An empty value is not a valid defined term

**Rationale for Correction**

Defined terms are intended to allow for user extension of sets of values for an attribute, not to provide a mechanism for sending no value at all, when the standard list of values does not already include the empty value, or the attribute is Type 2.

**Sections of documents affected**

PS 3.5 6.3

**Correction Wording:**

Amend PS 3.5:

6.3 ENUMERATED VALUES AND DEFINED TERMS

... Defined Terms are used when the specified explicit Values may be extended by implementors to include additional new Values. These new Values shall be specified in the Conformance Statement (see PS 3.2) and shall not have the same meaning as currently defined Values in this standard. A Data Element with Defined Terms that does not contain a Value equivalent to one of the Values currently specified in this standard shall not be considered to have an invalid value. **An empty (zero length) value is not a valid new Value for a Defined Term; empty values shall be considered invalid unless the standard specifically permits empty values. New Values shall not have a meaning of unknown, since that concept, if permitted by the standard, shall be conveyed explicitly either by allowing the Data Element to be zero length or by provision of a standard Defined Term with such a meaning.**

**Notes:**  
1. **Interpretation Type ID (4008,0210) Reporting Priority (0040,1009)** is an example of a Data Element having Defined Terms. It is defined to have a Value that may be one of the set of standard Values: "REPORT", "AMENDMENT", "HIGH", "ROUTINE", "MEDIUM", or "LOW" (see PS 3.3). Because this Data Element has Defined Terms other Interpretation Type IDs reporting priorities may be defined by the implementor.  
2. The validity of empty values is usually specified by the attribute being defined as Type 2 (see section 7.4.3). However, in the context of a required Type 1 attribute with multiple values, some (but not all) values may be allowed to be empty (see section 7.4.1); in this case the standard explicitly specifies the validity of empty values in the list of Defined Terms for each value. **Specific Character Set (0008,0005) is an example of a Data Element for which the standard specifically permits the first value to be empty when multiple values are present. Image Type (0008,0008) is an example of a Data Element that in some IODs defined in PS 3.3 is required to be present with multiple values, but for which if an empty value is not explicitly listed in the Defined Terms for Value 3 by an IOD, hence an empty value is invalid.**