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# Briefing Note for the Member Forum/Content Managers Advisory Group

November 2022

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## Measurement Findings Modeling and Terming for the Positive and Negative findings

### Purpose

This briefing outlines the changes that are being made to the content of the hierarchy 118245000 |Measurement finding (finding)| following feedback from the Content Managers Advisory Group, Members Forum and agreed with the Editorial Advisory Group.

### Background

SNOMED International is undertaking a Quality Initiative (QI) project focused on addressing concepts within the hierarchy of Clinical Findings. The purpose of the QI project is to improve the structural consistency of existing content and adherence to Editorial Policy.

Applying the principles of the QI project to the domain of laboratory findings gives us the opportunity to update the terminology to reflect current laboratory reporting practices and provide a consistent model for the addition of new content.

The remainder of this briefing note documents the consensus of the EAG relating to standardization in the terming and modeling of positive and negative measurement findings.

These changes apply to approximately 150 concepts within the 118245000 |Measurement finding (finding)| hierarchy.

## Issues

The 118245000 |Measurement finding (finding)| hierarchy includes around 150 concepts that interpret the findings of a laboratory test as either “positive” or “negative.” These statements are potentially problematic as they may be interpreted as stating that a particular disorder is excluded or confirmed.

Mis-interpretation of these finding statements may arise due to an incomplete understanding of the limitations of the test used:

- A test with high sensitivity giving rise to false positives
- A test with high specificity giving rise to false negatives
- Recognizing that a “negative” result is based on the limit of detection of the test and not on the true presence or absence of the substance being tested for
- The natural tendency to assume a positive test implies more than is appropriate for a given laboratory test

## Next Steps

In light of the above issues raised and to provide a clear unambiguous statement of the meaning of these concepts, the EAG has agreed that the concepts currently expressed in terms of either a “positive” and “negative” finding should be restated as being “detected” or “not detected.” This agreement followed consultation with the CoP and numerous discussions within the EAG.

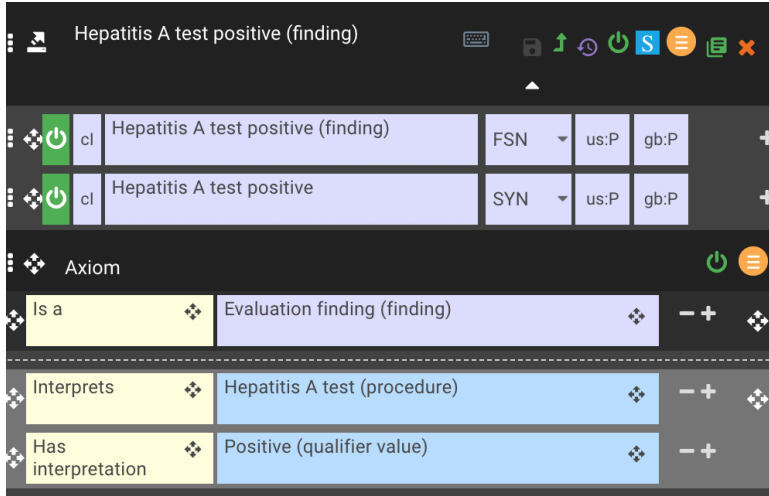
The existing content will be migrated as follows:

- Inactivate the existing FSN and PT of measurement findings content with “positive” or “negative” as non-conformant to editorial policy and replace it with wording of “detected” or “not detected” as shown in examples below
- Include a synonym with “positive” or “negative” as appropriate
- Update the modeling of concepts from Has interpretation value of 10828004 |Positive (qualifier value)| or 260385009 |Negative (qualifier value)| to 260373001 |Detected (qualifier value)| or 260415000 |Not detected (qualifier value)|.

For example:

165997004 |Hepatitis A test positive (finding)|

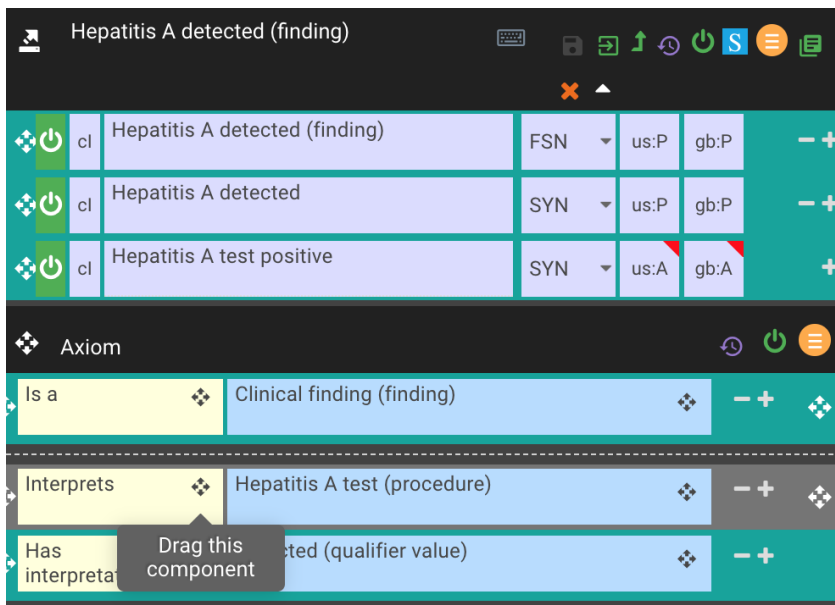
Current modeling:



Would be restated as:

165997004 | Hepatitis A detected (finding) |

Updated modeling:



...and

165996008 | Hepatitis A test negative (finding) |

Current modeling:

Hepatitis A test negative (finding)					
cl	Hepatitis A test negative (finding)	FSN	us:P	gb:P	
cl	Hepatitis A test negative	SYN	us:P	gb:P	
Axiom					
Is a	Negative measurement finding (finding)				
Interprets	Hepatitis A test (procedure)				442225006
Has interpretation	Negative (qualifier value)				

Would be restated as:

165996008 |Hepatitis A not detected (finding) |

Updated modeling:

Hepatitis A not detected (finding)					
cl	Hepatitis A not detected (finding)	FSN	us:P	gb:P	
cl	Hepatitis A not detected	SYN	us:P	gb:P	
cl	Hepatitis A test negative	SYN	us:A	gb:A	
Axiom					
Is a	Clinical finding (finding)				
Interprets	Hepatitis A test (procedure)				
Has interpretation	Not detected				165995007

Please note: The Observables project has sanctioned the use of “detected” and “not detected” for detecting the presence of organisms.

These changes will become available as a single release.

<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Terminologist	2022-11-15	James T. Case
Director of Content and Mapping	2022-11-30	Monica Harry

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*Suzanne Santamaria, 2022-11-16*