

724. Usage of XML blobs

XML blobs are utilized by filling the column C_METADATAXML in the table I2B2 with a certain XML data structure which is saved in the database as a single Character Large Object. They are **made for representing laboratory values** and similar observations that uses qualifying statements like "abnormal" or "primary".

XML blobs are also **recommended for numeric values** if the user knows the specific value beforehand (EHR ID or a given age).

Theoretically, XML blobs could also be used for representing **simple code lists**, but there is hardly any advantage compared to i2b2 concept leafs.