Improving RefSet content through specification: 3 case studies

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Audience

Audience members who are attempting to build and implement SNOMED CT Reference Sets (RefSets), ensuring they are tailored and appropriate to users, in their own operational context.

Objectives

Audience members will learn how to scope and build a RefSet to suit requirements specified by users. Different RefSet types, with different features and functionality will be discussed and demonstrated by focussing on three different use cases and how the technical build approach, and content, varies by design.

Abstract

The constrained scope and generally smaller size of RefSets are attractive to implementers because they believe RefSets provide greater control over data collection and consequently data is more suited for specified purposes.

The focus of the presentation will be on the development and use of three different RefSets for different clients, different implementation approaches and different operating environments:

- Recording the training experience of internists and the surgical outcomes of their practice for certification and registration
- Emergency Department RefSet (EDRS) deployments, under emerging Activity Based Funding (ABF) protocols designed to provide appropriate resources to Emergency Departments given their patient load
- Recording conditions, side effects or complications experienced by patients taking particular medications to monitor and regulate the safe use of medicines and medical devices

A common theme among these three case studies are requirements for explicit scope and specification of Refset content and structures, tailored for distinct operating environments and purposes.

The presentation will emphasise (i) clear specification of intended Refset scope (ii) analysis of actual Refset content

Techniques and tools will be discussed including initial mapping strategies, RefSet by specification (or query) techniques, the use of transitive closure reduction and subsumption queries, as well as annotated RefSets to suit SNOMED CT delivery in clinician -facing systems.

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