

Briefing Note for the Member Forum, Content Manager Advisory Group and Clinical Leads Group

28 April 2023

Resolution of duplication between osteonecrosis, avascular necrosis and aseptic necrosis with improved description consistency

Purpose

The purpose of this note is to inform the Member Forum (MF), Content Managers Advisory Group (CMAG) and the Clinical Leads Group of the proposed inactivation of duplicate content across the following hierarchies:

- 240196003 | Bone necrosis (disorder) |
- 397758007 | Avascular necrosis of bone (disorder) |
- 398199007 | Aseptic necrosis of bone (disorder) |

This will involve the inactivation of 11 duplicate concepts. Approximately 100 concepts will require updated descriptions and modeling.

Background

Avascular necrosis of bone and aseptic necrosis of bone are considered synonymous with osteonecrosis.^{1,2} In current release of SNOMED CT, 240196003 | Bone necrosis (disorder), modeled with 6574001 | Necrosis (morphologic abnormality) |, has a synonym of osteonecrosis and different sub-hierarchies and associated morphologies, such as:

- 398199007 | Aseptic necrosis of bone (disorder) - modeled with 72756009 | Aseptic necrosis (morphologic abnormality) |
- 397758007 | Avascular necrosis of bone (disorder) - modeled with 86217007 | Avascular necrosis (morphologic abnormality) |

¹ <https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/osteonecrosis/>

² <https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/en/diseases--conditions/osteonecrosis-of-the-hip>

As these are synonymous these two hierarchies need to be merged. Descriptions also need to be updated as described below resulting in improved consistency and all content modeled with 86217007 |Avascular necrosis (morphologic abnormality)| as all bone necrosis is due to disruption in the blood supply.

Descriptions:

- Ensure consistent FSNs in the format of Avascular necrosis of X bone - model with 86217007 |Avascular necrosis (morphologic abnormality)|
- Ensure consistent Preferred Terms of Osteonecrosis of X - this is the most commonly used.
- Add synonyms of Avascular necrosis of x bone and Aseptic necrosis of X bone.

Although aseptic necrosis is not as commonly used as avascular necrosis and osteonecrosis the decision to add this description is based on significant representation in peer reviewed literature and clinical publications.

At the time of analysis there were 155 concepts identified as in scope for this work. The content was reviewed for duplication and content of the type 'aseptic necrosis' will be inactivated as duplicates of 'avascular necrosis'.

Issues

Duplication and incorrect hierarchical structure is causing issues for members together with uncertainty as to the correct representation and modeling of this content. There has been a related member request to improve this area.

Next Steps

Content editing will commence with inactivation of duplicates and updating of descriptions and modeling. The content will be released once the entire area is completed and this is expected to be for the May 2023 release.

Recommendations

It is recommended that MF, CMAG and Clinical Leads Group representatives give advance warning to users who may be affected by the updates in this area. Though consistent representation should improve the user experience.

Approvals	Date	Name
Chief Terminologist	2023-04-17	James T. Case
Director of Content and Mapping	2023-04-28	Monica Harry

Elaine Wooler, 2023-04-28