



Canada Health Infoway



Canada Health Infoway

Pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology

Working Group

October 20, 2025

Agenda

- 1) Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement, Purpose - 5 mins
- 2) Introductions - 5 mins
- 4) What is the process we are following: Anil – 5 mins
- 5) Terms of Reference, Decision Making: Linda – 10 mins
- 6) Summary to date – 1 min
- 7) Decisions for today – 20 mins
 - Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine
 - Pulmonology
 - Capitalization
- 8) Future meetings – 5 min

Territorial Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we are hosting this meeting – the land that sustains us – includes the ancestral territories of many First Peoples. We recognize the colonial injustices experienced by Indigenous Peoples, many of which continue today and continue to affect their health and well-being. I invite all attendees to reflect on the privilege they have of living, working and playing in the territory from which you are joining this call, and invite you to commit yourself with me to forging culturally safe spaces for and relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Canadian healthcare.

Problems to Solve

1. **Acute Care** document ontology – distributed documents
2. **Community Care** document ontology
3. **FHIR** solutions for DocumentReference.type
4. **Artificial intelligence** – training and reporting
5. **Implementation** inertia – document ontology

Pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology Working Group

- The Pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology Working Group **brings together stakeholders** from across jurisdictions [to build a shared foundation for standardized document titles and categories](#) to support the exchange of health information in Canada.
- **Purpose:**
Enable document interoperability and increase efficiency for community physicians through the use of **LOINC-based document standards**. By developing and aligning on consistent approaches to document titling and categorization, we aim to **streamline clinical workflows and enhance the exchange of information across systems**.
- **Goals:**
 - **Reduce the administrative burden** associated with non-standardized document titles within the health system.
 - **Enable interoperable document exchange** between systems and endpoints across Canada.
 - **Support flexible implementation** by Provinces, Health Authorities, and EMR Vendors through a document categorization model that accommodates both user preference for title length and varying levels of concept specificity.
- The group is committed to fostering collaboration across jurisdictions and stakeholders to ensure the resulting standards are **practical, scalable**, and support pan-Canadian health data interoperability

Possible Workgroup *Outputs*

- **Editorial Guidelines** for our list of LOINC codes and attributes
 - Principles adopted
 - Application of principles
- **Guiding Principles** document for the LOINC system in Canada, including the architectural choices and procedures.
- **Recommended changes** of pCLOCD .Doc class
- **Implementation Guide** for health systems to start using Canadian document classifications.

What perspectives ensure best results for this Pan-Canadian working group?

- Balance of
 - Implementors and clinicians (practical)
 - Inventors and regulators (standards coherence)
- Vendors?
- Other provinces?

Alignment with Infoway

- This group's work:
 - aligns with Infoway's goal of accelerating the adoption of digital health standards and solutions.
 - can help develop reference materials, mappings, and bilingual translations to support Infoway's terminology server.
 - can influence the PCLOCD (Pan-Canadian Laboratory Observation Code Database) document ontology class codes.

pCLOCD and LOINC Integration

- PCLOCD currently has over 1,200 document ontology codes, mostly from Ontario.
- This group can:
 - suggest changes to the PCLOCD naming conventions and editorial guidelines.
 - Integrate LOINC codes into PCLOCD was discussed, including the ability to add new subject matter domains.

Terms of Reference

- Terms of Reference (in development)

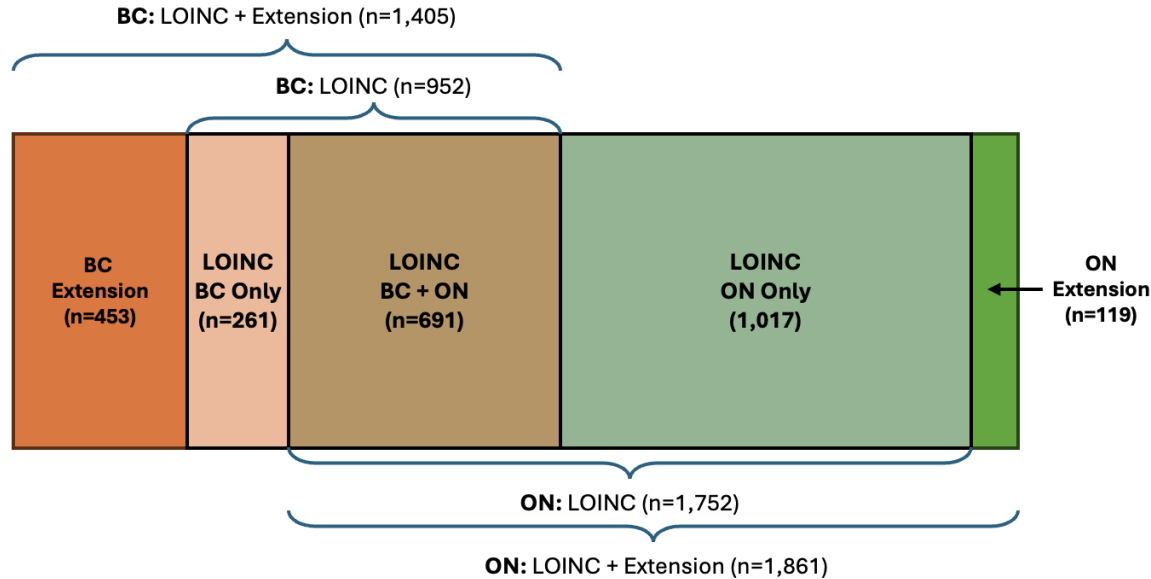
Roles

- **Lead:** Dr. Ian Bekker, facilitate discussions, maintain focus on objectives, and ensure consensus is achieved
- **Members:** Participate actively, provide expertise, review drafts, and support decision-making.
- **Secretariat:** Linda Monico, Manage logistics, circulate materials, record decisions, and track milestones.
- **Quorum:** Minimum [e.g., 50%+1 members] required to conduct formal discussions with decisions.
- **Decision making approach:**
 - **Consensus-Based:** Decisions are made when all members can accept and support the outcome.
 - **Fallback Mechanism:** If consensus cannot be reached after discussion, dissenting opinions will be documented, and unresolved items escalated to Infoway Standards team.

Summary To Date

- Ontario and BC have Ontologies that are working for them
 - Both have some 'clean-up to do'
 - Both have made localizations from LOINC standard (editorial guidelines)
- Pan-Canadian Ontology needs to reconcile their editorial guidelines for national perspective.

How the Canadian Ontology can represent what is in use today?



Decisions For Today

- Pulmonology
- Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine
- Capitalization

Decision - Pulmonary

Problem

- LOINC International has a SMD of *Pulmonary*

Example

34103-2	Pulmonary Consult note	Consultation note	Find	Pt	{Setting}
83787-2	Pulmonary Attending Note	Note	Find	Pt	{Setting}
83638-7	Pulmonary Nurse Note	Note	Find	Pt	{Setting}
83943-1	Respiratory therapy Hospital Note	Note	Find	Pt	Hospital
83915-9	Pulmonary Outpatient Note	Note	Find	Pt	Outpatient
83788-0	Pulmonary Attending Outpatient Note	Note	Find	Pt	Outpatient

Decision - Pulmonary

Clinical Need/Principle to apply

- Use only SMD that are valid specialties in Canada
- Follow Canadian College of Physician and Surgeons names of specialties
- Follow the international standard

Options

1. Use *Pulmonary* as a SMD
2. Use *Respirology* as a SMD

Recommendation

- Option 2

Decision – Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine

Problem

- LOINC International has a SMD of *Blood banking and transfusion medicine*

Example

89795-9	Blood banking and transfusion medicine Progress note	Progress note	Find	Pt	{Setting}	Doc	Blood banking and transfusion medicine
100553-7	Blood banking and transfusion medicine Hospital Progress note	Progress note	Find	Pt	Hospital	Doc	Blood banking and transfusion medicine
100444-9	Blood banking and transfusion medicine Outpatient Progress note	Progress note	Find	Pt	Outpatient	Doc	Blood banking and transfusion medicine

Decision - Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine

Clinical Need/Principle to apply

- Use only SMD that are valid specialties in Canada
- Follow Canadian College of Physician and Surgeons names of specialties
- If not in CCPS, then a) Has an (semi)annual conference, b) Has a journal
- Follow the international standard

Options

1. Use Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine as a SMD
2. Use Transfusion Medicine as a SMD

Recommendation

- Option 2



CSTM Annual Conference

2025 CSTM Conference - St. John's >

2024 CSTM Conference - Saskatoon

Event Calendar

Photo Gallery

The Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine is a multidisciplinary society which promotes and supports best practice in transfusion medicine in Canada through education, communication and partnerships.

Ask the Transfusion Medicine Community

Ask the Standards Committee

Become a CSTM Member

View Industry Careers

Hemovigilance

Decision - Capitalization

Problem

- LOINC International is inconsistent in their use of capitals in Display Names

Example

Status	LOINC	Long Common Name	Component	Prop
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
	68577-6	Orthopaedic surgery Diagnostic study note	Diagnostic study note	Find

Decision - Capitalization

Problem

- LOINC International is inconsistent in their use of capitals in Display Names
- Hanna: “LOINC convention is to capitalize on each LOINC part, as the LOINC LCN is a combination of all its parts. It is consistently applied for the most part, with few exceptions. (ie. 96353-8 Wound care management procedure note, 78315-9 Family medicine procedure note)

Example

Status	LOINC	Long Common Name	Component	Prop
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
	68577-6	Orthopaedic surgery Diagnostic study note	Diagnostic study note	Find

Decision - Capitalization

Clinical Need/Principle to apply

- Easy to read / consistency between titles
- Follow English grammar
- Follow the international standard

Options

1. Recommend using LOINC Display Names with uneven capitalization
2. Recommend change the LOINC display names to have each word capitalized
 - Orthopaedic Surgery Discharge Summary Note

Recommendation

- Option 2

Authoritative Reference

According to the Chicago Manual of Style, you should capitalize the first and last words of a title and all major words (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs). Lowercase articles (a, an, the), common coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, or, nor), and prepositions, with exceptions for prepositions that are used adverbially/adjectivally or are the first/last word of the title. The word "to" should always be lowercased unless it is the first or last word of the title.

The image shows the cover of 'The Chicago Manual of Style'. The title is written in a large, bold, black serif font against a solid yellow background. The words are stacked vertically: 'The', 'Chicago', 'Manual', and 'of Style'.

Anil's document

Draft 'Guidelines' document

- Canadian Context
- Criteria for LOINC Code Additions, Changes, Deprecation – and Granularity Decisions
- LOINC Document Ontology Code Request Checklist

Work Plan

1. Each Province cleans up their ontology
2. Creating PanCan editorial guidelines through review of ON and BC editorial guidelines
3. Recommend to include the common 623 concepts
4. Creating PanCan editorial guidelines through review the 'symmetrical difference' of BC and ON ontologies
 - How to handle semantic synonyms
 - How to handle level of granularity
5. Recommend to include the unique ON and BC concepts
6. Choose the format of extensions
7. Recommend to include extensions of ON and BC ontologies
8. Choose storage format
9. Choose distribution format

Dennis Lee's Suggestions for PanCan Ontology

- Display Name localization options
- Extension Code structure
- Editorial Guidelines
- Mapping between provincial choices
- Tracking changes
- Distribution Formats
- Request LOINC Codes and Parts

Future Meetings


SHOULD WE KEEP EVERY 2 WEEKS?

Next meetings

- **Review of BC and ON editorial guidelines (All SMD, Display Names)**
- **Review of common 691 terms**
- Review pCLOCD
- Review draft Guidelines document
- Discussion on the work plan for this committee
- Overview of LOINC structure
- Have project teams (IPS, eReferral, HIE) present

How to use InfoCentral

InfoCentral Home | Infoway Website | FAQ | Contact Us | Français Imonico | Logout

 **Canada Health Infoway** | InfoCentral

Communities | Standards Centre | Tools | Resources | News & Events | Editor

Home » **Communities** » Working Groups » **pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology** Share this page: [Tweet](#) [Share](#) [Share](#) | [Print](#) [Email](#)

pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology

Working Group

The Pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology Working Group brings together stakeholders from across jurisdictions to build a shared foundation for standardized document titles and categories to support the exchange of health information in Canada.

Hide Group Menu

About | Activity | **Events** | Forum | Documents | Video | Members | Invites

[View Calendar](#) [Add Event](#)

Upcoming events:

Mon Sep 22 @11:00AM - 12:00PM
[Launch Meeting Series](#)

Mon Oct 06 @11:00AM - 12:00PM
[Launch Meeting Series](#)

Mon Oct 20 @11:00AM - 12:00PM
[Launch Meeting Series](#)



Members: 17

Contact: [Ian Bekker](#)

Admins: [Linda Monico](#)

Type: Open

Access: Public

[Edit About](#)

[Notifications](#)

LOINC Document Ontology Axes

- **Subject Matter Domain** (Method)
 - E.g., Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology, Physical Therapy
- **Role** (Method)
 - E.g., Physician, Nurse, Case Manager, Therapist, Patient
- **Setting** (System)
 - E.g., Hospital, Outpatient, Emergency Department
- **Type of Service** (Component)
 - E.g., Consultation, History and Physical, Discharge Summary
- **Kind of Document.** (Component)
 - E.g., Note, Letter, Consent

TITLES YOU'LL
SEE AT
LOINC.ORG

VALUABLE LOINC ONTOLOGY DESCRIPTION:
[HTTPS://LOINC.ORG/KB/USERS-GUIDE/DOCUMENT-ONTOLOGY/](https://loinc.org/kb/users-guide/document-ontology/)

What will be your task in this committee?

Think

- How is our ontology going to be used?
- How to make it work well for different users?
- How to make it work well for different systems?
- Solve tough choices
 - Discussion
 - Consensus
- Read the materials
- Contribute (tasks) where you can



Canada Health Infoway

Thank you!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
infoway-inforoute.ca

VISIT OUR SURVEY WEBSITE
insights.infoway-inforoute.ca/

LET'S CONNECT ON LINKEDIN
linkedin.com/company/canada-health-infoway

LET'S CONNECT ON INSTAGRAM
[@infoway_inforoute](https://www.instagram.com/infoway_inforoute)