



CALINX Laboratory Updates

February 2009

In April 2007, the CALINX Lab Import Tool version 1.3 was released, adding implementation changes to two fields in the specification (OBR-20 & OBR-21). The latest version of the CALINX Lab specification (v1.3) is an update from the November 2006, CALINX Lab v1.2 specification, which was updated from version 1.1.

In February 2009, a minor revision was made to the CALINX Lab Import v1.3 specification document. The table of LOINC codes that must be used to identify certain analytes relevant for HEDIS and P4P measures was removed from the specification appendices. That information has been moved to a separate document that is posted on this site (“CALINX Lab LOINC Codes 2009”). New versions of this document will be posted annually as NCQA releases updates to the LOINC codes used for HEDIS and P4P reporting.

In addition to changes to the specification, updates have also been made to the CALINX Lab Import Tool software. The latest version of the free message validation and conversion software (v1.3.2) features improved version change handling, improved awareness of current processing version, support for additional components, and allows users to independently select a CALINX processing version (e.g., v1.1, v1.2, or v1.3) and the HEDIS LOINC code reporting year (e.g. 2007, 2008, 2009). See the CALINX Lab Import tool v1.3.2 release notes for a full description of the application changes.

We recommend that laboratories, provider organizations, and payers interested in supporting the CALINX Lab data format use v1.3 of the specification. Those organizations that use the CALINX Lab Import Tool for converting and processing their CALINX lab data files are encouraged to upgrade to v1.3.2 of the software.