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Briefing Note for the Member Forum June 2021

Update of Terms of Content Referencing Substance Structural Groupers

Purpose

To update the Member Forum on the updated naming of concepts in multiple hierarchies which reference a substance structural grouper, e.g., “X and X derivative;” “Y and Y compound.”

Background

There are around 500 concepts which reference a substance structural grouper by use of “and” in the fully specified name, e.g., 1144896002 |Vitamin B12 and vitamin B12 derivative intake (observable entity)|, 767270007 |Iron and iron compound (substance)|. The use of “and” in these structural grouper concepts has had an implied meaning of “and/or.” It has been recommended by the Head of Terminology to make the inclusive disjunction implicit by updating the FSN of affected concepts to include “and/or” instead of “and.” This will bring the content into alignment with the [Conjunction and Disjunction guidelines](#) in the SNOMED CT Editorial Guide. These intended changes have been verified by the Nutrition Care Process Terminology Clinical Project Group.

SNOMED International

Registered in England and Wales | Company Registration Number 9915820

Reg. address: One Kingdom Street | Paddington Central | London W2 6BD | United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 203 755 0974 | info@snomed.org | www.snomed.org

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Plan

The following is planned for the January 2022 International release of SNOMED CT (or sooner if resources permit). We will identify content across multiple hierarchies that includes “and” when referencing a substance structural grouper, e.g., 1003991002 [Estimated required quantity of protein and protein derivative in 24 hours (observable entity)] and 785330009 [Product containing tin and tin compound (product)]. This will encompass content in multiple hierarchies including substance, medicinal product, observable entity, disorder, regime/therapy, etc. We will inactivate the descriptions with “and” as “Nonconformance to editorial policy” and create new replacement descriptions that include “and/or.” The concepts themselves will not be inactivated. This will not affect classification of the concepts. All descriptions with “and” will be inactivated. The [Substance](#) guidelines of the SNOMED CT Editorial Guide will be updated to reflect the new guidance.

Examples of changes:

1. 767403008 [Sodium and sodium compound (substance)]
 - Updated FSN: Sodium and/or sodium compound (substance)
 - Updated PT: Sodium and/or sodium compound
 - Descriptions inactivated: Sodium and sodium compound (substance), Sodium and sodium compound
2. 1055200005 [Increased protein and protein derivative diet (regime/therapy)]
 - Updated FSN: Increased protein and/or protein derivative diet (regime/therapy)
 - Updated PT: Increased protein and/or protein derivative diet
 - Descriptions inactivated: Increased protein and protein derivative diet (regime/therapy), Increased protein and protein derivative diet

This briefing note will be distributed to selected Advisory and Project Groups.

Please contact info@snomed.org with any inquiries.