

SNOMED Nutrition and Dietetics Clinical Reference Group

SNOMED CT NCPT Reference Set Communications

June 2023

Focus: Communicating about the SNOMED CT Nutrition Care Process Terminology (NCPT) Reference Set

Audiences for Reference Set Communications		Strategies for Reaching Audiences	Notes
Terminology community at large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint announcement with SNOMED International • SNOMED Announces (US) • UMLS users (US) • SNOMED communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press announcement • SNOMED communication strategy 	J. Millar to provide further information re: SNOMED communications
Nutrition and dietetics professionals in US and Internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDRnet.org, CDRConnection Newsletter (D. Pertel) • Eatright Weekly (D. Pertel) • PEN groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASPEN ○ ESPEN ○ PENSA (Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Society of Asia) ○ FELANPE (Latin American PEN society) ○ MESPEN (Middle Eastern Alliance of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition) • Country dietetic associations (members of CRG) • International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) (D. Pertel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement linked to press announcement 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Federation of Associations of Dietitians (EFAD) • International Confederation of Dietetic Associations (ICDA) (D. Pertel) 		
Contract Management Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compass • Sodexo • Aramark • Unidine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement 	
Academy/CDR Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dietetic Practice Groups/Member Interest Groups • International DPG • Academy/CDR Committees • Student communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article for newsletters 	
SNOMED country national release centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify countries and NRC contacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Australia ○ Canada ○ Denmark ○ New Zealand ○ Norway ○ Sweden ○ Switzerland ○ United Kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal outreach 	
IT companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Architecture • Termlex • Cicero • Apelon • Epic • Cerner • Meditech • CBORD • Computrition • Junum • Health Leap • Menu Logistics • NutriStyle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infomonster podcast (Charlie Harp) • Announcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Snyder has some contacts • D. Pertel to ask CDR's Interoperability and Standards Committee members to see who might have contacts
Terminology Management Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligent Medical Objects (IMO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Snyder has contact with IMO

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Languages International (HLI) • Optum 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Pertel to ask CDR's Interoperability and Standards Committee members to see who might have contacts
IT professionals, Administrators in health care, Other health professionals		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of newsletter article to ask for nutrition professionals to reach out to professionals in their organizations 	
Other trade organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) • American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) • Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Pertel to ask CDR's Interoperability and Standards Committee members to see who might have contacts

Determine Timing for Each Audience TBD

Draft Frequently Asked Questions

These are suggested frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers related to the publication of a Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT) Nutrition Care Process Terminology reference set.

1. What is a reference set?

- A reference set is a subset of a larger set of concepts that are useful for a particular purpose.

2. What is the SNOMED CT Nutrition Care Process Terminology (NCPT) reference set?

- The initial reference set will contain the primary coding concepts from one of the most important aspects of the nutrition care process (NCP), the nutrition problem (diagnosis) that nutrition and dietetic professionals are treating. The problems are from the Nutrition Care Process Terminology (NCPT), which is available at ncpro.org.
- A subsequent reference set update will contain all concepts that map, or are associated with, NCP terminology in SNOMED CT, specifically, nutrition assessment/monitoring and evaluation, nutrition diagnosis, and nutrition intervention concepts.
- US and International nutrition and dietetic professionals volunteer their expertise and time to develop and maintain NCPT concepts and resources, which enable them to be included in SNOMED CT.

3. What is SNOMED CT?

- [SNOMED CT](#) is the most comprehensive clinical healthcare terminology in use around the world. This link provides basic information about SNOMED CT: <https://youtu.be/Eqx21OSrGU0>.
- SNOMED CT can be used in electronic health record (EHR) systems supporting evidence-based practice.
- Most countries identify specific terminologies that can be used in their electronic health record systems, and SNOMED CT is the most widely used terminology.
- Inclusion and release of a reference set of nutrition concepts in SNOMED CT is an important recognition of the contribution of nutrition care to health care.
- The majority of NCPT has been submitted to and is included in SNOMED CT.
- Nutrition and dietetic professionals, including Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) and Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (NDTRs), are encouraged to use the NCPT as the terminology for a user interface with the SNOMED CT mappings behind the scenes for data analysis.

4. What are the benefits of a nutrition reference set?

- The reference set lists the discreet coding terminology for nutrition problems (diagnoses) for nutrition and dietetic professionals to use in electronic health records (EHRs).
- Using a coding terminology, like SNOMED CT, helps promote care communication by using discreet concepts for meaningful exchange (interoperability) of nutrition content within and between health systems. This SNOMED video provides a brief introduction to why structured and coded data documentation and exchange is important: <https://youtu.be/xOTs13ChZxs>

- A reference set can help guide quality measure developers as it will ensure the measure developer properly constrains the quality measure value sets to only those codes available for use within the scope of the nutrition terminology.
- A reference set may help data extraction for research purposes when used in conjunction with a formal research data model, such as Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics ([OHDSI](#)), Informatics for Integrating Biology & the Bedside ([i2b2](#)), and/or Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership ([OMOP](#)).
- In the US, the initial reference set is being submitted to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) so that a nutrition problem (diagnosis) list can be made widely available.

5. To whom is the reference set relevant?

- A reference set is helpful to many stakeholders, such as nutrition and dietetic professionals, EHR implementers, SNOMED member country national release centers, and researchers.

6. What's in it for dietitians? For other professionals?

- A reference set makes nutrition EHR implementations and updates easier by providing the exact list of concepts, in the case of the initial reference set release, to name nutrition problems (diagnoses).
- It can help guide quality measure developers to include only the relevant coded nutrition terminology for the quality measure.
- The reference set may help data extraction for research purposes when used in conjunction with a formal research data model such as OHDSI, i2b2, and/or OMOP.

7. How are reference sets used?

- Nutrition professionals, in collaboration with IT professionals, use the nutrition reference set in EHR implementations and EHR revisions and/or updates.
- The initial reference set will help nutrition professionals and implementers understand the specific nutrition and dietetic concepts to use for a nutrition problem (diagnosis) list.

8. When will the reference set be available?

- The first reference set release, with nutrition problems (diagnoses), will be with the SNOMED CT April 2024 release.

9. When will the reference set be updated?

- The first update, in April 2025, will contain the SNOMED CT identifiers for all three NCP terminologies (ie, nutrition assessment/monitoring and evaluation, nutrition diagnosis, nutrition intervention), which will help with implementation and documentation of care provided in the NCP.

- Annual maintenance of the content is needed to ensure valid mappings when SNOMED CT content is changed or inactivated and/or when changes to NCPT content occur.

10. What is the content in a simple reference set?

- A simple reference set is a subset of SNOMED CT identifiers (ie, SCTID). These are numerical identifiers for computer readability. There are no descriptions that are human readable in a simple SNOMED reference set. Also, there are no mapping to the NCP terminology in the SNOMED CT NCPT simple reference set.

11. Does the reference set replace the need for the Academy's NCPT terminology hierarchy and mapping resources provided in the eNCPT (ncpro.org)?

- There are important reasons why the reference set does not replace the need for the resources in the eNCPT (ncpro.org):
 - The Academy's terminology resources provide the NCPT descriptions that can be read by humans since the reference set only contains numerical values that can be read by a computer.
 - eNCPT resources help show the relationships between concepts, also called the terminology hierarchy.
 - Mapping resources that are part of eNCPT associate the SNOMED CT concept that can be read by people with the NCPT as the interface terminology.
 - In addition to SNOMED CT, several NCPT concepts also have [LOINC](#) (Logical Observation Identifiers, Names and Codes) mappings.
 - The Academy's resources provide definitions and important information for using the NCP and NCPT to improve and demonstrate quality nutrition care.

12. Who developed the reference set?

- The nutrition problems (diagnoses) are from the Nutrition Care Process Terminology, which is developed and maintained by US and International nutrition and dietetic professionals. It is available from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at ncpro.org.
- The tools used to create and distribute the reference set are developed and maintained by [SNOMED International](#).

13. Who is responsible for maintenance of the reference set?

- The responsibilities are shared between the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)/Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and SNOMED International. CDR and the Academy maintain the NCP terminology and its definitions and resources, maintain maps between NCPT content and SNOMED CT terms, and maintain the SNOMED NCPT reference set content. SNOMED International maintains and distributes SNOMED CT and distributes the SNOMED NCPT reference set with SNOMED releases.

14. Is there an opportunity to provide input on the reference set?

- Yes! Questions and/or suggestions related to the reference set received by the Academy or SNOMED will be tracked via SNOMED's JIRA system (*insert link when available*). CDR and Academy staff are responsible for responding to JIRA queries. Questions that may be received by NCP@eatright.org will be added to SNOMED's JIRA tracking system for a response.

15. What are the Academy and SNOMED International responsibilities related to their respective terminologies?

- The nutrition content that the Academy submitted to SNOMED CT reflects the valuable contribution of nutrition to health care. SNOMED International is responsible for ownership, control, and distribution of SNOMED CT.
- The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is responsible for the ownership, control, and distribution of NCPT content and NCPT mappings to SNOMED CT concepts.

16. What can nutrition and dietetic professionals do to promote the adoption and use of the SNOMED NCPT reference set?

- Professionals in health care settings can contact individuals in their organization that are responsible for EHRs and quality management initiatives. Standardization of approaches to care through the NCP and discreet terminology in the NCPT and SNOMED NCPT reference set improve efficiency of care, promote clear communications in care documentation and reports, and supports high quality nutrition and health care. New implementations and/or updates to current EHRs with the SNOMED NCPT reference set is advised.
- Professionals in technology settings can inform leaders in their organizations about the availability of the SNOMED NCPT reference set.

Helpful resources:

- [Nutrition Care Process and Terminology](#)
- Nutrition Care Process and Terminology Reference Manual, eNCPT (ncpro.org) (*sign-in required*)
- [Interoperability and Health Information Standards](#)
- [SNOMED CT](#)
 - a. What is SNOMED CT? <https://youtu.be/Eqx21OSrGU0>
 - b. Why record clinical data electronically and structured? <https://youtu.be/xOTs13ChZxs>
- [LOINC](#)

Draft Talking Points for Country National Release Center Outreach

- Explain who you are and the work you and/or colleagues do in the country
- Nutrition and dietetic professionals contribute to the health care of the population through provision of nutrition services in hospitals, ambulatory care centers, clinics, long-term care and other settings.
- The care they provide is done using the Nutrition Care Process (NCP), a standardized approach to individualized nutrition care that improves the quality of the care provided.
- You participate in the SNOMED International [Nutrition and Dietetics Clinical Reference Group \(CRG\)](#), which developed the SNOMED CT NCPT reference set and reviews existing content in SNOMED CT related to nutrition and dietetics.
- The standardized and coded terminology used in the NCP was submitted to and is included in SNOMED CT to support documentation of nutrition care.
- Request an opportunity to share information about nutrition care in their country and about the new SNOMED CT Nutrition Care Process Terminology reference set that will be available in April 2024 and to begin a dialogue with release center staff regarding nutrition care.