

Hitting the Half-Way Point

By *Don Sweete, IHTSDO CEO*



As the warmer weather arrives and summer begins in earnest, we have reached the halfway point of another year. I want to thank the General Assembly, Management Board, staff and the Community of Practice for their support and hard work in making the first ever London Business Meeting a great success - as evidenced by the record numbers who attended the sessions.

The organisation continues to move forward and make great progress on a number of fronts, and we welcome the new Clinical Engagement Leads to the fold. The strengthening of this area will only serve to bring us closer to those who use SNOMED CT on the front lines and provide us with

valuable feedback on how to further eliminate the barriers to adoption.

There are many accomplishments to note and not enough space, so I would urge those interested to view our [latest management report on our website](#). I am very hopeful that over the next few months we will have some exciting news to share about new Members and also around collaboration and vendor activities that will accelerate our work on the strategic direction of the organisation.

In closing I hope everyone takes some time over the summer to enjoy what nature offers and takes the opportunity to recharge the batteries a bit. The fall will be an even busier time for the organisation, and the excitement and interest is already starting to build for the Business Meeting and Expo to be held in Wellington, New Zealand. I am told by our gracious hosts that it is a conference not to be missed.

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Products & Services Update

By Shelley Lipon, Customer & Stakeholder Engagement Executive Americas

As IHTSDO continues to grow, the number of demands on our scarce resources is increasing, and the need for a clear direction on the products and services that we deliver has become ever more critical to the organisation's success.

So what are our products and services, and what should they be in the future?

At the October meetings in Uruguay, an ad hoc committee of the Member Forum was constructed to work with the Management Team to draft a catalogue of IHTSDO's current products and services. It was also tasked with providing input on a roadmap for the future of those products and services, or any potential new products and services.

The purpose of the catalogue was to document in a simple form for our customers:

- What are the products and services currently offered by IHTSDO?

- Who are their users?
- How do they benefit the customer?
- How can they be accessed?

The document was drafted and reviewed by the Management Board and the ad hoc committee, and it was finalised after the April Business Meeting. The catalogue has been posted on the website at <http://www.ihtsdo.org/about-ihtsdo/products-and-services/>.

The next step of the Products and Services Project was to look at the core services of IHTSDO and create a matrix to identify core vs. secondary services. This deliverable has been sent to the ad hoc committee for review at its next meeting. The Management Team has also drafted a future products and services roadmap, which has been reviewed by the Management Board and General Assembly and will be discussed with the Member Forum at an upcoming meeting.

Stay tuned for further updates on this project...

Staff Changes at IHTSDO

By Clare Gibbs, Head of Human Resources

IHTSDO is pleased to announce some realignment for our Content, Mapping, and Customer Relations Management (CRM) Teams, which will help the organisation going forward.



Ian Green has moved across to the CRM Team and will now be the Clinical Engagement and Education Services Business Manager, reporting to Shelley Lipon. Given Ian's clinical background he will be valuable in moving forward with the

development and implementation of the operational plan for this new area in support of our Clinical Engagement group. Ian will be providing coordination of clinical engagement activities, working with the regional clinical engagement leads,

and providing regular reports on clinical engagement activities, including the specification and reporting of KPI's for this line of business. He will also support and coordinate the activities of the Education and Product Services Team.

Lesley MacNeil

has moved into the role of Head of Content and, with the support of Jim Case and the Content Team, will begin to move forward with more agile processes to support this area as demands continue to grow.



Lesley was previously the Senior Project Manager from IHTSDO's Tooling Team, and she says she is looking forward to this new challenge.

SNOMED CT Drug Update

By Toni Morrison, Senior Terminologist

Default Model for Extensions Update

The RFP to support the development of the default drug model for extensions has been awarded and the deliverables associated with the RFP are nearing completion. A project group meeting will be held in July to present the results of the RFP and to communicate the next steps and time lines. Please watch the project's Confluence site for specific details (<https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/DDME>).

The internal team is busy reviewing responsibilities and roles for this project as a result of Lesley MacNeil assuming a new role as Head of Content, and of Ian Green moving into a new role as the IHTSDO's Clinical Engagement and Education Services Business Manager.

International Release Model and Content

Work is underway to update and refine the terming and modeling for concepts in the Pharmaceutical / Biologic Product Hierarchy, as discussed in London. The first of several previews of the content updates is expected to be available for review and comment in late July. We will be able to leverage the new IHTSDO authoring tool and terminology server and make the preview available via the IHTSDO SNOMED CT Browser (this should be positive news for anyone who struggled with the Protege and OWL based previews used in the past).

Further details, including how to access the previews and provide feedback, will be available on the Confluence site in the coming weeks (<https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/DIRMC>).

New Cohort Commencement Date for Consultant Terminologist Program

By Cathy Richardson, Senior Terminologist

Please be advised that the next [IHTSDO Consultant Terminologist Program](#) cohort will now commence in March 2017. The face-to-face meeting component of the program will be timed to run in conjunction with the 2017 April Business Meeting. The call for applications will be made in December 2016.

Invitation from the IHTSDO Implementation SIG

By Amy Sheide, Implementation SIG Chair

The [IHTSDO Implementation Special Interest Group \(SIG\)](#) has open dates available for anyone wanting to present in this area. Please direct any interested parties to Amy Sheide at asheide@mmm.com.

Clinical Engagement - clinically improving SNOMED CT

By Ian Green, Clinical Engagement and Education Services Business Manager

The development of SNOMED CT has always included and welcomed input from clinicians, to ensure that the product is both clinically accurate and clinically fit-for-purpose. To support this activity the organisation has a number of professional Special Interest Groups (SIGs) engaging practicing professionals from clinical domains, disciplines or specialties, and also the Healthcare Professional Coordination Group (HPCG). In place are also formal collaboration agreements with a number of national and international professional organisations. Clinical input is also received less formally through the content request submission process, whereby individuals request both new content and changes to existing content to reflect clinical requirements and changes in clinical practice. Recent activity has also included engaging clinicians individually and in groups to review the proposed content additions in support of the content alignment with the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11).

IHTSDO is now extending its clinical engagement activity by developing a comprehensive clinical engagement strategy to provide high quality clinical input into the development and adoption of SNOMED CT and other IHTSDO products. The initial work of developing the strategy is underway, and will be approved by the appropriate governance bodies in the fall. The strategy will support the delivery of clinical engagement by targeting the following areas:

- Raising the profile of SNOMED CT for clinicians locally/nationally/globally
- Increasing the number of clinicians involved in the clinical assurance of SNOMED CT
- Specifying a clinical engagement maturity matrix
- Identifying local/regional/national/global healthcare professional ambassadors for SNOMED CT implementation
- Identifying and gathering use case examples from a clinical perspective to demonstrate benefits
- Increasing the access to relevant SNOMED CT educational materials for healthcare professionals
- Identifying key clinical

requirements/priorities/trends in terms of content development

To support this activity the organisation has appointed three clinical leads covering the Americas, Europe/Middle East/Africa (EMEA), and AsiaPac regions. The clinical leads will work towards supporting and engaging with clinicians in their respective areas. Clinical engagement activity within IHTSDO Member countries will be undertaken in consultation with the respective national SNOMED

CT bodies and also other members of the CRM team.

Dr. Charles Gutteridge

Dr. Gutteridge is currently the Chief Clinical Information Officer for Barts Health NHS Trust, a 5 hospital academic



science center based in East London. During his career he has held a number of senior management positions in the NHS. In all positions he has been responsible for providing clinical advice to Trust boards and at national level, and of developing the engagement of doctors and other clinical staff in transformational strategies. He comes to IHTSDO with a strong belief that data power engages many different healthcare professionals so should be at the core of any engagement programme, and he holds the view that data and clinical analytics are key for redesign and modernisation of healthcare services. In addition, he has practical knowledge of the implementation of an enterprise-wide clinical information system, the use of clinical analytics to track and develop clinical performance, and the application of information technology for health and care transformation.

He is a practising clinician specialising in general haematology; having a strong practical interest in developing access and care for patients from the wide-ranging ethnic backgrounds of East London,

and in using interoperable information systems that connect different sectors of care to drive integration.

Dr. Peter Hendler

Dr. Hendler is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology and recently retired from Kaiser



Permanente where he held a clinical position as a Rheumatologist and contributed to SNOMED CT as a physician modeler for CMT. Prior to that he worked in private practice at Mt Zion and then St Francis Hospitals, in San Francisco. He has a deep understanding of SNOMED CT, particularly of the formal logic of SNOMED CT and of how to interface SNOMED CT into an EHR as well as patient portals. He has considerable experience in speaking publically in relation to SNOMED CT, EHR systems, Terminology and Descriptions Logics on an international scale. Since the mid 1990s he has spoken on numerous occasions at HL7, IHTSDO, WEDI, Kaiser National IT Summits, and for private industry (especially SUN Microsystems). In addition, for the past 15 years Dr. Hendler has been invited as a yearly lecturer at the University of California Berkeley, and in those talks he always spend time

explaining the internal workings and benefits of SNOMED CT.



Dr. Mike Bainbridge

Dr. Bainbridge is a clinician who has dedicated his life to the foundation and inception of Clinical

Informatics as a profession within Medicine. He started as an author of the Read Codes in the early 1980's whilst working as a full time General Practitioner in the UK. He contributed to the original AMIA workshops that defined the thinking around Jim Cimino's 'Desiderata' paper. Dr. Bainbridge has not seen patients since 2008 but maintains close contact with his clinical peers on a daily basis on both requirements-gathering and strategic level decisions. He is recognised and respected in academic, commercial and clinical settings. He has also published papers that maintain his 'Research Gate' profile in the top 30% of Global academics. He is an adjunct Professor at the University of Victoria BC, Canada and will shortly be able to announce a similar role in Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Bainbridge's current work, as Senior Clinical Governance Advisor for the Australian eHealth Transition Authority (NeHTA), brings him into daily contact with clinicians on a wide variety of information, design, usability and terminology topics.

Since arriving in Australia five years ago he became one of the first people to gain the new 'CHIA' (Certified Health Informatician of Australasia) examination. As a direct consequence, was co-opted onto both the CHIA Exam board and ACHI (Australian College for Health Informatics) education sub-committee. This work is also starting to drive an understanding in Australia for the need for professional record standards.

Additionally Dr. Bainbridge is an accomplished and sought-after international speaker, frequently invited to present keynote addresses at major Health and Health IT events. Further detailed information will be published when available, and the strategy will be published when agreed. For further information please contact Ian Green, Clinical Engagement and Education Services Business Manager (igr@ihtsdo.org)

By Lesley MacNeil, Head of Content

July 2016 Release

Continuous quality improvement and enhancement of existing content is ongoing based on requests received via the SNOMED International Request Submission (SIRS) System. Over 900 requests have been successfully edited using the new Single Concept Authoring (SCA) Tool. Of the five SLA targets only one missed its mark by 5%, a significant achievement for the Team as they transitioned through much change not only with a new Authoring Tool but also new workflow process changes as well.

The Mapping Service Team has been given the opportunity to extend their skills into authoring, contributing to the July 2017 release. The Team has received training in modeling of basic concepts, as well as completing the IHTSDO E-Learning packages covering SNOMED CT Foundation and Implementation.

The July 2016 International Edition release has seen a continuation of the work driven by contributions from the Kaiser Permanente Convergent Medical Terminology (CMT), Global Medical Device Nomenclature Agency (GMDNA), and Orphanet to add new content to SNOMED CT. Further to this, Member-identified priority projects have driven enhancements in the anatomy hierarchy, whilst other project-driven changes have resulted in additional edits and additions.

In total: 2602 new concepts were authored, with an additional 2019 changes made to existing concepts. Access to the release for Members will be June 30th with Affiliate access on July 31st, including the release notes.

Mapping Specific

For the January 2017 release of SNOMED CT, the SNOMED CT to the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD10) map is being revised to take into account the World Health Organization's recent major upgrade to ICD10 2016 (5th Edition). This involves updating the mapping tooling with both Volume 1 for the ICD-10 terminology browser and also the alphabetical index (Volume 3). Published maps, which have been impacted by the revision, are being reviewed and any revisions needed will also be incorporated into the January 2017 release.

Work on the SNOMED CT to International Classification of Diseases for Oncology morphology

codes is due to commence in preparation for the January 2017 release. Before this work can commence a review of the current map is required, and some adaption of the mapping tool will be necessary.

New areas of work for the Mapping Service Team include a linkage table between SNOMED CT and GMDN, and supporting the Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) project in producing a map from LOINC to SNOMED CT.

As aforementioned, the Mapping Service Team has been given the opportunity to extend their skills into authoring. The Team has received training in modeling of basic concepts as well as completing the IHTSDO E-Learning packages covering SNOMED CT Foundation and Implementation.

Project Insight

Many projects are in progress but here is some additional insight on a few:

Drugs Model

The Drug Product RFP has been awarded. A significant portion of the work to fulfill the RFP has been completed. IHTSDO and the contractor are now reviewing the completed deliverables per schedule, exchanging feedback, and refining the work product. A meeting of the Drug - Default Model for Extensions to present the results will be scheduled in the near future.

Drugs Project Hierarchy Modeling Preview

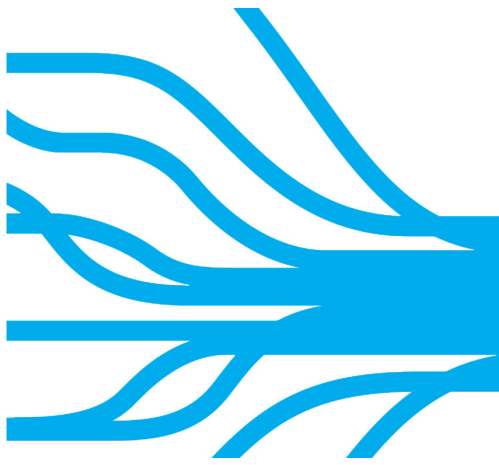
This is the systematic review and clean-up of the drug product hierarchy. The initial review of 17k flagged for corrections has been assessed and a schedule of correction has started in production.

ICD-11

This is the review of SNOMED CT and ICD-11 chapter by chapter, with an initial focus on Morbidity and Mortality. This project is in analysis stage, however a pilot of some ICD-11 concepts has been completed in the new SCA tool.

Anatomy

Phase 1 of the project surrounded the Review of Content and Term mapping which is complete. Phase 2 - The first part of this phase concerns the Symantec definition, which is complete with a breakdown of issues, defined differences and possible solutions. This set of deliverables is being prepared for a Technical Preview. The second half of



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SNOMED CT Expo 2016 - The Countdown is on!

By Alison Delle, Communications Manager

There are less than four months to go, and this year's Expo (taking place in Wellington, NZ on 27-28 October) is shaping up to be an incredible event. Not only does the Expo feature top-caliber plenary speakers like Dr. John Halamka, but you will also have the opportunity to hear from your global peers through the presentations in one of three education tracks. We are expecting a strong contingent of local New Zealand delegates, but there will also be delegates from around the world. We have ensured that there is plenty of time in the schedule for networking in addition to education, as the Expo is an amazing opportunity to make connections and speak with people informally.

Every year we try and add elements to the conference to improve the attendee experience, and this year is no exception. We are introducing a conference app, and we will soon be announcing some other new things!

Call for Papers Update

By Fleur McBriar, Events & Business Support

IHTSDO would like to thank everyone who submitted abstracts to this year's SNOMED CT Expo Call For Papers, which has now closed.

We had a large number of submissions and every abstract was reviewed by a review committee of 5 members before being considered for the Programme. The review process was not only concerned with the quality of the abstracts but also took account of the relevance to national adoption, innovative implementation, effective deployment, and practical use of SNOMED CT. Decisions also took account of a need to balance the content of the Expo, with presentations from different countries and from

The setting for the Expo couldn't be better: the Te Papa Museum is located on Wellington's waterfront, right in the midst of this beautiful city. If you choose to extend your stay in New Zealand, you should also consider attending the [Health Informatics New Zealand Conference](#) the following week in Auckland (Expo delegates are eligible for a special rate).

Whatever your interest in health terminology, the Expo has something for you. See you in Wellington in October!

snomedexpo.org #sctexpo2016



a range of perspectives.

All proposers have now been informed by email of their result, and the programme is being refined before official publication in the next month or so. Please watch the [Expo website](#) for full details.

Key Dates:

- **Friday 8th July** – Final abstracts required from successful presenters (for the Expo programme)
- **Monday 19th September** – Final date to submit electronic copies of posters and slide decks (for future publication after the event)

If you require assistance please contact us by email at events@ihtsdo.org.

IHTSDO & HL7 International - working together

By Jane Millar, Collaboration Lead

In August 2014, IHTSDO and HL7 International signed a new Collaboration Agreement with a focus on key joint work areas to be undertaken over a 2 year period. It is good to be reporting at this time on the progress that has been made, to start to ensure that our standards can work together in health information systems.

We have worked together to ensure that HL7's developers and implementers are aware of the licensing requirements for SNOMED CT, wherever in the world, by including licensing statements in products and provided FAQs on the topic. To facilitate the use of SNOMED CT in HL7 International products, developers anywhere in the world who are contributing are able to access the latest version of SNOMED CT International through a portal set up by HL7. We are in the process of finalising a SNOMED CT Development Licence which will allow HL7 Affiliate countries to undertake their own development work using SNOMED CT, regardless of whether they are an IHTSDO member country or not.

HL7 and IHTSDO have worked together on the content in the latest version of TermInfo, currently Draft Standard For Trial Use, related to SNOMED CT to ensure the guidance is up to date and accurate.

IHTSDO has started work with the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) leadership on defining best practice for binding SNOMED CT in FHIR profiles. This work is ongoing and we expect it to be a key component of the updated work plan currently being refined. This approach is also being applied to CIMI, (which is now a work group of HL7), thus ensuring consistency.

HL7 has established the HL7 Terminology Authority, which, as a single point of contact, is responsible for dealing with any requests to IHTSDO for changes and additions to SNOMED CT as required for HL7 products. This will certainly serve to ensure an efficient and effective process for ensuring HL7 value sets have relevant and up to date SNOMED CT content.

HL7 are undertaking a review of their value sets and IHTSDO is happy to review any SNOMED CT requirements that arise from this to ensure a smooth

and timely update to any value sets that are not up to date.

For both organisations we have been able to explore approaches to collaboration, managing licensing and dealing with terminology. This can be applied in other collaborations and certainly feeds in to the work of the [Joint Initiative Council \(JIC\)](#), of which both organisations are members. At this time we are exploring the next phase of joint work which will certainly include, amongst other things, the use of SNOMED CT in FHIR, potential opportunities for collaboration with education and other guidance about our standards working together.



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SNOMED CT Implementation Spotlight: SNOMED CT providing support to the national Patient Summary in Slovenia

*By Mate Beštek, Centre for Healthcare Informatics,
National Institute of Public Health of Republic of
Slovenia*

In 2015 Slovenia passed new legislation changes to the existing Healthcare Databases Act that introduced eHealth into national legislation. The term eHealth is no longer a national project but has become the term that describes the national eHealth information-communication system. In addition to this, Slovenia has also introduced a term Central Registry of Patient Data (CRPD). Data stored in this registry includes a Patient Summary in a structured form and all the other documents that are being exchanged by healthcare professionals through eHealth. Focusing on semantic interoperability has always been a priority in Slovenia and SNOMED CT has lately been used for the first time on the national level in combination with OpenEHR and IHE. The national Patient Summary document has been defined by using OpenEHR and several data points have been mapped to SNOMED CT. Data gathering started in April 2016, when some 17,000 documents were transferred from different Healthcare Providers to the CRPD, and in May 2016 the number has increased by 250% to 69,500 documents.

Patient Summary has been defined with respect to the European epSOS project that produced a basic

Patient Summary data set for the purpose of cross-border exchange. One of the sections of the document represents data about Vaccinations. We used SNOMED CT codes for vaccines (in addition to other data points in the Patient Summary), which were mapped to Slovene vaccine names. A doctor/nurse can still choose only the vaccine name that he is applying and does not have to additionally enter any codes. This was possible with an additional mapping from SNOMED codes to ICD-10 codes for diseases. Previous versions of the Vaccinations section included doctors/nurses choosing one or more ICD-10 codes, which was seen as additional work with possibility of errors (especially in the case when nurses enter data about vaccinations into their Electronic Medical Records).

With this project we have made a first important step towards national use of SNOMED CT which represents one of the basis of achieving semantic interoperability, not only on the national level but also in cross-border exchange with other countries. The projects of national eHealth are run by the Centre for Healthcare Informatics at the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia, which was established in the end of 2015.

For more information visit <http://www.nijz.si> or write to terminology@nijz.si.



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SNOMED CT E-Learning Update

By David Markwell, Head of Education

Enthusiasm for the SNOMED CT E-Learning Courses continues to be high this year, with over 2,800 people registered on our E-Learning server from over 70 countries. Over 1,046 people have completed at least one course and well over 500 people are currently active in a course. We have been delighted with both the positive feedback and the constructive suggestions received from the community that are helping us to improve our E-Learning offerings.

The arrival of Anne Højen and Jon Zammit to the Education and Product Support (E&PS) Team in April 2016 is allowing us to continue to grow our E-Learning services, while also improving the quality and accessibility of our SNOMED CT documentation.

IHTSDO currently offers three SNOMED CT courses (the Foundation Course, the Implementation Course and the Content Development Theory Course) through our E-Learning server:

<https://elearning.ihtsdotools.org/>

SNOMED CT Foundation Course

The SNOMED CT Foundation Course presents a broad introduction to SNOMED CT. This course continues to attract a steady flow of students with 50 to 60 new students joining each month. In early May the thousandth person completed the course and we now have another 400 actively working through this course.

SNOMED CT Implementation Course

The SNOMED CT Implementation Course develops a more in-depth understanding of SNOMED CT for those engaged in various parts of the implementation process - from the decision to adopt SNOMED CT, through to deployment and use.

More than 100 people have completed this advanced six-month course since it launched in July last year. A further 200 people are currently taking the course and 50 more have already booked a place for the

September intake. We are pleased that interest in this course has remained extremely high, and we are receiving positive feedback from those who have completed it.

SNOMED CT Content Development Theory Course

The SNOMED CT Content Development Theory Course provides a theoretical understanding of SNOMED CT content, its development and maintenance from a content authoring perspective.

Our first intake will complete this course during July and the second intake has recently started. Including both intakes, there are currently around 80 people taking this course. Interest has been higher than expected, with an additional 80 students scheduled to begin in September. A fourth intake is also being planned for January 2017.

E-Learning Advisory Group

The E-Learning Advisory Group (ELAG) is a group of member representatives and expert advisors who help to ensure that the SNOMED CT E-Learning products and services provided by IHTSDO address the requirements of the Members and other stakeholders.

In April this year, the ELAG had a very productive face-to-face workshop and meeting. Key outcomes included an agreement to explore more open access to E-Learning materials, a consideration of ways in which the SNOMED CT Implementation Course could be specialised for specific target audiences, and the identification of new materials that may be needed to meet the needs of these targeted audiences.

Over the remainder of this year and during 2017, the E&PS Team will work towards implementing these outcomes, and also developing closer linkages between the E-Learning materials and the SNOMED CT documentation.



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The IHTSDO Newsletter provides news and features from IHTSDO, delivering SNOMED CT. If you have comments on the editorial content, then please contact the editor, Fleur McBriar, at fmc@ihtsdo.org