DICOM Correction Proposal

STATUS	Letter Ballot
Date of Last Update	2026/01/28
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Correction Number	CP- 1637
Log Summary: Clarify matching of Required Keys of zero length	
Name of Standard PS3.4	
Rationale for Correction: Clarify matching of Required Keys of zero length.	
Correction Wording:	

Modify PS3.4 Section C.2.2.1.2 Required Keys

C.2.2.1.2 Required Keys

At each level in the Entity-Relationship Model, a set of Attributes shall be defined as Required Keys. Required Keys imply the SCP of a C-FIND shall support matching based on a value contained in a Required Key of the C-FIND request. Multiple entities may have the same value for Required Keys. That is, a distinct value in a Required Key shall not necessarily identify a single entity at the level of the key.

C-FIND SCPs shall support existence and matching of all Required Keys defined by a Query/Retrieve Information Model. If a C-FIND SCP manages an entity with a Required Key of zero length, the value is considered unknown and all matching against the zero length Required Key shall be considered a successful match **(i.e., any SCU supplied value, including a zero length value, will match a SCP zero length value)**.

Required Keys may be contained in the Identifier of a C-FIND request. Required Keys shall not be contained in the Identifier of C-MOVE and C-GET requests.