

Briefing Note for the Member Forum, Content Managers Advisory Group, Editorial Advisory Group, Clinical Leads, and Community of Practice.

December 2023

Comprehensive review of Epithelial Neuroendocrine Neoplasms and alignment with 5th edition of WHO Blue Book [[C127575007 |Malignant epithelial neuroendocrine neoplasm \(morphologic abnormality\)| and related disorders](#)]

Purpose

To update and inform the SNOMED CT community of revisions to [C127575007 |Malignant epithelial neuroendocrine neoplasm \(morphologic abnormality\)| and related disorders](#) based on the Histology Quality Improvement project team's comprehensive review of content and alignment with the 5th edition of the WHO Blue Book chapter on Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumours. Total number of concepts to be changed in this phase is 123 morphologic abnormalities and 265 disorder concepts. The Histology Quality Improvement Project was approved by the SNOMED Senior Management Team in June 2023 and will eventually address issues in the entire [C108369006 |Neoplasm \(morphologic abnormality\)| hierarchy](#).

Background

This briefing note is a progress update of the Histology Quality Improvement project and addresses the specific updates to neuroendocrine tumors, neoplasms, and carcinomas. Substantial changes and advances in understanding surrounding neuroendocrine neoplasms has occurred over the past 15 years and is reflected in the most recent WHO Blue Book publication. The proposed changes impact concepts [C127575007 |Malignant epithelial neuroendocrine neoplasm \(morphologic abnormality\)| and related disorders](#).

Issues

The [C108369006 |Neoplasm \(morphologic abnormality\)| hierarchy](#) is outdated and in need of a comprehensive review to update content to current pathology and oncology practice as reflected in the most recent edition of the WHO Blue Book. In addition, existing concepts do not reflect accurate concept lineage suitable for expected, reliable and repeatable classification and query.

Next Steps

The following proposed changes in the Histology Quality Project and underlying thought processes supporting the changes are as follows:

1. Primary focus on epithelial neuroendocrine neoplasm <<127575007 |Malignant epithelial neuroendocrine neoplasm (morphologic abnormality)| and related disorders.
2. Neural neuroendocrine and Pituitary neuroendocrine neoplasms will be addressed in a separate project task.
3. Existing concepts for <<55937004 |Neuroendocrine tumor (morphologic abnormality)| are to be inactivated as ambiguous due to conflation of well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor morphologies and neuroendocrine carcinoma morphologies.
4. New concepts created for Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumor (NET) and Neuroendocrine carcinoma (NEC)
5. All NET and NEC morphologies are considered malignant with only limited exceptions (e.g., 32071008|Strumal carcinoid (morphologic abnormality)|). Therefore, all “benign” NET and NEC morphologies are to be inactivated as outdated. They will be replaced by their malignant counterparts.
6. Per lead Blue Book authors, carcinoid morphologies are equivalent to well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (NET). Therefore, all carcinoid morphologies are to be inactivated and replaced by NET morphologies. When prevailing clinical practice retains the use of “carcinoid” in descriptions of morphologies, a synonym containing carcinoid is maintained. This is prevalent in lung pathology, for example.
7. Multiple disorder concepts are to be inactivated as erroneous based on modeling and/or considered outdated. Replacement concepts will be created where appropriate.
8. Several FSNs are incomplete and/or incorrect for the disorder concepts. These will be corrected and/or inactivated with replacement concepts created.
9. For all concepts with Orphanet mappings, the Orphanet definition will be reviewed along with the defining morphology concept. Where the SNOMED CT concept was not accurately modeled for the Orphanet definition, the concept will be inactivated and replaced by a new concept. Mapping information will be provided to the mapping team.
10. The changes listed above are proposed to be added to the January 2024 International release.

Recommendations

Request: Reviewers submit comments and questions to SNOMED International via the Chief Terminologist (jca@snomed.org) by December 15, 2023.

Approvals	Date	Name
Chief Terminologist	Oct 11, 2023	James T. Case
Director of Content and Mapping	Nov 14, 2023	Monica Harry
CSRM team		Jane Millar

Scott Campbell, 2023-10-10