BACKGROUND
The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee (CLIAC) recognized the need for standardizing test names across laboratories to be able to exchange laboratory test data by electronic health systems. As a result of this need, the Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework Laboratory Tiger Team developed a set of business rules for laboratory tests to guide the selection of standardized names and abbreviations which could be more commonly understood by providers and patients.

As a part of this vision described in the Interoperability Roadmap by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), federal partners should collaborate and promote laboratory data interoperability, including specifications to ensure compliance with CLIA state and local quality laboratory regulations and the establishment of requirements for common application programming interfaces that meet CLIA requirements for laboratory test ordering and reporting.

Health IT certification criteria adopted by ONC includes the adoption of standards (e.g., LOINC® and SNOMED-CT®) in laboratory test ordering and reporting.

OBJECTIVE
Strengthen laboratory information exchange by developing a national standard to describe test names, test results, and units of measure. The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ACTIVITIES PROMOTING STANDARDIZATION
- LOINCCommon Name Project resulted in a common order code value set which is now included in the LOINC database for laboratory coders to download. The value set is available on the LOINC Lab test directory, currently used by clinical and public health laboratories.

RESULTS
The LOINCCommon Name project resulted in a model database with long and short names for laboratory test results that is more patient friendly to promote greater collaboration in healthcare decision making.

Future collaboration/project goals include:
- To establish a set of standardized laboratory test names and codes that will be used on the reference report within an EHR to enhance the understanding of test results by healthcare providers and patients.
- To develop pilot projects to identify potential and sustainable processes that will ensure complete and consistent LOINC® and SNOMED© coding across laboratory test orders and results.

Timeline: LOINC®Clinical Lab Test Menu Coding/LOINC®Common Name/ FDA-CDC-NLM Workshop on Semantic Interoperability Promotion Activities

Convening Health and Care on the Nation’s Roadmap to Interoperability by Workshop

Interoperable provides the building blocks that are required for meaningful use of medical information across disparate systems, through adherence to a common and consistent vocabulary, code sets, values sets, and semantic meaning.