

Meeting Minutes



Pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology Working Group

Meeting Date: November 3rd, 2025

Next Meeting: is scheduled for November 17, 2025

Attendee	Organization	Voting member	Present
Dr. Ian Bekker	Vancouver Island Health	Y	Y
Dennis Lee	UVic	Y	Y
Anil Patel	Canada Health Infoway	Y	Y
Linda Monico	Canada Health Infoway		N
Salve Achacoso	eCHN	Y	Y
Jennifer Lawson	CIHI		Y
Tetyana Maniuk	CIHI		Y
Uyen Do	CIHI		N
Alyssa Bryan	CIHI	Y	Y
Shangjucta Das Pooja	CIHI		Y
Maria Fodor	ON Health	Y	Y
Hanna Pingal	ON Health		N
Natalie Schweizer	Northern Health Authority		Y
Debbie Onos	Alberta Health	Y	Y
Heather Whitfield	Ontario Hospitals	Y	Y
Maximillian Besworth	Provincial Health Services Authority	Y	Y
Daniel Simic	BC MOH		Y

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Mukesh Kashyap	BC MOH	Y	Y
Harsh Sharma	Provincial Health Services Authority		Y
Matthew Leduc	OntarioMD	Y	Y
Sandra Getschel	Alberta Gov		Y
Dennis Cabel	Provincial Health Services Authority		Y
Thomas Zhou	Alberta Health Services		Y

Topic	Discussion & Decisions
Meeting Objectives & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session began with a land acknowledgement, recognizing participants were on the ancestral territories of First Nations people. The group is encouraged to reflect on privilege and the responsibility to ensure their work in health technology does not propagate colonial injustices, maintaining a culturally safe environment. The core objectives of the working group were reiterated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve problems for Acute Care, Community Care, FHIR document exchange, AI, and implementation. Reduce administrative burden. Build a shared foundation of standardized document titles and categories. Ensure interoperability and document exchange across Canada while allowing for provincial/territorial flexibility.
Administrative Updates & Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference: The group is refining its terms of reference, including defining membership roles and a quorum minimum (e.g. 50% + 1 of membership categories) to conduct formal decisions. Decision-Making Process: The “gradient of agreement scale” for voting is introduced. Members were instructed to indicate their support level (e.g., 1-5, from strong opposition to strong support) for proposals via the chat to better gauge consensus. Future Meetings: Members were reminded to register for the upcoming meeting series through November and December using the link provided in the chat.
Topic: Issue 1 - Use of "Respirology" vs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion:

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Topic	Discussion & Decisions
<p>LOINC's "Pulmonary Disease"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group confirmed the clinical meaning between "Pulmonary Disease" (LOINC) and "Respirology" (Canada) is identical. ○ The scope was clarified: this change applies only to the Document Ontology class of LOINC (documents written <i>by</i> specialists), not to lab reports or clinical observations. ○ A key principle was established: retain the international LOINC code for interoperability but adjust the display name for the Canadian context. ○ Options considered ranged from only changing display names to creating new Canadian codes, with consensus leaning towards minimal change. ● Decision: Option 1 was adopted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action: The Pan-Canadian display name for the subject matter domain and document title will be changed to "Respirology," while retaining the original LOINC code and part numbers. ○ Vote: Consensus was reached with 8 category-votes for 5 and 2 category-votes for 4 for option 1 in total.
<p>Topic: Issue 2 - Use of "Transfusion Medicine" vs. LOINC's "Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was confirmed that "Blood Banking" is not a separate specialty in Canada and is encompassed within "Transfusion Medicine." ○ The same principles from Issue 1 were applied. ● Decision: Option 1 was adopted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action: The Pan-Canadian display name will be changed to "Transfusion Medicine," while retaining the original LOINC code. ○ Vote: Consensus was reached with 9 category-votes for 5 and 1 category-vote for 4 for option 1 in total.
<p>Topic: Issue 3 - Capitalization Guidance for Display Names</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LOINC's display names have inconsistent capitalization, which is a usability issue. ○ It was noted that LOINC names are not case-sensitive, making this a front-end display decision. ○ LOINC is aware of the inconsistency and is open to help. ● Decision: The group agreed to adopt Title Case capitalization for all Pan-Canadian display names. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action: Editorial guidelines will be updated to specify the use of Title Case following standard English rules.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vote: Consensus was reached with 11 category-votes for 5 for capitalization in total.
Topic: Issue 4 - Handling Unspecified LOINC Axes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The topic was how to handle unspecified LOINC axes (e.g., Role, Setting), which LOINC denotes with cryptic curly brackets {}. ○ LOINC has specific “not designated” part codes for this purpose. ○ Opinions were mixed: some felt replacing {} with “Unspecified” was over-engineering, while others argued it would significantly aid implementers and end-users in searching and filtering. ○ Anil supported the change, noting curly brackets are a legacy artifact. • Decision: No decision was made yet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action: This topic was tabled. Members are encouraged to continue the discussion in the forum before the next meeting.
Next Steps & Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future meetings will address Canadian spelling, local display names, and extension code structure.

#	Action Items	Assigned to	Timelines
1	Formalize the Terms of Reference	Linda	For next meeting
2	Prepare a decision matrix to better capture and compare the different options discussed	Linda	Before next meeting
3	Identify Voting vs. Non-voting to confirm Quorum. Please send preference of role for voting to Linda at lomonic@infoway-inforoute.ca	Working group / Linda	
4	SMD alignment research: Compare Royal College specialties vs CIHI lists (naming, coverage; incl. nursing/allied health considerations). Confirm where terms diverge.	CIHI	For next meeting

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#	Action Items	Assigned to	Timelines
5	If possible, members provide thoughts and feedback in the forum regarding the handling of unspecified LOINC axes ("Unspecified" vs. curly brackets).	Working group	Before next meeting
6	Register for the upcoming new meeting series.	Working group	Before next meeting