

Briefing Note for the Member Forum, Content Managers Advisory Group,
Editorial Advisory Group, Customer Relations Service Management
(CSRM) and Clinical Leads Group

Informational only Briefing Note regarding Inactivation of Therapeutic Role
Groupers in the Medicinal Product Hierarchy

25th March 2024

Purpose

Informational only. Briefing Note regarding Inactivation of Therapeutic Role Groupers in the Medicinal Product Hierarchy.

Background

Following the [Consultation Notice](#) on the Inactivation of Role Groupers in Substance and Medicinal Product Hierarchies and distribution of the [“Universal Summary”](#) we now publish this follow-up Briefing Note.

Issues/problem statement

- As identified in the original consultation note, during the early stages of the development of the Medicinal Product (MP) role hierarchy (the first 20%), an array of issues were identified that made progress with further application of these role groupers dependent on additional consultation for resolution.
- Trying to provide a comprehensive MP role grouper hierarchy to replace substance role groupers would have required major content changes, not only in the Substance and Medicinal product hierarchies but also in many other areas in SNOMED CT, including remodelling of concepts defined by role groupers and their children in other hierarchies such as Clinical finding and Procedure. This would result in a considerable expansion of the project scope, resources, and potential impact on implementers.
- Subsequently, successful completion of the migration of all roles to the product hierarchy (including required changes in the other hierarchies) would have still made a major impact on various implementers, vendors, and National Release Centers (NRCs), based on the comprehensive feedback we received to date (see [“Universal Summary”](#)). Specifically, stakeholders that currently have substance role groupers embedded in their system would

be adversely affected. Assessment of the feedback received demonstrated that most respondents expressed concerns about the potentially harmful impact of Substance role grouper inactivation. This affected a variety of healthcare scenarios including allergy and intolerance recording and checking, as well as support for clinical decision-making.

Proposed solution

- We have received no evidence, based on current usage, of an impact of the inactivation of the recently created Medicinal Product therapeutic role groupers. Medicinal Product therapeutic role groupers are incomplete, and comments received included confusion regarding which to use in terms of substance or products.
- Resolution of the issues involves inactivating the small set of the Medicinal product role groupers (20%) created to date, many without any subtypes assigned. We understand this is a rollback in a decision made circa 2017 by the substance redesign working group.
- NRCs can opt to create medicinal product role groupers in their extensions or use other solutions and classifications to address the issues related to the use of the substance role groupers.

Impact to content

- 178 Medicinal Product Role Groupers will be inactivated as duplicates pointing to the substance role groupers.
- Supporting hierarchy 766941000 |Therapeutic role (role)| and its 123 subtypes will be removed.
- The Substance role groupers will remain in situ with no change. However a disclaimer will be added to the SNOMED CT Editorial Guide related to known issues with the use of Substance role groupers including potential incorrect classification.

Release date

Target date is 1st July 2024 release.

Approvals	Date	Name
Chief Terminologist	Mar 25, 2024	James T. Case
Director of Content and Mapping	Mar 25, 2024	Monica Harry
CSRM team	Mar 26, 2024	Jane Millar