

Living Organism and Infectious Disease Model Project Group Scope Statement

1. Project Name:

Organism and Infectious Disease Enhancement

2. Intent

A hierarchy of organisms is needed to provide reliable content in several contexts. These contexts include (but not limited to):

- Etiologic agents for disorders
- Components of biological and pharmaceutical products (substances)
- Components of procedures (laboratory tests) and associated results

The (original) overall intent is to enhance two distinct and inter-related sets of SNOMED CT content:

- Organisms
 - Organisms are unmodeled at this time (all primitive). A model that logically and accurately defines supertypes and subtypes of living organisms will improve efficiency of hierarchy maintenance
- Infectious Diseases
 - Alignment between the living organisms the models of clinical findings and conditions will contribute to efficiency and accuracy of infectious disease modeling.

Figure 1. Relationship between the organism and findings hierarchy in SNOMED-CT. Accurate placement of organisms in the model, facilitated by proper assignment of attributes and values, propagates to produce accurate placement of infectious diseases (via autoclassification). The “causative agent” attribute is part of the observables model that creates the connection between the two hierarchies.

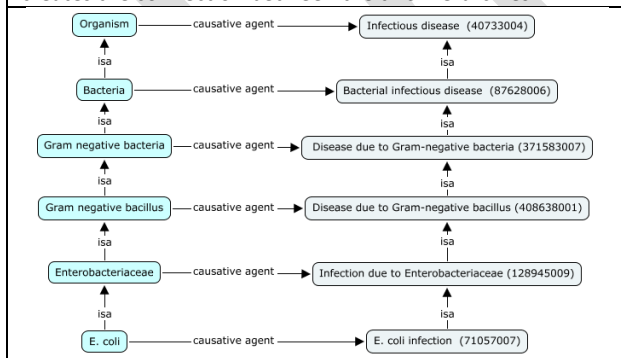
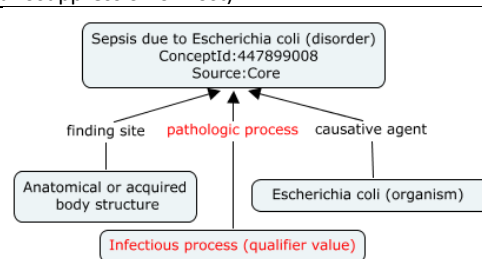


Figure 2. Historically, organisms were placed as subtypes of “Infectious Agent.” This produced inappropriate subsumptions within the organisms hierarchy as only select members of MANY organisms subtypes were, in fact, infectious. Also, some organisms are only infectious in situations that alter the host (e.g., X infection secondary to immunosuppression of host).



3. Scope

Assumption: The scope outlined in this section includes tasks to be addressed by the volunteer project group as well as an IHTSDO editor.

The scope includes:

- Develop / enhance the model for living organisms
 - General model
 - Attributes
 - Attribute values
 - Specializations required for various organism categories
- Determine which microbiological examination result patterns can be
 - organisms for an implied context = present in patient sample
 - “findings with explicit context(s)”
 - Develop a list of contexts (not present, not identified, not isolated, etc.) and define each (URU)
- Identify consequences of modeling decisions on hierarchies for which organisms provide definitional content.
 - Findings and disorders
 - Procedures
 - Substances
- Identify the impact to existing implementers and confirm priority
- Estimate editorial requirements to address recommendations (cost estimates)
- Communicate decisions to appropriate IHTSDO committees and users
- Outreach to other PGs with shared interest in organism terminology / ontology.

3.1.Approach

- Agree on scope of project & priority
- Agree on level of paid and non-paid resources for this work
 - we need folks who will roll up sleeves and commit- perhaps can be part of consultant terminologist program
 - suggest an IHTSDO facilitator to assist Jeff in coordinating activities
- Do a call out for volunteers from Member Forum and Affiliates Forum
- Plan a communication strategy
- Reach out to any related committees
- Agree on timelines

4. Stakeholder Engagement

This project is both high impact (in the amount of change anticipated) and high controversy (level of community of practice agreement on solutions) and therefore requires higher level of stakeholder engagement. By including the right level of stakeholders in the agreed upon approach the IHTSDO can be assured that terminology content development is aligned with the requirements of its user base and with the strategic and quality objectives of the IHTSDO. In addition expectations of stakeholders will need to be well managed.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Chair of the project group - Jeff Wilcke

Facilitator to assist in coordinating tasks – tbd

IHTSDO Editor - tbd

IHTSDO Chief Terminologist with overarching accountability – Kent Spackman

High level Tasks	Project Group	IHTSDO Editor	Accountable
Identify and categorize concept patterns including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisms classes and patterns for modifying classes • Patterns of reporting of results from microbiological examinations. Most of these are values that would normally be paired with laboratory tests 	R	C	Content committee
Develop/enhance the model for living organisms	R	C	Content committee
Identify editorial guidelines for descriptions and relationships for the concept patterns	C	R	Content committee
Communicate decisions to the community of practice and solicit comments, concerns and criticisms	R	C	Implementation SIG /MF
Identify the impact to existing implementers and confirm priority	C	R	Member Forum
Identify editor requirements and estimate to address recommendations	C	R	IHTSDO officer

R-responsible, C- consult