



Canada Health Infoway



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Pan-Canadian LOINC Document Ontology

Working Group – Launch

September 22, 2025

Agenda

- 1) Welcome, Territorial Acknowledgement, Proposed Purpose - 5 mins
- 2) Introductions of all participants - 20 mins
 - a. Name, Location, Day Job
 - b. What is your interest in a document classification system
- 4) Presentation on Ontario Ontology – 10 mins
- 5) Presentation on BC Ontology – 10 mins
- 6) Reflection on the two solutions – 5 mins
- 7) What will be your task in this committee? – 5 mins
- 8) Future meetings – 1 min
- 9) *Overview of how to use InfoCentral – 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. Canada Health Infoway recognizes 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. Community family and specialist physicians receive documents from hospitals that do not have useful or consistent titles.
2. Documents stored in repositories, as well as documents sent from EMRs, *do not have* a classification system, so types of documents can't be identified or searched for.
3. FHIR solutions need standardized terminologies for DocumentReference.type and category
4. Artificial intelligence needs to know document types to be trained and then be helpful to clinicians
5. No pathway for jurisdictions to implement meaningful document classification solutions

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*

- **List of LOINC codes** with attributes
 - Expected to be used across Canada
 - Multiple 'Title' attributes
- **Editorial Guidelines** for our list of LOINC codes and attributes
- **Guiding Principles document** for the LOINC system in Canada including the architectural choices and the process of adding and removing codes.
- **Implementation Guide** for health systems to use start using Canadian document classifications.

Introductions

1. Name
2. Location in Canada
3. Day Job(s)
4. What is your interest in a document classification system?
e.g:
 - Applied Informatics?
 - Impact the systems you work in?
 - Impact personally?
 - System function?

Other roles needed?

Overview of BC Document Ontology

- Mukesh

Overview of Ontario Document Ontology

- Hanna

Reflection on the two solutions

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

Anil's document

Draft 'Guidelines' document

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


Future Meetings

Next meetings

- **Comparison of Ontario and BC by Dennis Lee**
- **Discussion on the work plan for this committee**
- Overview of LOINC structure
- Review draft Guidelines document
- Have project teams (IPS, eReferral, HIE) present

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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.

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

Mon Oct 06 @11:00AM - 12:00PM
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Mon Oct 20 @11:00AM - 12:00PM
[Launch Meeting Series](#)



Members: 17

Contact: [Ian Bekker](#)

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