

Briefing Note for the Member Forum and Content Managers Advisory Group 20 April 2022

Proposed Changes to Epilepsy and Seizure Content

Purpose

To advise the Member Forum (MF) and the Content Managers Advisory Group (CMAG) about the planned changes to Clinical finding hierarchy content relating to seizure types and epilepsy. In addition, this note has been provided to seek information on the usage of this content and to establish the likely impact of changes to content.

Background

The International Edition epilepsy content within the sub hierarchies of 313287004 |Seizure related finding (finding)| and 84757009 |Epilepsy (disorder)| (excluding Orphanet related content), is being reviewed for currency and clinical correctness of the descriptions, logical model, and hierarchical structure. The work includes the inactivation of outdated components, addition of missing clinically relevant concepts and descriptions, as well as correction of the modeling and hierarchical structure as required.

The project is being undertaken in stages with an initial focus on epileptic seizure finding content followed by the review of the epilepsy disorder content. Content changes will be released in stages with the aim of minimizing disruption to users.

Considering the potential impact on users, in addition to the information provided via SNOMED International's [Early Visibility Release Notifications](#) page; feedback from the community of practice will be elicited via the Member Forum and Content Managers Advisory Group through briefing notes as the work progresses. A [concept inactivation report for each monthly release](#) is also provided on the CMAG confluence site.

Clinical expertise for this work is being provided by the [International League Against Epilepsy](#), an international organization of healthcare professionals and scientists, with chapters in more than 150 countries and territories. This organization produces an [epilepsy classification](#), with the most recent updates to the classification undertaken in 2017. This will be used to support the work.

The following section focuses on the current area of work.

|Seizure related finding (finding)| Hierarchy Changes

The following are examples of changes in the 313287004 |Seizure related finding (finding)| sub-hierarchy.

- Improvements in descriptions
 - For example:
 - Consistency in naming being applied. For example, the use of Generalized onset epileptic <x> seizure (finding) where x may represent the type of seizure such as tonic or clonic.
 - Inactivation of outdated descriptions. For example, the synonym |Petit mal| present on the concept 79631006 |Absence seizure (finding)| has been inactivated as outdated.
 - Addition of definitions that (pending approval) will be drawn from the ILAE classification.
- Hierarchy improvements
 - For example, changes in the stated parent, where required.
- New concepts to represent seizures at a generic level, where clinically useful.
 - For example, 1208966001 |Generalized onset motor epileptic seizure (finding)|, 1208961006 |Non-motor epileptic seizure (finding)|
- Inactivation of a small number of outdated and ambiguous concepts.
 - For example:
 - 18191000 |Salaam spasm (finding)| has been inactivated as outdated with a Replaced By historical association to 1217008005 |Epileptic spasms (finding)|
 - Given the presence of the concept 192993002 |Epileptic seizures - tonic (finding)| which is a subtype of 313307000 |Epileptic seizure (finding)|, the concept 51887003 |Tonic seizure (finding)|, which has been a subtype of 246545002 |Generalized seizure (finding)| has been inactivated as ambiguous. It may have been interpreted by a user as a seizure with a generalized onset, a seizure where the onset is unknown or even a seizure with a focal onset.

Next Steps

Please provide information on usage, other feedback, and questions on this area of work via info@snomed.org with the subject 'Epilepsy Consultation'.

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