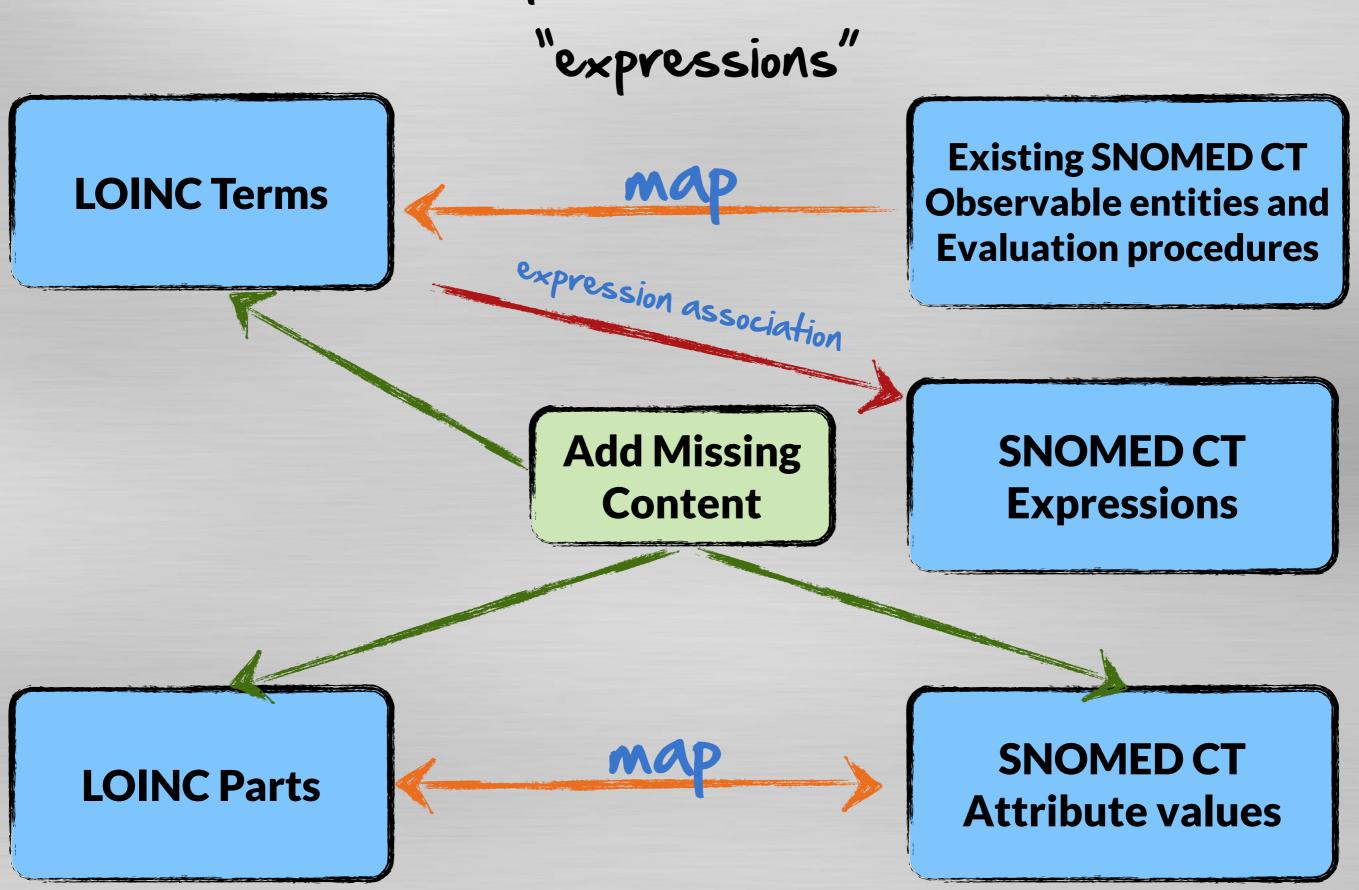
Approach



Maps between LOINC Parts and SNOMED CTadd stuff where needed

Existing SNOMED CT LOINC Terms Observable entities and **Evaluation procedures** expression association **Add Missing SNOMED CT** Content **Expressions** MAP **SNOMED CT LOINC Parts Attribute values**

LOINC Terms represented in SNOMED CT as



How We'll Proceed

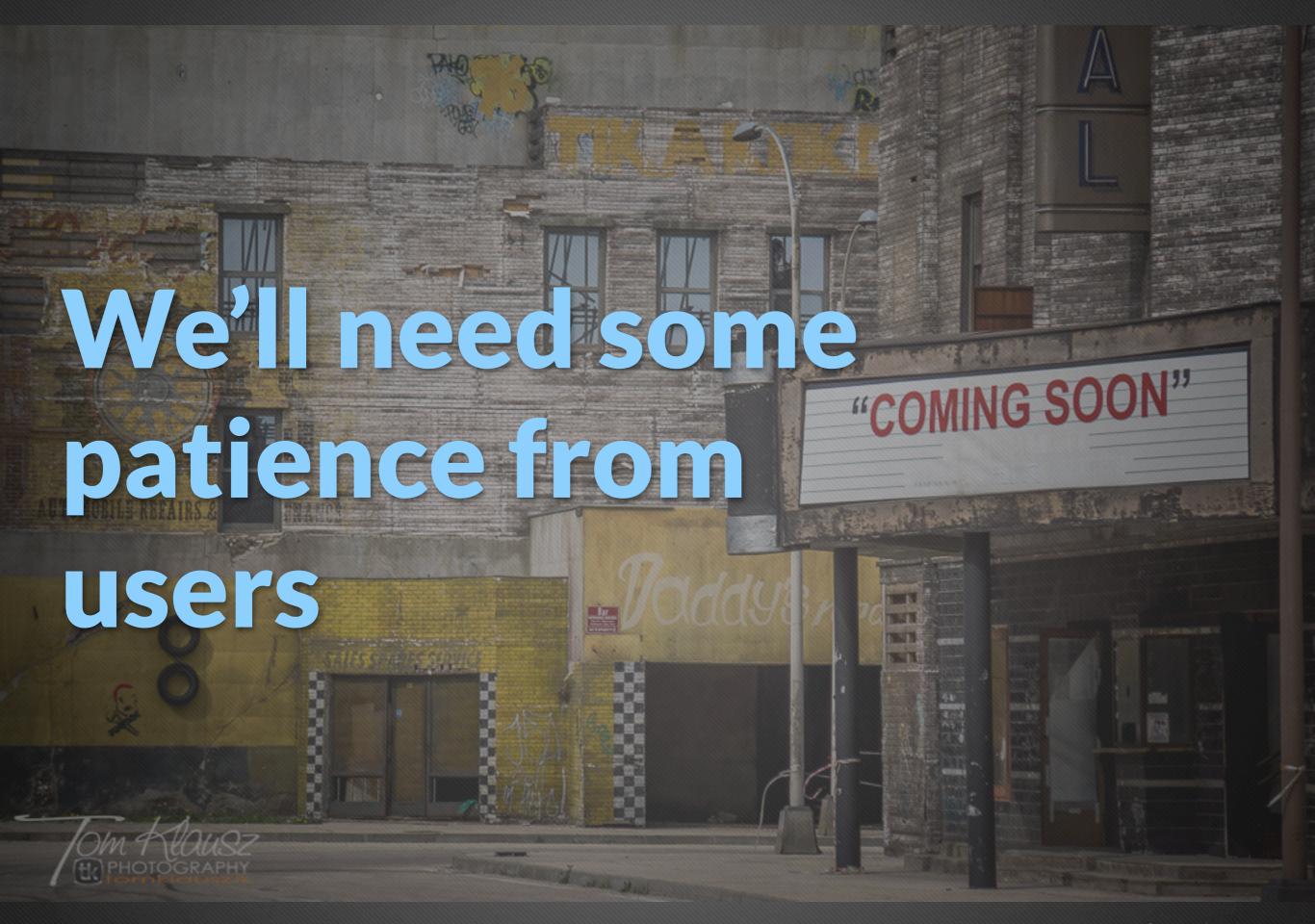
Pragmatically, not perfectly

Starting with these domain areas

Laboratory

Including discrete orders and observations and panel names for orders (excluding panel structure)

Anthropomorphic measurements and evaluations Vital signs and physiological measurements





Electronic Lab Reporting to Public Health

Lab to Public Health Reporting

V251_IG_LB_LABRPTPH_R1_INFORM_2010FEB



HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide: Electronic Laboratory Reporting to Public Health, Release 1 (US Realm)

HL7 Version 2.5.1: ORU^R01

HL7 Informative Document

February, 2010

Sponsored by:

Public Health / Emergency Response Work Group

RCMT

Reportable Condition Mapping Table

Links reportable conditions to associated LOINC laboratory tests and SNOMED results

Acute poliomyelitis (disorder)

SCTID: 398102009

Lab Test Name (from LOINC)

40709-8	Polio virus Ab [Units/volume] in Cerebral spinal fluid
16284-2	Polio virus Ab [Units/volume] in Serum
42980-3	Polio virus Ab [Titer] in Serum
27261-7	Polio virus Ab [Titer] in Serum by Complement fixation
60546-9	Polio virus identified [Type] in Isolate by Organism specific culture
53645-8	Polio virus identified in Stool by Organism specific culture
lots more	

Lab Test Result (from SNOMED CT)

44172002	Human poliovirus (organism)
22580008	Human poliovirus 1 (organism)
55174004	Human poliovirus 2 (organism)
16362001	Human poliovirus 3 (organism)

Electronic Laboratory Reporting: Barriers, Solutions and Findings

J. Marc Overhage, Jeffrey Suico, and Clement J. McDonald

Electronic laboratory reporting can improve surveillance for notifiable conditions. Building on standards for message structure and content, we have implemented an electronic laboratory reporting system by building on the infrastructure created for the Indiana Network for Patient Care (INPC). The system has proven reliable in delivering results and scalable to multiple laboratories over 36 months of use. In April 2000, the system identified over 1,000 cases of notifiable conditions from the laboratories at four different laboratories. Our experience in developing the system has highlighted the need for improved compliance with HL7 result message formats by the laboratory information systems and more structured reporting of results for tests such as microbiology including consistent use of the abnormal flag.

Key words: disease notification, electronic laboratory reporting, Indiana, population surveillance, public health

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J Public Health Management Practice, 2001, 7(6), 60–66

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Introduction

Public health traditionally has relied on laboratory and hospital staff, physicians, and other relevant sources to take the initiative to provide data to health departments, where public health officials analyze and interpret the information as it comes in. Previous evaluations of notifiable condition surveillance relying on spontaneous reporting have found that sources often submit reports late and there is substantial underreporting. ^{1,2} Most condition reports received by health departments originate from clinical laboratories. ³⁻⁵ Active surveillance, in which public health officials contact sources and inquire about potential cases, produces more complete information than passive surveillance but it requires more time and money.

Background

One form of active surveillance is electronic laboratory-based reporting (ELR). Clinical laboratories using ELR send data indicating cases of notifiable

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The authors performed this work at the Regenstrief Institute for Health Care and the National Library of Medicine supported us with contract number N01-LM-4-3510 and N01-LM-6-3546.

Electronic Laboratory Reporting: Barriers, Solutions and Findings

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4X greater detection rate deputation, where public health officials analyze and interpret the information as it comes in. Previous walked on Managements and the previous and interpret the information as it comes in. Previous walked on Managements and the previous and interpret the information as it comes in. Previous walked on the previous walked on the previous and interpret the information as it comes in. Previous walked on the previous walked on the previous walked on the previous walked on the previous and interpret the information as it comes in. Previous walked on the previous walked

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Same day versus 2-5 day

Key words: disease notification, electronic laboratory reporting, Indiana, population surveillance public health

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Newborn Screening

U.S. National Library of Medicine



Newborn Screening Coding and Terminology Guide

Data Standards for Electronic Reporting

Home Views Downloads HL7 Resources Code Standards About Updates Contact Us

The goal of the Newborn Screening Coding and Terminology Guide is to promote and facilitate the use of electronic health data standards in recording and transmitting newborn screening test results. The Web site includes standard codes and terminology for newborn tests and the conditions for which they screen, and links to other related sites. The codes and vocabulary standards are provided in a series of tables that you can view on the Web and/or download for your own use. These tables cover conditions recommended for screening by the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (SACHDNC) or by a state within the U.S.

Use of these standards can speed the delivery of newborn screening reports, facilitate the care and follow-up of infants with positive test results, enable the use (and comparison) of data from different laboratories, and support the development of strategies for improving the newborn screening process.

This Web site also includes <u>draft guidance for creating an HL7 version 2.x message using these codes</u> with examples. If you would like us to notify you about updates to this guidance and other new content, please subscribe to the <u>RSS feed for Updates</u>, or join the <u>NBS-Announcements</u> e-mail list from the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

You can reach these various resources by picking a choice below.

<u>Views</u>: Generate customized Web views from the tables of conditions and analytes/measurements maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM®).

- Conditions Conditions that are targeted by newborn screening
- Analytes/Measurements Tests that are used as markers for newborn screening conditions
- <u>Tailored Views</u> Specify subsets, or see relationships between conditions and analytes/measurements

<u>Downloads</u>: Download the tables of newborn screening conditions, of markers for these conditions and/or of mappings between conditions and their markers.

newbornscreeningcodes.nlm.nih.gov

PKU - Phenylketonuria - Condition Details

Overview
 Names and Codes
 Affected Protein Names and Codes
 Analytes or Measurements
 More Information

Phenylketonuria is an inherited disorder that increases levels of the amino acid phenylalanine in the blood. Infants with classic PKU appear normal until they are a few months old. The signs and symptoms of PKU vary from mild to severe, including seizures, delayed development, behavioral problems, and psychiatric disorders. Permanent intellectual disability can be prevented with a special low-phenylalanine diet. Phenylketonuria is caused by mutations in the PAH gene; it has an autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance.

Names and Codes

Condition:1	Phenylketonuria	
Abbreviation:1	PKU	
SACHDNC Category:2	Core	
SNOMED CT Code:3	7573000 — Classical phenylketonuria UMLS CUI:4 C0751434	
ICD-9-CM Code:5	270.1 — Phenylketonuria [PKU]	
ICD-10-CM Code:6	E70.0 — Classical phenylketonuria	

Affected Protein Names and Codes

Enzyme Commission Number:

1.14.16.1
→ Phenylalanine 4-monooxygenase

UniProt Number:
→ Phenylalanine-4-hydroxylase

Analytes or Measurements

These measurements are associated with the condition:

SITTED AND THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY AND T	Analyte Short Name1		Units12
Phenylalanine [Moles/volume] in Dried blood spot	PHE	29573-3	mmol/L
Phenylalanine/Tyrosine [Molar ratio] in Dried blood spot	PHE/TYR	35572-7	{ratio}

57131-5 Newborn conditions with positive markers [Identifier] in Dried blood spot

NAME

Fully-Specified Name: Component Property Time System Scale Method
Newborn conditions with positive markers Prid Pt Bld.dot Nom

TERM DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION(S)

This variable list the conditions that that the markers suggest may be present. It is a coded result intended for easy access by decision support systems to identify the cases that need special attention. The LOINC code will include an answer list that covers all of the conditions screened for by any state. States would only make statements about the conditions they screen for. (This item is still under discussion by the NBS community and subject to change)

Source: Regenstrief LOINC

BASIC ATTRIBUTES

Class/Type: CHEM/Lab
Last Updated: 2011/04/05
Order vs. Obs.: Observation
Status: Active

NORMATIVE ANSWER LIST (LL835-0)

SEQ#	Answer	Global ID	Global ID Code System	Code	Answer ID
0	None		2/10/02		LA137-2
1	HEAR	15188001	SCT		LA12463-8
2	2M3HBA	791000124107	SCT		LA12464-6
3	2MBG	445596006	SCT		LA12465-3
4	3-MCC	13144005	SCT		LA12466-1
5	3-MCC (mat)	206001006	SCT		LA12467-9
6	3MGA	297235006	SCT		LA12468-7
7	5-OXO	39112005	SCT		LA12469-5
8	ARG	23501004	SCT		LA12470-3
9	ASA	41013004	SCT		LA12471-1
10	BIOPT-BS	237914002	SCT		LA12472-9
11	BIOPT-REG	58256000	SCT		LA12473-7
12	BKT	237953006	SCT		LA12474-5
13	CACT	238003000	SCT		LA12475-2
14	CBL A	73843004	SCT		LA12476-0
15	CBL B	82245003	SCT		LA12477-8
16	CBLC	74653006	SCT		LA12478-6
17	CBL D	31220004	SCT		LA12479-4
18	CBLE	360373000	SCT		LA12480-2
19	CBL G	237938003	SCT		LA12481-0

The Future



Maps and Expressions

CD3+CD4+ (T4 helper) cells [#/volume] in Blood

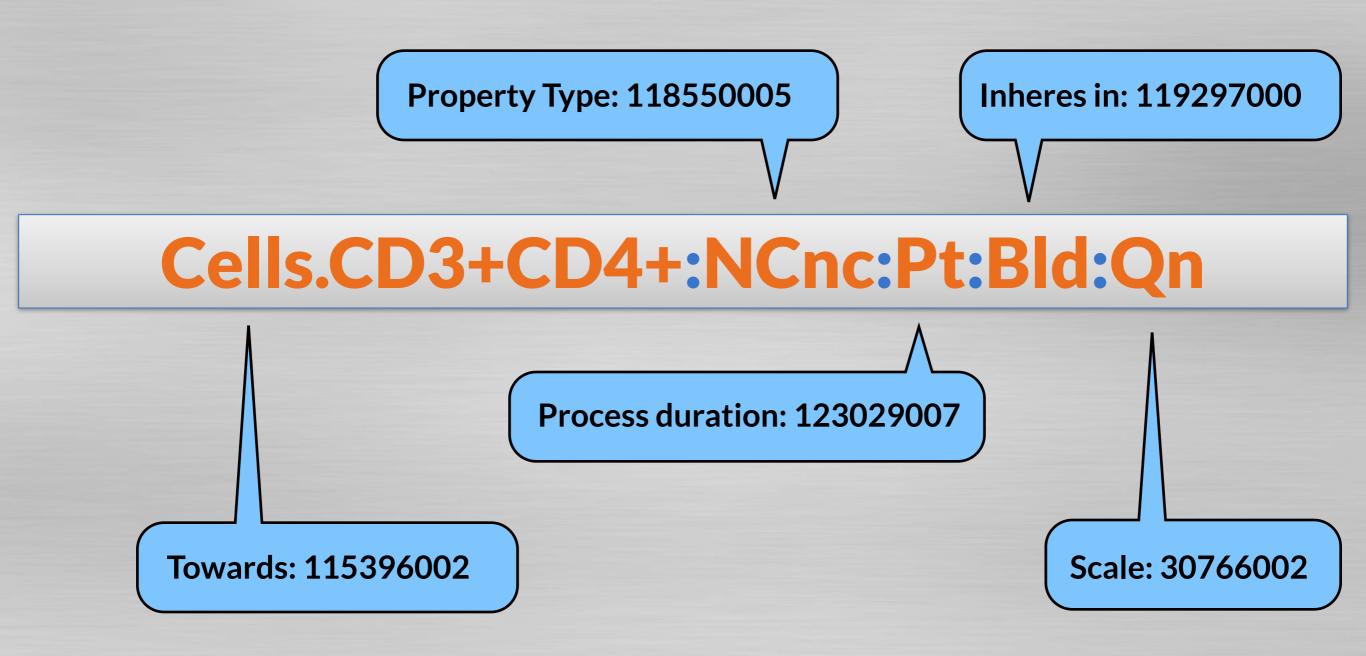
24467-3:Cells.CD3+CD4+:NCnc:Pt:Bld:Qn:

LOINC	SNOMED CT
Cells.CD3+CD4+	T lymphocyte positive for both CD3 antigen and CD4
NCnc	Number concentration (qualifier value)
Pt	Single point in time (qualifier value)
Bld	Blood specimen (specimen)
Qn	Quantitative (qualifier value)

Expression Associations

SNOMED Observable Model for Qualities

Incoming LOINC Code 24467-3 means...



Now, you can use the SNOMED CT hierarchy for queries, etc...

SNOMED CT Concept

Body structure

Anatomical or acquired body structure

Anatomical structure

Body system structure

Structure of hematological system

Blood cell

Leukocyte

Peripheral blood mononuclear cell

Lymphocyte

T lymphocyte

T lymphocyte positive for CD4 antigen

T lymphocyte positive for both CD3 antigen and CD4 antigen



When will all this be done?

Remember the request for patience?

Starting first with the most common lab tests (LOINC Top 2000) and components from Microbiology and Chemistry

Alpha (~ March 2014)
Preview release (~ July 2014)
Initial release (~Jan 2015)

Should I stop using LOINC?

Of course not!

IHTSDO endorses the use of LOINC Codes for representation of orders and observations in countries where LOINC has been adopted.



IHTSDO and RII both endorse the statement that, LOINC provides codes that represent the names of information items (e.g. questions) and SNOMED CT provides codes that may represent nominal and ordinal values (e.g. answers) for these named information items.

Will IHTSDO keep making SNOMED CT Observables?

Yes. But like we said, LOINC has >70,000 of them and we're committed to minimizing duplication.

Yes. But like we said, LOINC has >70,000 of them and we're committed to minimizing duplication.

Within the scope of this Agreement, IHTSDO will not add new SNOMED CT Concepts that are subtypes of "Observable Entity" or "Evaluation Procedure" within the Cooperative Areas, except where one of the following conditions applies:

Condition 1

A specific requirement for such an addition has been formally submitted to the IHTSDO by two or more IHTSDO Members, and the additional concept has been modeled and reviewed in line with SNOMED CT editorial guidelines. Requests for additions derived from lists of LOINC Terms, will not be accepted without special permission from RII.

Condition 2

A LOINC Term cannot be sufficiently specified by a post-coordinated expression based on the SNOMED CT Concept model, and the additional concept has been modeled and reviewed in line with SNOMED CT editorial guidelines.

IHTSDO will seek to modify the SNOMED Observable Model to accommodate Observable Entities that measure the sum of 2 or more analyses and other changes to minimize the need to invoke this clause.

The Race is On!



Happy LOINCing!

photo via ryarwood

