**Background:**

Nearly 3,000 clinical LOINC codes with Property: Find and Scale: Ord. These terms may represent yes/no concepts or concepts with graded results. In order to understand the meaning of many of these concepts, users need to look at the answer list or term description, if available. If an answer list or description is not available, the term may be ambiguous and oftentimes people will request new codes that are very similar but with a defined answer list.

At the March 2017 Clinical LOINC meeting, we discussed adding a new Property for clinical terms called “Bin” for binary, and leaving the graded concepts with the Property Find. Flavors of null can be added to any answer list. The LOINC content team task was to follow up at this meeting with examples of terms that are edge cases and would not fit neatly into Bin in order to decide what to do with such terms.

As we’ve been reviewing terms, more terms seem to fall in the “edge” category than expected.

**Examples:**

On the surface, all of these appear to be candidates for the Bin Property, but on closer review, it is less clear.

81699-1 Microsatellite instability marker NR21: Find: Pt: Cancer specimen: Ord:

* Stable LA14122-8
* Unstable LA14123-6
* Indeterminate LA11884-6
* If Property were Bin, would expect results of present/absent. Changing Property won’t help clarify the concept.

80304-9 Facial nerve (CN VII) exam Find Pt Nerves.cranial Ord

* Pass LA10392-1
* Fail LA25389-0
* At first glance seems binary, but still ambiguous regarding whether the results would be exam done/not done versus exam results pass/fail

83313-7 Injection drug use in the past Y Find 1Y ^Patient Ord

* Yes LA33-6
* No LA32-8
* Not asked LA14761-3
* Refused LA4389-8
* Refused is not a flavor of null

63927-8 During the past 12 months, did any doctor, dentist, nurse, or any other health professional advise you to quit smoking [PLCO]

* Yes
* No, was not advised to quit
* No, did not see a health professional in past 12 months
* No, did not smoke in past 12 months
* No with qualifiers

85595-7 Will hospice care be provided Find Pt ^Patient Ord NKDEP

* Yes LA33-6
* No LA32-8
* Uncertain LA12719-3
* Uncertain is not a flavor of null

**Proposal:**

1. Keep using the Property of Find as we are currently;
2. Review existing terms and clarify the Component for ambiguous terms to make the meaning clear;
3. For terms where we are unable to determine the meaning of the term, discourage or deprecate the term.

Possible Component clarifications:

81699-1 Microsatellite instability marker NR21: Find: Pt: Cancer specimen: Ord:

* Stable LA14122-8
* Unstable LA14123-6
* Indeterminate LA11884-6

**Microsatellite instability marker NR21 🡪 Microsatellite instability marker NR21 stability**

80304-9 Facial nerve (CN VII) exam Find Pt Nerves.cranial Ord

* Pass LA10392-1
* Fail LA25389-0

**Facial nerve (CN VII) exam 🡪 Facial nerve (CN VII) exam result**

83313-7 Injection drug use in the past Y Find 1Y ^Patient Ord

* Yes LA33-6
* No LA32-8
* Not asked LA14761-3
* Refused LA4389-8

**Injection drug use in the past Y 🡪 Used injection drug in the past Y**

**Find/Ord terms with graded answers that could also use clarification:**

28391-1 Nausea Find 24H Gastrointestinal system Ord Reported.HIV-SSC

* Mild LA6752-5
* Moderate LA6751-7
* Severe LA6750-9

42848-2 Nausea Find Pt Gastrointestinal system Ord Observed.CCC

* Improved LA65-8
* Deteriorated LA66-6
* Stabilized LA6635-2

**For 28391-1, Nausea 🡪 Degree of nausea**

**For 42848-2, Nausea 🡪 Status of nausea**

**Discussion:**

**Committee decision:**