IHE Change Proposal

Tracking Information

IHE Domain	Patient Care Devices
Change Proposal ID	CP-PCD-042-00
Change Proposal Status	Ballot
Date of last update	2010-12-21
Person assigned	John Rhoads

Change Proposal Summary Information

Title:	**PCD should adopt convention that number of digits after decimal point implies precision, so trailing zeroes are meaningful and should not be arbitrarily dropped.**
Submitter's Name(s) and e-mail address(es):	M. Clark, P. Schluter
Submission Date:	2010-12-21
Integration Profile(s) affected:	DEC, PIV
Actor(s) affected:	DOR, DOC, IOR, IOC
IHE Technical Framework or Supplement modified:	Technical Framework Final Text
Volume(s) and Section(s) affected:	Volume 2, Appendix B, Section 8
Rationale for Change: Measurement precision is important to represent in medical device data. It is proposed that trailing zeros after the decimal point be retained in the string values of numeric Observation Results to represent measurement precision, even such digits do not change the numeric value of the observation.	

Add following paragraph after first paragraph in Appendix B, Section 8, subsection "OBX-5 Observation Value"

When the Observation Value is numeric, IHE PCD adopts the convention that the number of digits to the right of the decimal point shall reflect the precision ascribed by the device to the measurement and such digits shall not be arbitrarily dropped from string representations of the value. So if the measurement has, say, two significant

digits after the decimal point and happens to include one or more trailing zeros, the string representing the measurement shall include the trailing zeros to reflect precision, even though they do not change the numeric value.