

Angela Vivanti,
Chairperson,
Nutrition Care Process International
Workgroup,
August 2nd 2017

Lesley MacNeil,
Content and Mapping Executive Lead.
SNOMED International,
lma@snomed.org

Dear Lesley,

Re Standardized International Nutrition Terminology and SNOMED International

We are an international group of professional dietitians representing countries across the world who teleconference regularly & meet annually in the USA as part of an International Nutrition Care Process Research Outcomes Workgroup (NCPRO International).

One of the key goals of the international workgroup is to promote the adoption and implementation of a standardized terminology for use globally. For more than a decade, the Nutrition Care Process Terminology (NCPT) has been supported by the International Congress of Dietetics and adopted by dietetic associations internationally. Translations have been completed by professional organizations into Danish, French (Canadian), German (Swiss), Norwegian and Swedish and are also currently being undertaken into Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish (Mexican).

Countries represented in this international workgroup over the last few years include:

- Australia,
- Brazil,
- Canada
- Denmark
- Greece,
- India
- Ireland,
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Sweden,
- Singapore,
- United Arab Emirates,
- United Kingdom
- and USA.

A number of these countries are also member countries of SNOMED International.

The NCPRO International workgroup has been discussing the importance of including NCP Terminology in SNOMED International for several years and have made approaches at different times to the respective country representatives of SNOMED International, particularly in 2013 when nutrition was identified as a priority and presented to the member forum. We wish to eliminate the need for every member country to create a SNOMED extension to incorporate the standardized nutrition terminology.

We are aware that since 2013 that the USA has mapped NCP terms to the US extension and the UK has also mapped some NCP terms to the UK extension.

At our most recent NCPRO International workgroup meeting in June 2017, we again discussed our concerns about NCP terms not being included in SNOMED International and what our next steps could be.

From the discussion, the NCPRO International Workgroup would like to propose that NCP terms which have been mapped to the US extension be included in the SNOMED International Edition. This would avoid the rather lengthy and complex process of each country mapping the NCP terms to their individual country extensions.

The NCPRO International Workgroup and the National Dietetic Associations they represent would very much like to see the inclusion of standardized nutrition terms and fully support it. There is increasing use of NCP Terminology within countries and worldwide. With the rapid adoption of Electronic Health Records, it is very important for dietetic practice that NCP Terminology be included in the SNOMED International Edition. Further, it may make sense for SNOMED International to establish a nutrition and dietetics clinical reference group to maintain the new content.

One of our members, Lyn Lloyd from New Zealand, met with Alastair Kenworthy (New Zealand SNOMED member forum representative) whilst Dr Michael Bainbridge (SNOMED Clinical Engagement lead or Asia-Pacific) was visiting New Zealand. Both were very supportive and Alastair suggested we approach you for consideration of our proposal.

Do you think there would be any objections to SNOMED International considering this further and assisting with advancement of the already mapped standardized terminology into SNOMED International?

We would be very pleased to discuss this further. Our contact person is Lyn Lloyd from New Zealand (lynl@adhb.govt.nz) Also Constantina Papoutsakis, Director of Nutrition Care Process, at Research International and Scientific Affairs, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (cpapoutsakis@eatright.org) is attending the SNOMED meeting being held in Bratislava on October 19-20 this year and we would greatly welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person.

Looking forward to your reply in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Angela Vivanti

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