

Briefing Note for the MF, CMAG, EAG, Clinical Leads

7 December 2023

Change to the role grouping policy for observables

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform the Member Forum, Editorial Advisory Group, Content Managers Advisory Group, and Clinical Leads Group of the plan to change the role grouping policy for observables.

Background

For observables in the International Edition, the attributes are self-grouped, meaning that an attribute is grouped on itself. Some of these attributes are grouped with other attributes in clinical findings and procedures. Inconsistent role grouping also exists in evaluation procedures, which causes confusion for attributes shared among different hierarchies. Furthermore, modeling observables with multiple elements requires grouping attributes together.

The options for addressing the issues have been discussed with the Modeling Advisory Group, the SNOMED International content team and some extensions. The agreed solution is to group the attributes together for modeling observables instead of self-grouping each attribute. The changes to role groups can be made in batches by using technical scripts. The classification results should be the same for all observables. There could be a small number of observables with multiple elements that require manual review and regrouping. The attributes of evaluation procedures should also be grouped together for consistency.

Issues

The new policy will address the issues with inconsistent modeling and will support the requirement for modeling multiple elements in an observable. Because of changes in the International Edition, extensions must adhere to the new policy in order to ensure consistent

modeling and classification. If extensions did not update the role groups in the observable model, the classification results would be incorrect after the July 2024 release.

Next Steps

Implementation of the role group changes specified in this informational briefing note will be included in the July 2024 release of the International Edition. It is recommended that extensions implement the new role grouping policy earlier than the international release. If any fully defined observables in extensions include international observables as subconcepts, the role groups of these extension concepts should be changed only after the July release to avoid losing the expected international subconcepts. To ensure correct classification, extensions should update the role groups for observables no later than July 2024.

No action is required for extensions if observable attributes are already grouped together.

The work is planned for early 2024. Notification will also be provided via the Early Visibility Confluence page.

Comments on this plan should be submitted to Yongsheng Gao (yga@snomed.org) or info@snomed.org by 29 Feb 2024.

Approvals	Date	Name
Chief Terminologist	2023-12-11	James T. Case
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