Coding Systems

# Identification of Local/Vendor-Defined Codes

Consider the following options for providing the code “ROMA” in PID-10 Race. “ROMA” is not defined as part of HL70005, which is a HL7 user-defined table with recommended values (see discussion below):

1. ROMA^Roma or gypsy^99ZZZ
2. ROMA^ Roma or gypsy^HL70005
3. ROMA^Roma or gypsy^L

The HL7 OO WG was asked which option is correct, and the answer was that all three are legal! The Vocab WG will work on a white paper on this.

In addition, if the additional code is drawn from a standard code system it should be identified using the HL70396 code for it (submit the code system if missing from HL70396)

In addition, there are two ways of indicating local codes:

* 99zzz is considered a placeholder, not limited to 3 alpha characters per accepted CR784
* L also still allowed to indicate a local code system

The guidance for LAW in these situations will be as follows:

* The “99ZZZ…” construct should be used to identify vendor-defined codes. The vendor is free to choose any convention they desire for the “ZZZ…” elements of the coding system name.
* Even though the values for a table can be extended, or the table is user defined, the “99ZZZ…” construct will be used to clearly identify the code as vendor-specific. Thus, the receiver is not required to recognize the meaning of the code. In the example for PID-10, ROMA is not one of the recommended values and thus it will not be identified as part of the HL70005 Coding System.
* The receiver will assume all coding systems beginning with “99” are vendor-defined and thus non-standard. However, vendors may exchange code set configuration information so that the receiver can be configured to interpret the code.
* When appropriate, LAW will define codes and the coding system name for these values will be “IHELAW”. For example, if IHE LAW extended the values set for PID-10 to include ROMA, then “IHELAW” should be used as the name of the coding system for this code.

For LAW, the objective is to clearly identify codes that the receiver should understand semantically. All codes established by a HL7 or other coding system will be designated with the proper coding system name. In addition, when a code set is extended by LAW it will be identified as part of the “IHELAW” coding system. Likewise, if the code set is extended by a vendor, then is will be identified with the “99ZZZ…” construct. A receiver does not have to recognize a code from a “99ZZZ…” coding system.

# Misc

1. Eliminate the predicate, as well as NULL description for SPM-4.Identifier. The NULL means that the entire field is NULL, not just the SPM-4.Identifier.
2. SPM-11 should allow additional codes from HL70369 (such as calibrator). Revise the discussion in LAW SPM-4 on how to handle other values (vendor –defined, or extras codes from HL70369).
3. “U” in SPM-11 is a LAW-defined value, so the coding system should be “IHELAW”.
4. Should LAW support vendor coding systems for units (OBX-6, SAC-24)? Why would UCUM not be sufficient? See HL7 v2.5.1 7.18.3 for ISO derived units.
5. OBX-5 should support vendor defined codes, and should follow the “99ZZZ…” pattern.
6. Clarify the use of “99ZZZ…”. Can use more than just 3 alpha numeric characters. Need to define a length. HL7 v2.7 uses a Normative length of 1..12 (normative) for CWE.3. Recommend that LAW use the same for all CE.3 and CWE.3.
7. Decide on set of codes for PID-10. PID-10 uses HL70005, a user defined table for Race. Should vendor defined values using, the “99ZZZ…” coding system, be supported? The HL70005 recommended values should be designated as from HL70005. LAW must define the set of core values for Race. Must decide if values from HL70005 or LIS-2 should be used. If LIS-2, then these should be designated as “IHELAW”.

LIS-2 suggests the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Value | Description |
| W | White |
| B | Black |
| O | Asian/Pacific Islander |
| NA | Native American/Alaskan Native |
| H | Hispanic |

Table HL70005 Recommends the following:

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Value  | Description  | Comment |
| 1002-5  | American Indian or Alaska Native |  |
|  2028-9  | Asian |  |
| 2054-5 | Black or African American |  |
| 2076-8  | Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |  |
|  2106-3  | White |  |
| 2131-1 | Other Race |  |

Note: The above values contain a pre-calculated Mod 10 check digit separated by a dash.