

Conventional wisdom for conventional units

Presented by Lauren Shinaberry, Clinical Data & Reporting Standards, AbbVie



Meet the Speaker

Lauren Shinaberry

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Lauren's clinical research career spans nearly 3 decades and, in addition to standards, has included data management, database programming and statistical programming. She has worked at CROs as well as pharma, in both the US and Europe. She has been a volunteer for CDISC since 2004, led the CDASH team and has been a CDASH and SDTM trainer for CDISC during that time. Her current career focus is continuing to build a world class standards organization within AbbVie and driving innovation through metadata-based automation of the clinical research data flow.



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- The author(s) have no real or apparent conflicts of interest to report.
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- Lauren Shinaberry is an employee of AbbVie.



Agenda

- 1. Why this topic?
- 2. A little history
- 3. No perfect answer, but we chose the least bad for us
- 4. What have we learned?



Why this topic?

- Until last year...
 - FDA had not included specific way that they wanted to receive lab results in US conventional units when this was not what was used in the LB domain for analysis.
 - Sponsors could primarily weigh the pros and cons within their own data ecosystems.
- June 2023...
 - FDA sdTCG v5.4 introduces the specific way FDA would like to receive laboratory results in US conventional units as a custom findings domain named LC

June 2023 5.4 Section 4.1.1.3 (SDTM Domain Specification) – Updated language under LB Domain (Laboratory)			
	June 2023	5.4	Section 4.1.1.3 (SDTM Domain Specification) – Updated language under LB Domain (Laboratory)

• Sponsors now have an additional consideration outside their own data ecosystems





A little history



AbbVie considered the options for how to meet these varying regulatory needs

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Our starting point



AbbVie uses SI units for summaries and analyses



We had a historic set of conversion factors for both SI and US conventional units



AbbVie creates SDTM mappings at the time of study start-up and automates the generation of both SDTM and ADaM throughout the conduct of the trial



Global submissions are common





No perfect answer





Keep it all in LB domain



Option 1: LBORRES/U for US results and continue SI results into LBSTRESN/C/U

Loses traceability with the results reported by the site What to do if a result wasn't available in US conventional units? Can't leave LBORRES missing but have LBSTRESC populated

How to extend this if other agencies require different units?



Option 2: Add US conventional results and units to SUPPLB

Concern that data in SUPP will not be easily accessible to regulatory reviewers who may rely on their default viewing tools

Violated the SDTM conformance of having qualifiers with their own qualifiers like units in SUPP

Raised the question of how many other qualifiers would need to be added in US conventional units, seemed to have the potential to quickly grow unmanageable in SUPP





 Primary dataset for all analysis of lab results

 Standard results are in SI units

Custom domain

- Considered as reference for FDA only
- Standard results are in US conventional
 - units
- Replicate content from LB for all other variables



LB

The least bad option – custom domain(s)

- Scalable via different custom domains for any agency-specific request for units other than what we used for our analysis
- Any agency-specific results in alternative units would be provided in a custom domain for their reference.
- Metadata burden was assessed to be comparable to other options

Domain	US Conv	PMDA units
LB	XL	ХВ
VS	XV	XS
EG	XE	XG
Etc.		

- Replicating supplemental qualifiers is not mandatory
- Replicating RELREC for the custom domains is not mandatory



Theoretical global submission example

Theoretical because PMDA has not required LB or VS in different units

Global Study

- DM
- DS
- EX
- AE
- VS Vital Signs in AbbVie standard units
- LB, SUPPLB Labs in AbbVie standard units
- XL Labs in US units
- XS Vital Signs in PMDA units

FDA submission

- DM
- DS
- EX
- AE
- VS Vital Signs in AbbVie standard units
- LB, SUPPLB Labs in AbbVie standard units
 - XL Labs in US units

PMDA submission

- DM
- DS
- EX
- AE
- VS Vital Signs in AbbVie standard units
- LB, SUPPLB Labs in AbbVie standard units
- XS Vital Signs in PMDA units

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What have we learned over the past 8 years?

- Most studies are replicating SUPPLB as SUPPXL but not replicating relationships in RELREC
- We have not yet needed to create a PMDA-specific vital signs domain or lab domain
- We have not had any questions from submissions following this approach
- The switch to conform to the FDA's sdTCG update is a simple rename of a domain, which we already have a macro to do
- Change can be hard, no single way is perfect, custom domain approach has been working for us so far





Thank You!

