

Monthly Reporting – May

Following the introduction of SNOMED CT as part of the BMBF-funded Medical Informatics Initiative ([MII](#)), the terminology can now be used in Germany. SNOMED CT is used for the core data set (*Kerndatensatz*, KDS) of MII. The KDS serves as a common interoperability standard for data exchange between sites. All sites must implement the six basic modules of the KDS. Technically, the KDS is implemented as Fast Healthcare Interchange Format (FHIR) profiles, in which the values that can be taken by individual data elements are mapped to standard terminology. Different standardized terminologies and classification systems are used: e.g. ICD, OPS, LOINC, UCUM, UNII, ASK, ATC, but especially SNOMED CT. The modules of the KDS are edited and can be viewed in the tool [ART DECOR](#): *Person* (person), *Fall* (case), *Diagnose* (diagnosis), *Prozedur* (procedure), *Laborbefund* (laboratory finding), *Medikation* (medication). For further requirements, [additional modules](#) are defined, e.g. *Pathologiebefund* (pathology), *Onkologie* (oncology), *Symptome & klinischer Phänotyp* (symptoms & clinical phenotype).

Some examples for the use of SNOMED CT in the basic modules of the KDS are *Person*: administrative gender and date of birth, *Diagnosis*: complete diagnosis code and body site, *Procedure*: complete procedure code, body side, procedure category and outcome, *Laboratory finding*: the value set *Semi_quantitative_laboratory* results, for the representation of the sample type and the place of origin of the sample, and *Medication*: representation of the active ingredients, the site and route of application.

Due to absence of other terminologies for the representation of complex clinical relationships besides SNOMED CT, its application will be even more important in the emerging extension modules.

In addition to this application in MII, SNOMED CT is also used in the fight against COVID-19 in the National Consensus Data Set on COVID-19 ([GECCO](#)) of the National Research Network of University Hospitals. In ART DECOR, SNOMED IDs and Fully Specified Names (FSN) are attached to the selected concepts, such as drugs and symptoms. The 'COVID-19 content in SNOMED CT' was considered.

The training of the involved parties is also progressing: At the beginning of June, the TMF as National Release Center will offer a webinar for the university medical sites of MII and its partners, in which the experts from SNOMED International Ian Green (Customer Relations Lead Europe and Clinical Engagement Business Manager) and Rory Davidson (Products & Services Executive Lead) will inform about the use of SNOMED CT and answer questions of the participants.

Finally, a short update on licensing: the number of license holders continues to increase, with 51 institutions (e.g. university hospitals, universities, research organisations and industry partners) having obtained a license by the end of May.