LOINC Laboratory Committee Meeting
Date: 2026-10-15
Time: 9:00 -10:00 a.m. EDT / 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. UTC
Chair: Pam Banning

ATTENDEES

Committee Members:

1. **Pam Banning (Chair)**
    a. **Chris Gordon**
2. **Andrea Pitkus**
3. **Jenna Rychert**
    a. Ben Brisbay
    b. Spencer Siady
4. **Xavier Gansel**
    a. Mike Dante
5. Miereia Rodriguez Naque
    a. Vicky Berez
    b. Gloria Gonzalez
    c. Nuria Planas Acero
6. Anil Patel
    a. **Linda Monico**
    b. Tarek Kadoura
7. **Simone Arvisais-Anhalt**
    a. **Alex Mays**
8. Daniel Vreeman
9. **Stanley Huff**
    a. Nathan Davis
    b. Doug Mitchell
10. **Jessie Wright**
11. Leanna Harmon
    a. Michelle Kincer
    b. Kimberly Rich
    c. **Laura Lemonds**
12. Leticia Linhares
13. Maureen Slackway
14. **Joseph Yao**
    a. **Candace Byrge**
    b. **Carla Ihrke**
15. Michael Martin
16. Tiffany Paulsen
17. John Snyder
    a. Liz Amos
18. Feikje Hielkema
    a. Inge Soons
19. Alex Milinovich
20. **Kimberly Scott**
    a. Kimberly Brown
21. **Jeremy Sonnenmoser**
22. **Tina Johnson**
    a. Cindy Martin
23. Andrea Wu
24. Riki Merrick

Regenstrief Staff:
Geoffrey Ratemo, Marjorie Rallins

Guests:
Nuria Planas

Committee Members = 24 | # Attending = 12 | Quorum = Yes

Meeting Summary

SHIELD update
Discussion:

- SHIELD held its first face-to-face meeting during the HL7 event in North Bethesda. Discussions focused on common laboratory tests and the addition of public-health tests.
- SHIELD Steering Committee presented to ONC about the current immature state of laboratory interoperability and the need for LIS vendor certification to support LOINC and SNOMED functionality.
- SHIELD commented on the CMS RFI; SHIELD did not formally comment on the CLIA RFI but individual members/organizations did. A CLIA final rule was released the week before the meeting and was noted as relevant to U.S. lab implementers.
- Andrea emphasized the risk that some FHIR proposals might not meet regulatory (CLIA) requirements and recommended engaging CLIA in HL7 O&O discussions.

Decisions: None
Next steps: None

LOINC International Conference
Discussion:

- Committee members reported strong international participation and useful sessions across mapping, translations, radiology, and LOINC ontology discussions.
- The LOINC Laboratory committee Chair led a mapping roundtable; highlights included Italy and Open Concept Lab demonstrations and active discussion of component/property/method shifts in LOINC naming.
- Xavier Gansel was recognized as the 2026 Distinguished LOINC Contributor Award winner.
- Next year's conference will be in Brussels (October 2027).

Decisions: None
Next steps: None

DRUG/TOX – Orders/Panels planning

Discussion:

- Example submissions containing many proposed entries were discussed. (examples include metabolite-specific entries and many mass-spectrometry entries); 273 entries were noted as "more specific metabolites" in the queue.
- Concerns were raised that certain metabolite-specific test items categorized under immunoassay methods may not actually exist in practice, given that immunoassays generally offer lower specificity for distinguishing individual metabolites compared to mass spectrometry.
- A proposal was made to evaluate toxicology panels based on whether clinicians require screen-level, reflex-to-confirm, or granular component-level method details. This includes examining how the overall ordered intent (screen vs. confirm) alongside component-level laboratory methods should be represented in LOINC..

Decisions: None
Next steps: None

Molecular genetics: (Microbiology DNA and RNA)

Discussion:

A proposal was reviewed to transition microorganism nucleic-acid detection (DNA/RNA) codes away from numerous specific LOINC codes—which hardcode the organism, specimen, and method into the main concept—toward a post-coordinated modeling approach:

- New approach: create a base LOINC observation concept (e.g., "Neisseria gonorrhoeae [nucleic acid] detection") and use post-coordinated LOINC parts (curly-brace placeholders) for specimen and molecular method (MOLGEN) that reference allowed value sets (SNOMED specimen and method codes).
- This allows representation like: base LOINC code + specimen code + method code + result (Detected / Not detected), and enables more flexible analytics and research uses.

Concerns raised:

- Concerns were noted regarding current EHR and LIS capabilities—particularly in the U.S.—which often lack support for post-coordinated concepts. Additionally, the approach relies heavily on complete and accurate specimen/method value sets, requiring careful curation of SNOMED concepts (which have previously contained non-medical artifacts). Regulatory compliance considerations under CLIA and ISO 15189 must also be addressed when a single test process is validated across multiple specimen types.
- It was clarified that the proposed shift applies equally to both DNA and RNA detection, though generic nucleic-acid codes were created only where supported by existing code requirements.
- For a question about real-world reporting when LIS stores specimen in the test name and lacks a separate specimen field, it was clarified that that current LOINC codes (existing specimen-specific codes) remain active and that users could continue to use those; the new post-coordinated codes do not remove existing codes.
- Processing errors during the creation and updating of codes were acknowledged, though duplicate code creation was caught and prevented by internal quality assurance. The model changes were designed to support international requirements, as several non-U.S. health systems already natively support post-coordination in their software.

Decisions:

- Topic marked unresolved; the committee agreed to convene focused working sessions before the next Laboratory LOINC committee call to address outstanding questions, implementation challenges and transition considerations with the goal of reaching consensus on the proposed approach.

Next steps:None

New action items

1. To review 8251 and 8515 for correct IA vs mass-spec methods; Pam will circulate the Steven Wagers panel file and prepare recommended boundaries for toxicology panel representation. Jenna volunteered to help Pam with order/drug-toxicology work.

a. Target completion: TBD
b. Lead: Pam Banning

2. Assist Pam with review and follow-up on order/drug-toxicology tasks (8251 and 8515 and toxicology panel decisions). (Volunteer during meeting)

   a. Target completion: TBD
   b. Lead: Jenna Rychert

3. Provide further detail and materials for the nucleic-acid/molecular-genetics post-coordination proposal; participate in planned focused working sessions to address implementation/transition concerns (U.S. vs international contexts). (working sessions to be scheduled before the 2026-11-19 meeting.)

   a. Target completion: 2026-11-19
   b. Lead: Stan Huff

4. Participate in focused working sessions on molecular/nucleic-acid naming and on toxicology order-panel semantics (screen vs confirm vs component-level) prior to the next committee meeting.

   a. Target completion: TBD
   b. Lead: Committee / Volunteers

5. Amend prior month's minutes in accordance with the transcript as some items may not have been captured. Ensure amended minutes are circulated.

   a. Target completion: 2026-11-19
   b. Lead: Committee point of contact / Minutes

New Follow-up Tasks:

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- LOINC Laboratory Committee_Meeting Summary_2026-09-17_FINAL.docx
- LOINC Laboratory Committee_Meeting Agenda_2026-10-15_Final
- LaboratoryCommittee_MeetingSlides_2026-10-15_final.pptx
- ROC Compare.xlsx
- Replacing XXX with semantic links.pptx

Next Meeting

- 2026-11-19, 9:00 -10:00 a.m. EDT / 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. UTC
- Tentative agenda topics
  None

Parked Topics

- Codes that use Property “impression” with a scale of “ordinal” like https://loinc.org/114412-0. Need to assess how many examples there are.