

8th May 2013

HISO 1004 / NZPOCS Review

Canterbury Health Laboratories have signed a contract with the Ministry of Health to review the current laboratory test LOINC and NZPOCS codes.

The review is aligned to the information systems strategy of the National Health Information Technology Plan, which identifies the importance to clinical integration of having laboratory orders and results that are represented accurately and consistently.

In general terms the project comprises a review of the standard to bring it up to date and reflect “fit for purpose” status in a current health information environment, i.e. to enable shared data repositories to better cumulate and report health population data.

CHL will be co-ordinating the national review, modification and update of the NZPOCS code sets in line with the outputs of the recent lab schedule review project. The approach is to assign ‘best fit’ codes to the new tests on the updated lab schedule then either set up a National Review Group or use the current Quality Assurance Groups (QAGs) to validate these code selections.

Other aims of the review are to investigate how the NZPOCS code sets can be modified to represent differences in test methods and unit of measure where these would otherwise create incomparable results and to perform a stock take of which particular HL7 version 2.x standards DHBs and laboratories currently support.

To complete this project CHL will require assistance, feedback and input from laboratories and other stakeholders.

Timeline for completion of this project is the end of 2013.

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