

Purpose

This document describes the specifications and intended use of the 'LOINC 2000 with Categories' file. This file is a subset of the full LOINC database which has been enhanced to include the class of each LOINC2000 test. Top 15 classes in the list are:

Chemistry
Microbiology
Hematology
Drug levels & Toxicology
Response to antigens
Urinalysis
Coagulation study
Serology
Antibiotic susceptibilities
Specimen characteristics
Blood bank
Cell surface models
Fertility
Cytology
Gene mutation

Our thanks go to LOINC® for providing this clinician-friendly enhancement to the LOINC database.

Sources

The primary source for this file is the Common LOINC Laboratory Observations Codes [<https://loinc.org/usage/obs/>].

Application

There is a lot of talk lately about clinician burden, with a lot of folks (such as ONC/CMS, AAFP, HL7) looking into ways of easing that burden. Custom views is one technique to ease clinician burden. And just as sections provide a useful navigational paradigm for clinical documents, we find that lab categories provide similar functionality that can facilitate order entry and results reviewing.

We have a number of clients who leverage these categories - their local codes are mapped to LOINC, and then the LOINC categories are used to ease order entry and/or results reviewing in the EHR.

Files And Table Specifications

The file 'Elimu_LOINC2000_with_Categories.csv' is distributed in CSV¹ format and can easily be opened in a relational database, spreadsheet, or text viewing application.

This reference document and the schema are distributed in a zip file format :
'ElimuLOINC2000WithCategories20181004.zip'

Table Specification

Table Name: LOINC2000_with_Categories

Fields:

- **CODE**
- **Long Commonn Name**
- **PROPERTY**
- **TIME_ASPCT**
- **SYSTEM**
- **SCALE_TYP**
- **METHOD_TYP**
- **CLASS (abbreviation)**
- **CLASS (term)**

Notes

Enhanced versions of this file are available upon request by emailing info@elimu.io.

Enhanced versions include:

1. Category information for all LOINC codes
2. Category information applied to local client codes (via a LOINC mapping)
3. Additional deeper categorization, as gleaned from LOINC's MultiAxialHierarchy²

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values

² <https://loinc.org/file-access/download-id/8991/>