

LIS5-A
Vol. 23 No. 11
Formerly ASTM E1238-97

Standard Specification for Transferring Clinical Observations Between Independent Computer Systems

This document covers the two-way digital transmission of requests for, and results of, tests, diagnostic studies, and care-provider observations between requestors (for example, hospital information systems, clinical workstations, office practice computers) and producers (for example, clinical laboratory systems, radiology systems, EKG machines, nursing care systems).



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- the revision of documents in response to comments by users
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the need for field evaluation or data collection, documents may also be made available for review at an intermediate (i.e., "tentative") consensus level.

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The comments of users are essential to the consensus process. Anyone may submit a comment, and all comments are addressed, according to the consensus process, by the NCCLS committee that wrote the document. All comments, including those that result in a change to the document when published at the next consensus level and those that do not result in a change, are responded to by the committee in an appendix to the document. Readers are strongly encouraged to comment in any form and at any time on any NCCLS document. Address comments to the NCCLS Executive Offices, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, PA 19087, USA.

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Healthcare professionals in all specialties are urged to volunteer for participation in NCCLS projects. Please contact the NCCLS Executive Offices for additional information on committee participation.

Preface

In 2001, ASTM Committee E31 decided to restructure its operations, with the intent of focusing on standards-development issues such as security, privacy, and the electronic health record. Part of the reorganization plan was to explore the option of transferring responsibility for nine E31.13 standards to NCCLS.

The NCCLS Area Committee on Automation and Informatics, at its meeting in April 2002, reached a positive assessment of the value of the ASTM standards and encouraged the NCCLS Executive Offices staff to pursue negotiations with ASTM on transferring these standards to NCCLS.

Following this transfer, these nine standards (formerly ASTM E792; E1029; E1238; E1246; E1381; E1394; E1466; E1639; and E2118) have been redesignated as NCCLS standards LIS1 through LIS9.

The Area Committee on Automation and Informatics has assumed responsibility for maintaining the documents and will revise or update each document in accord with NCCLS Administrative Procedures.

This document is the equivalent of ASTM E1238 but has been redesignated and is now maintained by NCCLS. This document has been approved as an American National Standard (ANSI/ASTM E1238-97).

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Suggested Citation

(NCCLS. *Standard Specification for Transferring Clinical Observations Between Independent Computer Systems*. NCCLS document LIS5-A [ISBN 1-56238-493-7]. NCCLS, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898 USA, 2003.)

Published

April 2003

ISBN 1-56238-493-7
ISSN 0273-3099

Standard Specification for Transferring Clinical Observations Between Independent Computer Systems

1. Scope

1.1 *General Approach*—This specification covers the two-way digital transmission of requests for, and results of, tests, diagnostic studies, and care-provider observations between requestors (for example, hospital information systems, clinical workstations, office practice computers) and producers (for example, clinical laboratory systems, radiology systems, EKG machines, nursing care systems). It specifies the logical format and encoding rules for messages needed to interchange any clinical information that can be reported in a textual form. It enables any two systems to establish a link for communicating text to send result or request information in a standard and interpretable form. It deals not only with general information about diagnostic testing, but specific details useful for clinical practice, administration, and research in a comprehensive, but flexible, convention.

1.2 The major topics are found in the following sections:

	Section
Information Requirements in Diagnostic Studies and Clinical Observations	5
Distinction Between the Logical Contents and the Encoding Rules in This Specification	5.1
General Approach	5.2
Maximum Line Length	5.3
Network Protocols and Transmission Media	5.4
Relation to LIS1 and LIS2	5.5
Negotiating Required and Optional Fields in Segments	5.6
Acknowledgment of Messages	5.7
Message General Content Considerations	6
Character Representation	6.1
Standard Character Set	6.1.1
Range and Case Insensitivity	6.1.2
Segment and Field Lengths	6.2
Maximum Line Length	6.3
Delimiters	6.4
Segment Delimiter	6.4.1
Field Delimiter	6.4.2
Repeat (subfield) Delimiter	6.4.3
Component (sub-subfield) Delimiter	6.4.4
Specification of Delimiters	6.4.5
Delimiters for Null Fields	6.4.6
Fields of No Concern to the Receiving System	6.4.7
Changing Fields to Null Values	6.4.8
Segment Types	6.5
Message Header Segment (H)	6.5.1
Patient Identifying Segment (P)	6.5.2
Observation Order Segment (OBR)	6.5.3
Observation Segment (OBX)	6.5.4
Comment Segment (C)	6.5.5
Error Checking Segment (E)	6.5.6
Request Results Segment (Q)	6.5.7
Scientific Segment (S)	6.5.8
Addendum Segment (A)	6.5.9
Field Data Types	6.6
AD Addresses	6.6.1
CE Coded Entry	6.6.2
CK Composite ID With Check Digit	6.6.7
CM Composite Miscellaneous	6.6.8
CNA Provider and User IDs	6.6.9
CQ Fixed Measurements and Units	6.6.10
Reserved for Future Use	6.6.11
Reserved for Future Use	6.6.12
Reserved for Future Use	6.6.13
ID String that Represents an ID	6.6.14
NM Numeric	6.6.15
PN Person Name	6.6.16
ST String	6.6.17
TN Telephone and Beeper Number	6.6.18
TS (Time Stamp)—Previously Date-Time	6.6.19
TX Bulk Text	6.6.20
Examples of Messages Using This System	6.7
Rules About Retransmission of Results	6.8
Orders that Spawn Multiple Orders	6.9
Producer Generated Orders	6.10
DETAILED STRUCTURE OF EACH SEGMENT TYPE	
Message Header	7
General Approach	7.1
Segment Type ID	7.2