INTRODUCTION TO SNOW OWL – A TOOL FOR SNOMED CT



Perspective

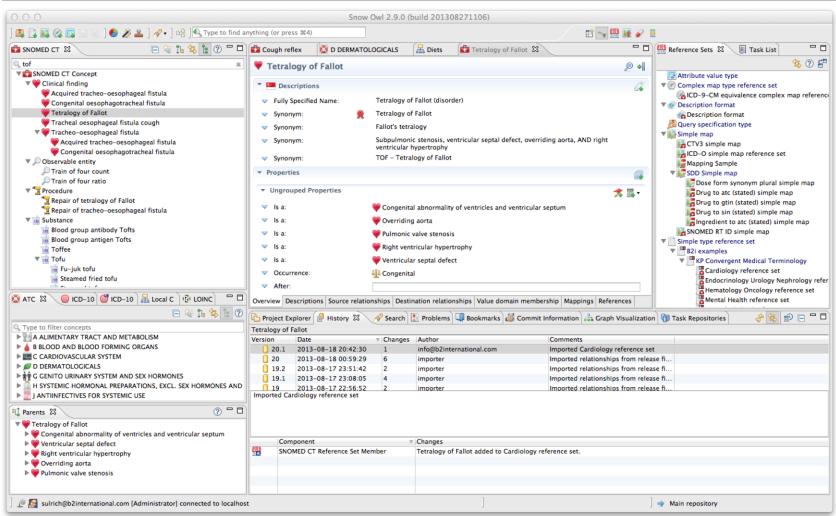
A **perspective** is a combination of views and editors. It defines the layout of the visual components. The size and position of the visual components can be easily changed.

The **Authoring perspective** is the default setting.

It gives access to a range of functionalities such as browsing, authoring, creating reference sets, bookmarking, and working with tasks.



Authoring Perspective



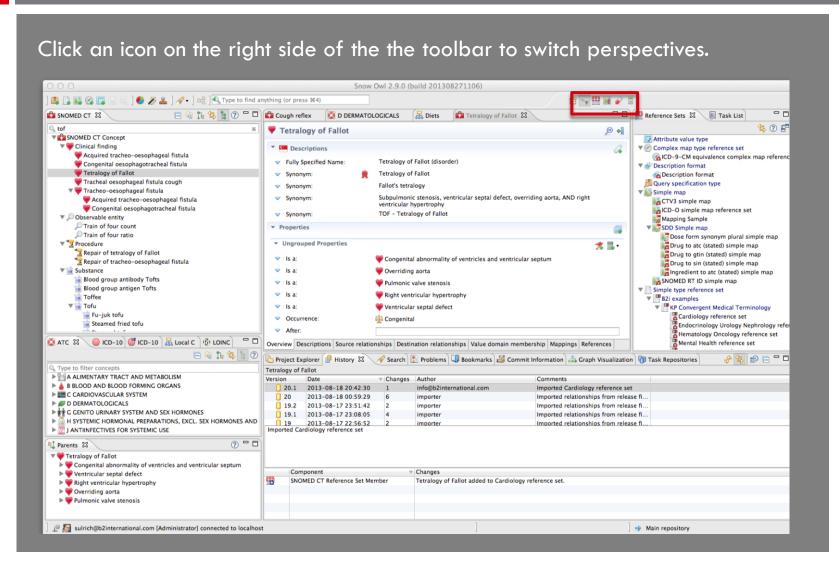
Pre-set perspectives

Snow Owl provides several pre-set perspectives

- Authoring perspective
- Mapping perspective
- Reference set perspective
- Value set perspective



Switching perspectives

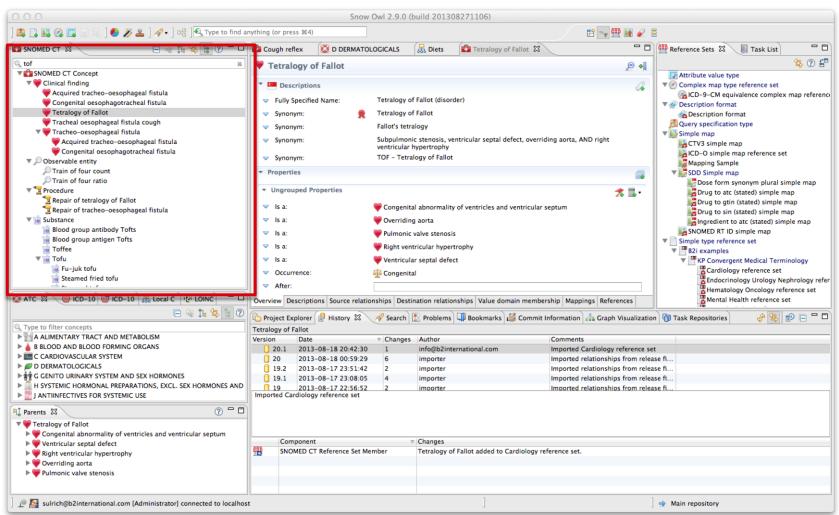


Views

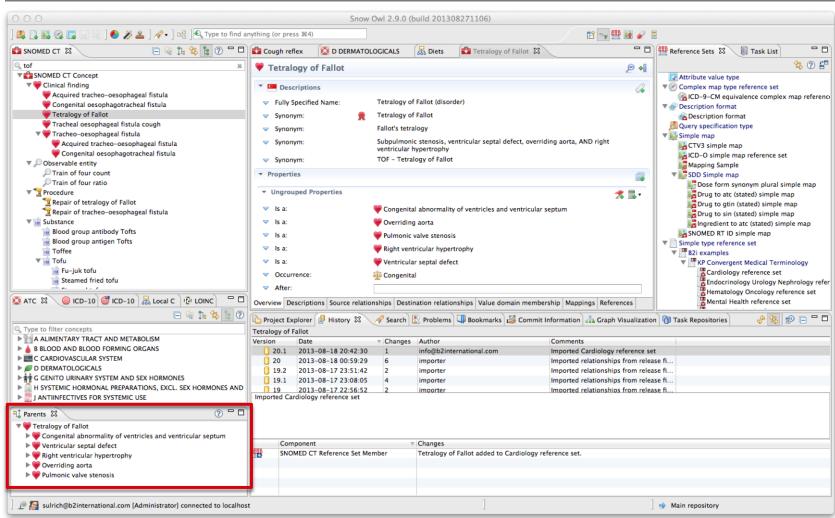
Views are visual components that are typically used to navigate a list or hierarchy of information (such as the SNOMED CT Concepts), or display information for the active editor.



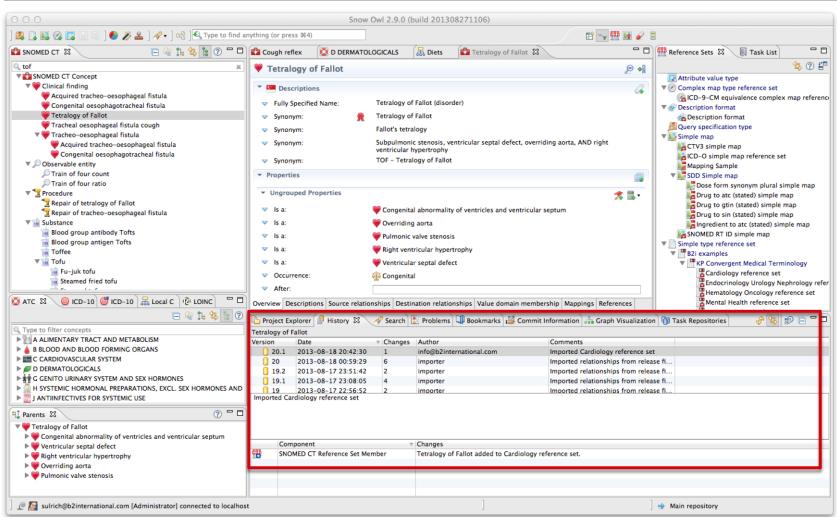
SNOMED CT view



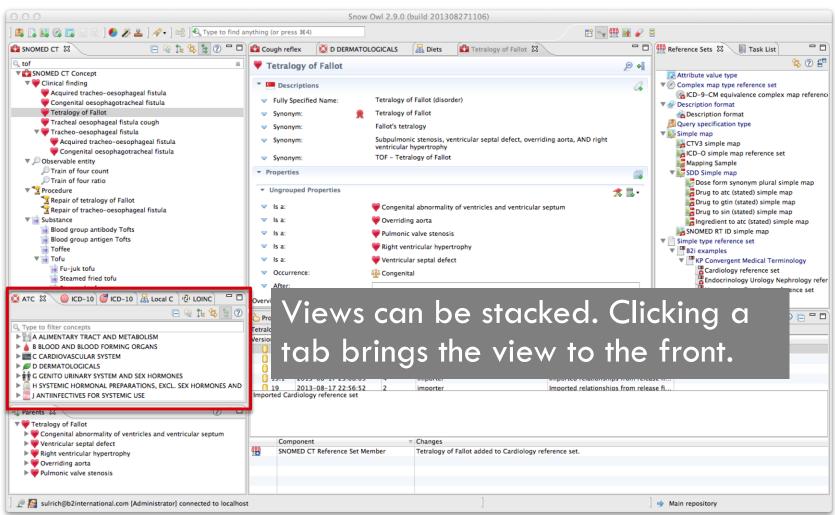
Parents view



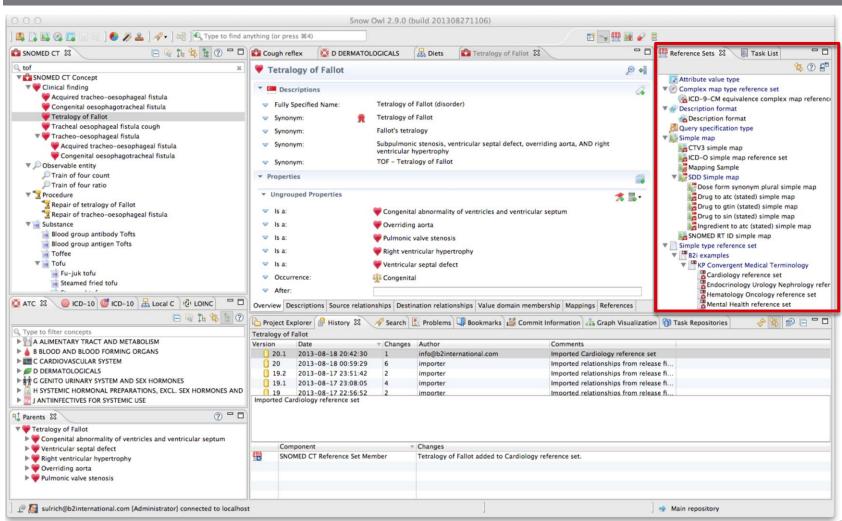
SNOMED CT concept history view



ATC, ICD-10, ICD-10-AM, LOINC, LCS



Reference set view



Editors

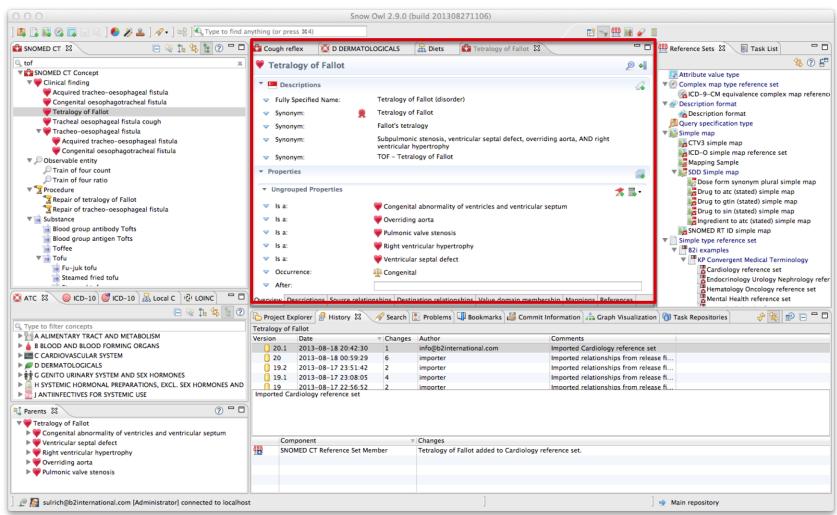
Editors display detailed information about a resource and are used to make changes to it.

The visual presentation might be a concept editor (e.g. terminology concepts or reference sets), a text editor (e.g. scripts), or a task editor.

Editors are launched by double-clicking on a resource in a view, e.g. a SNOMED CT concept or a file. They are displayed in the middle part of the user interface.



SNOMED CT editor



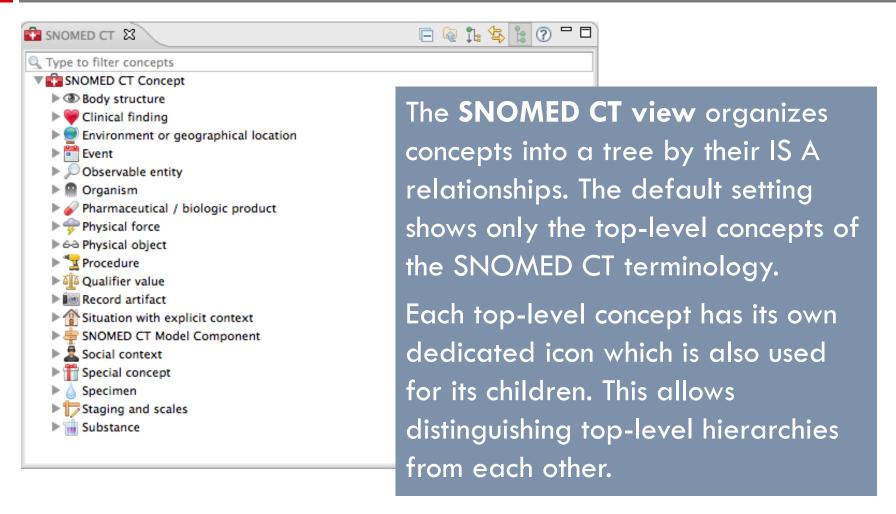
Hands-on Snow Owl

Change the look of the user interface

- Click X next to the title to close a view or editor
- Drag the side of a view to resize it
- Grab tab of a view to move it to a different spot
- Double-click the tab on the top of a view or editor to maximize it
- Reset perspective: Go to Window > Reset Perspective



SNOMED CT concept view

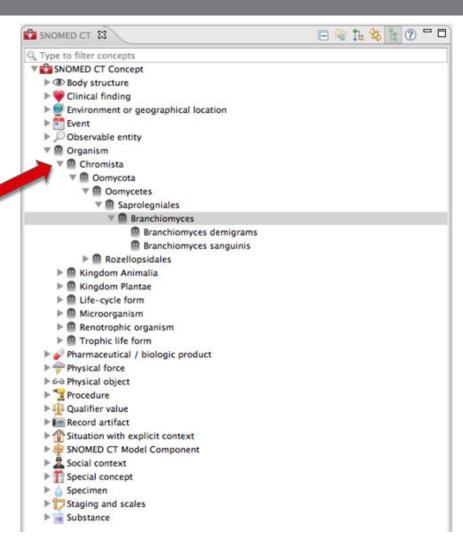


Browsing the SNOMED CT hierarchy

Expanding a node reveals the children of a concept allowing to browse down the hierarchy.

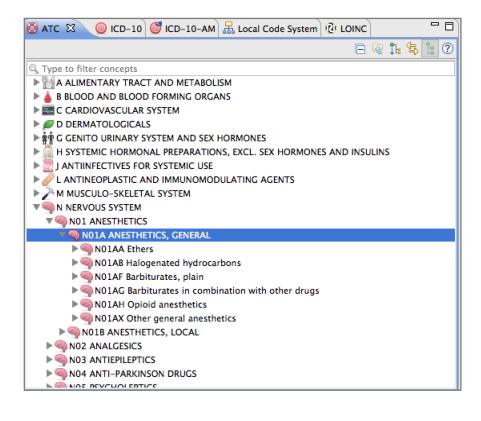
Click on a triangle to expand or collapse the hierarchy.

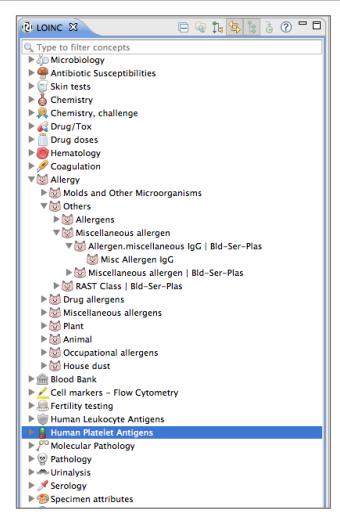
Note: If you are using windows the nodes look a bit different (plus signs).



Browsing the SNOMED CT hierarchy

Other terminologies and classification systems can be browsed the same way.





Parents view

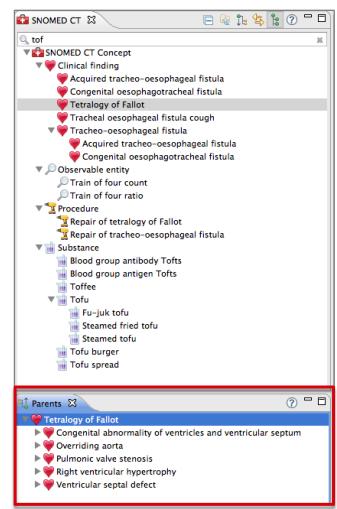
The **Parents view** displays the parents of a concept.

The selected concept is displayed on the top and its parent or parents on the bottom.

Expand the nodes to reveal parent concepts and browse up the hierarchy.

The Parent view is linked to the SNOMED CT view, whenever a concept is selected in the navigator its parents will be automatically displayed in the parent view.

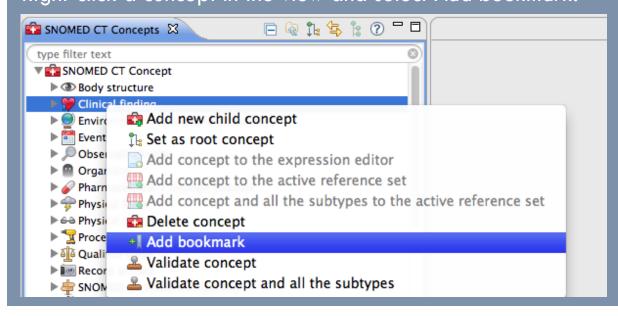
This feature also applies to the other concept navigators (e.g. ATC, ICD-10).



Bookmarking

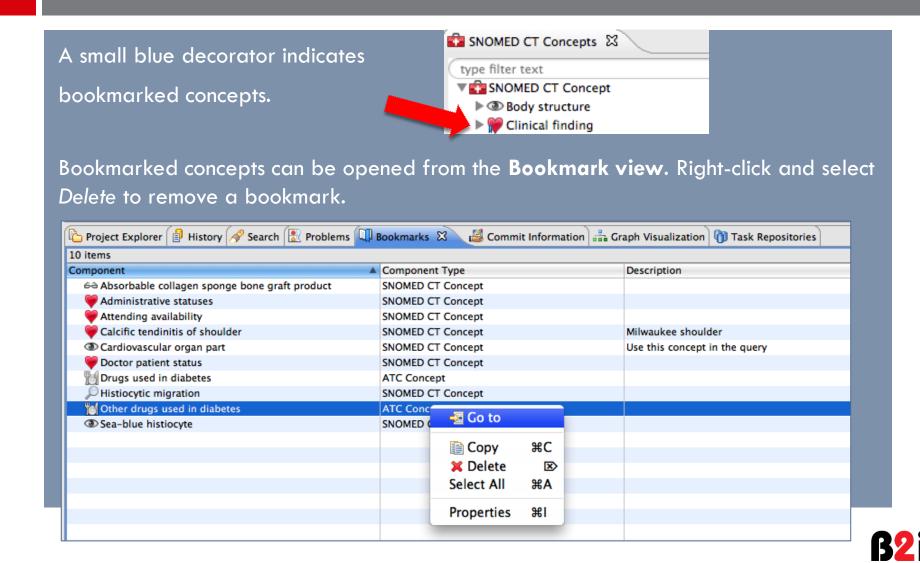
Favorite SNOMED CT concepts, descriptions, ATC, ICD-10, LOINC codes, and reference sets can be bookmarked for future reference (just like the bookmarks in your internet browser).

Right-click a concept in the view and select *Add* bookmark.





Bookmarking



Hands-on Snow Owl

Get familiar with the SNOMED CT view

- Expand nodes in the tree, collapse nodes
- Click a concept and see parents in parent view
- Set concept as a root
- Bookmark a concept
- Open a concept from bookmark view
- Delete a bookmark



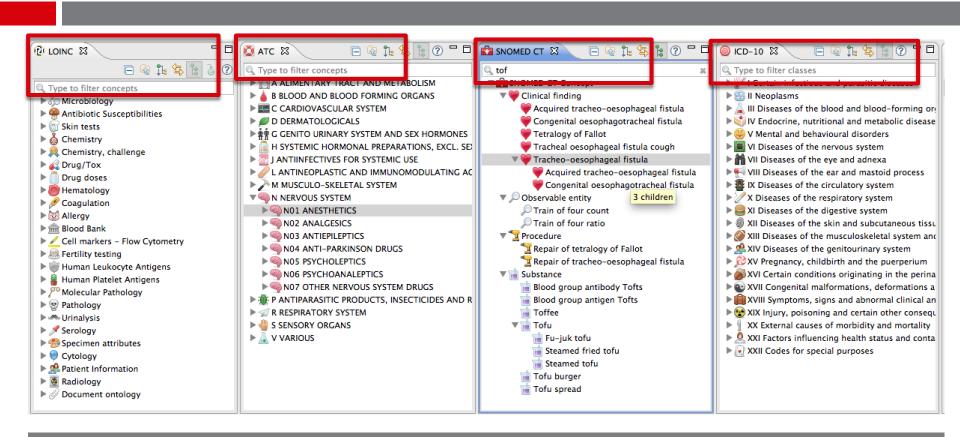
How can I search for a concept?

There are three different search tools in Snow Owl

- Filter search (part of concept views, filters selected terminology)
- Quick search (comprehensive search through all terminologies and resources)
- Advanced search (various resources and search criteria, ESCG)



Filter search



Each of the concept views allows to filter concepts.

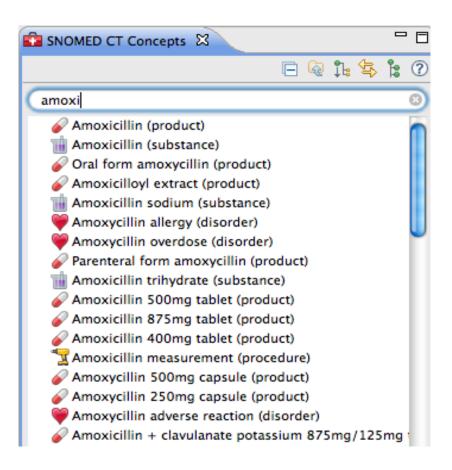


Filter search — flat list

Type a search term in the filter text field on the top of the view.

The preferred term is displayed. However, all descriptions are considered during filtering.

The filter also allows to look up a concept by its ID.





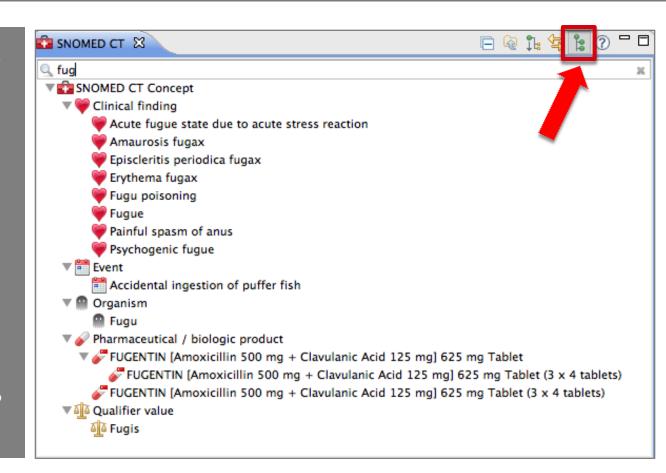
SNOMED CT concept view Filter search — hierarchical view

Filter results can also be displayed as a a tree.

The hierarchical view shows only the matching concepts and their toplevel parent concept.

Concepts that are between the parent concept and the matching concept in the hierarchy are omitted.

Use the toggle button to switch between views.





Hands-On Snow Owl

Filter search

- □ Type a search term in filter
- Toggle between hierarchical view and flat list
- □ Look up a concept ID: 286860006



Quick search

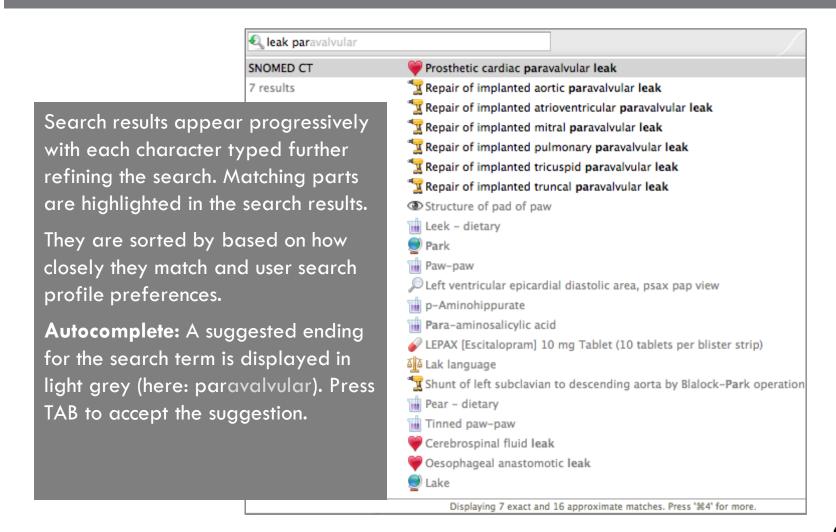


The **Quick Search** box on the toolbar allows searching through all terminologies from a single location.

It can also be accessed by pressing CTRL-4 (Windows) or CMD-4 (OS X).



Quick search



Quick search

Results are organized in different sections according to the underlying terminology (e.g. SNOMED CT, ICD-10, ATC, LOINC) or resource (e.g. reference sets, value sets).

Previously selected choices and bookmarks will also appear with the search results in their own sections.

The quick search can be configured to exclude certain terminology artifacts (e.g. reference sets, modules).

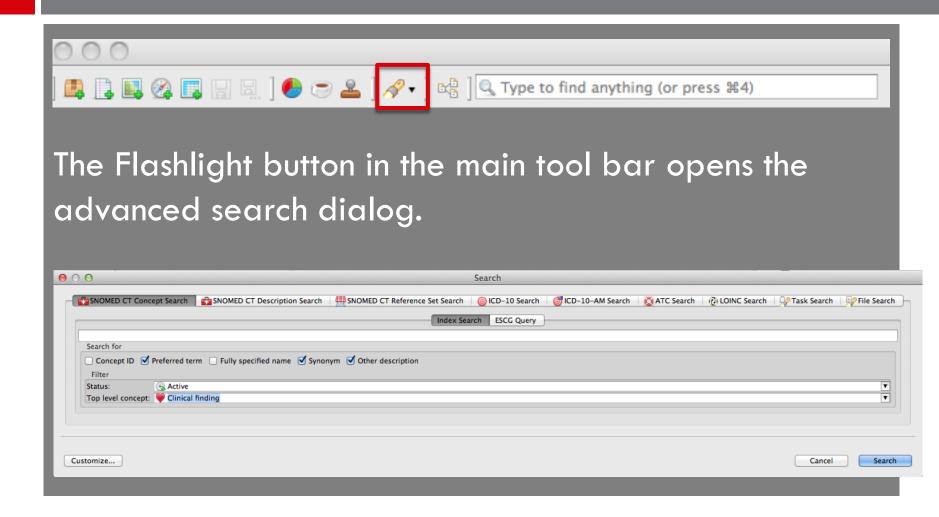
🔍 paravalvular	
Previous Choices	© Cardiac paravalvular structure
2 results	📆 Repair of implanted aortic paravalvular leak
Bookmarks	📆 Repair of implanted mitral paravalvular leak
2 results	Prosthetic cardiac paravalvular leak
SNOMED CT	🌳 Para 7
2,821 results	
	📆 Para-aminobenzoate measurement
	🔭 para-Hydroxyamphetamine measurement
	Para-ileostomy hernia
	📆 para-Methylhippurate measurement
ICD-10	Disseminated paracoccidioidomycosis
188 results	Paragonimiasis
	Paralytic calcification and ossification of muscle
	Paralytic ileus
	Paraneoplastic neuromyopathy and neuropathy
	Parasitic infestation of eyelid in diseases classified elsewhere
	Other parasitologically confirmed malaria, not elsewhere classified
ATC	Paracetamol
22 results	Liquid paraffin, combinations
	Liquid paraffin
	Paraldehyde
	🔔 Paramagnetic contrast media
	Displaying 24 exact matches. Press '%4' for mor

Hands-On Snow Owl

Quick search

- Type search term in quick search field
- Review results
- Select result and open concept in editor
- Use shortcut to display more matches
- Mistype, abbreviate a search term
- □ Look up a concept ID: 22298006

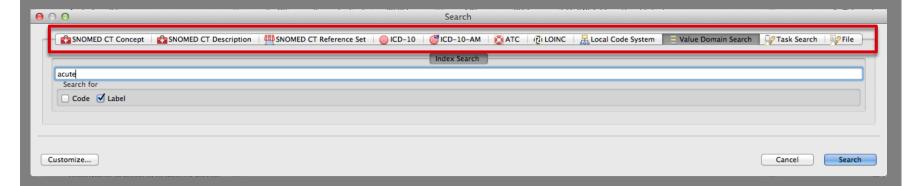






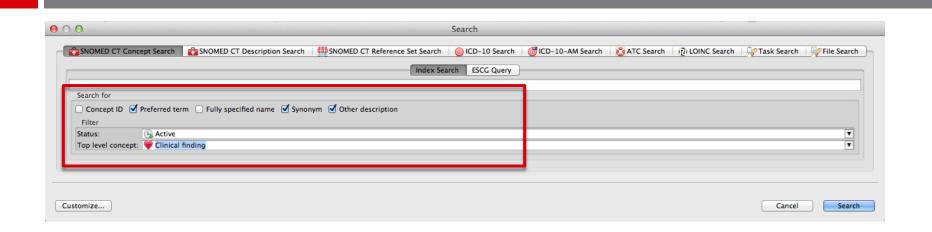
The **advanced search** allows searching on various kinds of resources:

SNOMED CT concepts, SNOMED CT descriptions, ICD-10, ICD-10-AM, ATC, LOINC, reference sets, value sets, local code systems, tasks, and files.



Use the tabs to select the resource.

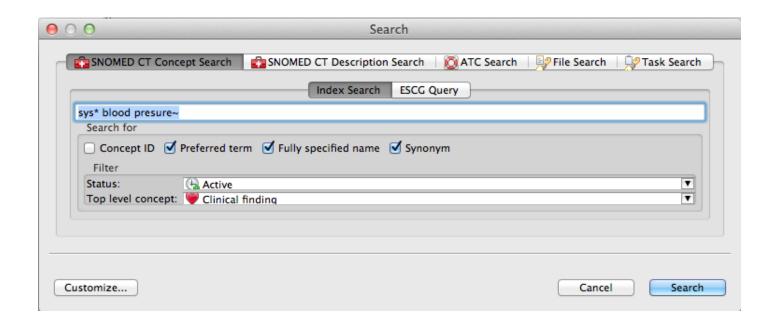




Searches can be restricted to certain criteria:

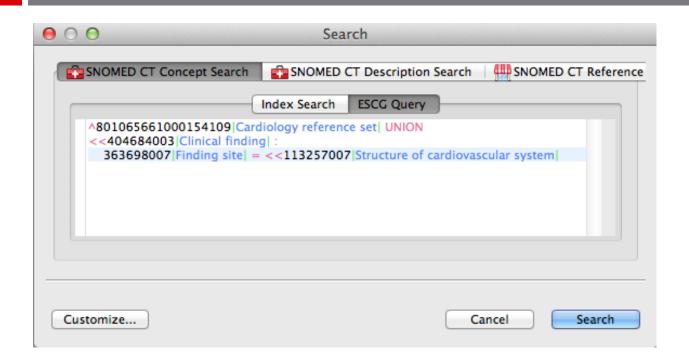
Concept ID, FSN, Synonym, Preferred Term, Synonym, top-level hierarchy, status.





Wildcards, fuzzy matching, and Boolean operators are supported...



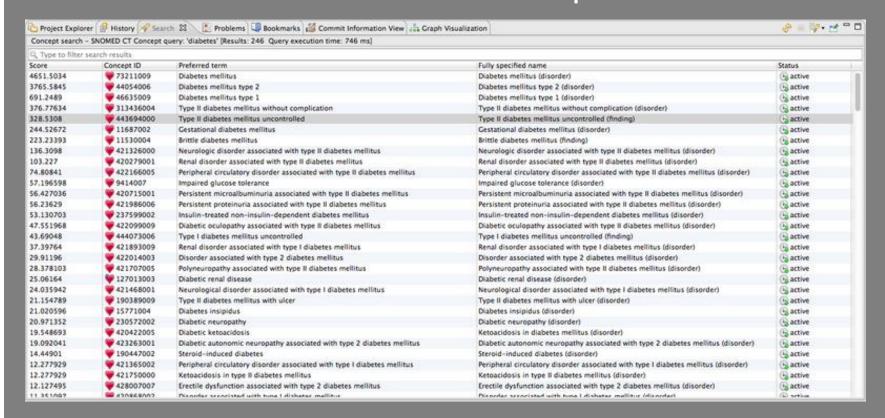


...as well as semantic queries with ESCG.



Search results

The results of the advanced search are displayed in the search view. Double-click a result to open the editor.





Hands-on Snow Owl

Advanced search

- □ Bring up SNOMED CT concept search
- □ Look for inactive concepts with the description "Diabetes"
- □ Look for active concepts starting with dia*
- Look for concepts with the FSN "Dressing"
- Open a concept from the search view



SNOMED CT editor

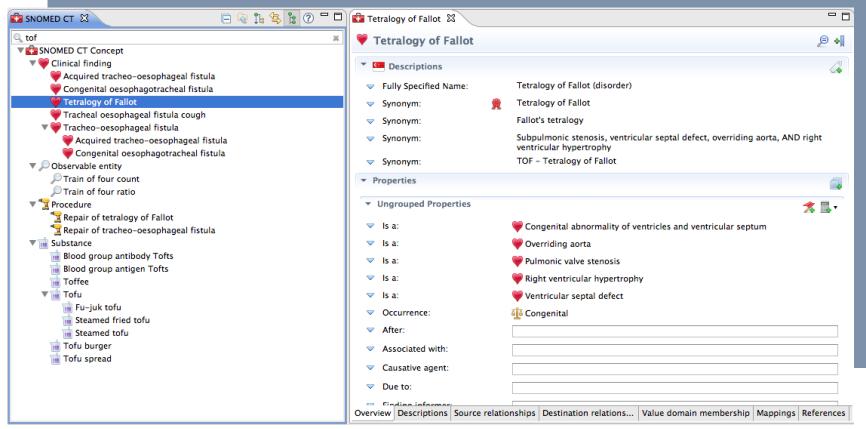
The concept editor serves two functions:

- It displays detailed information on a concept.
- It allows to make changes to a concept (e.g. adding another clinical phrase to describe the concept, retiring a concept or description).

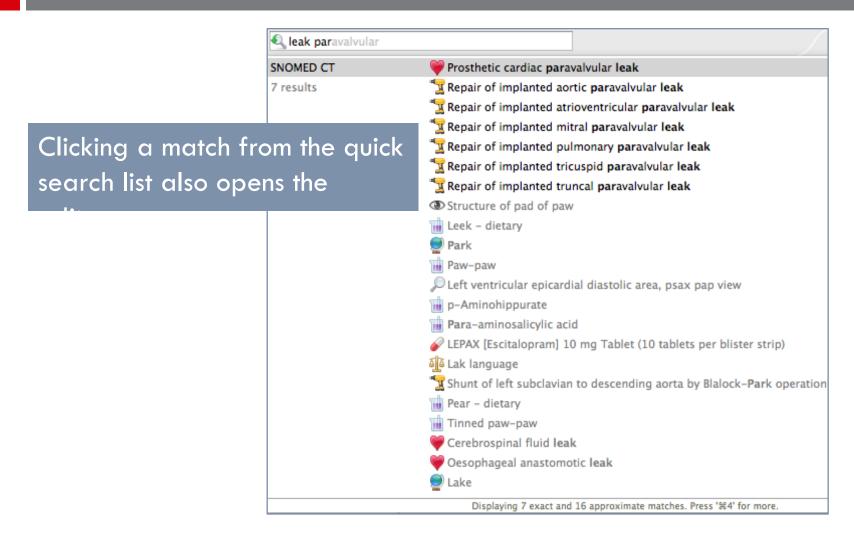


Opening the concept editor from view

Double-click a concept in the SNOMED CT view to launch the editor.

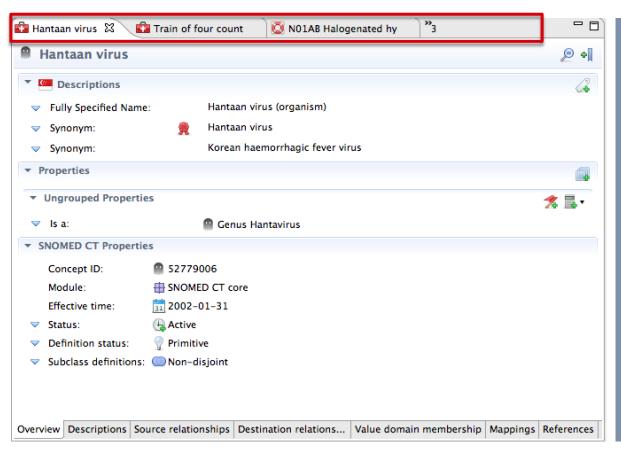


Opening the editor from quick search





SNOMED CT concept editor



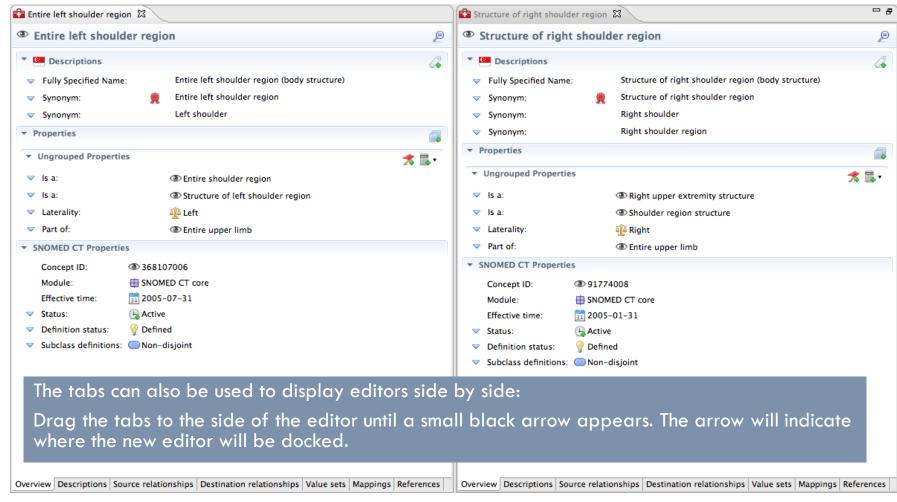
Multiple editors can be open at the same time.

Use the tabs on the top of the editor to switch.

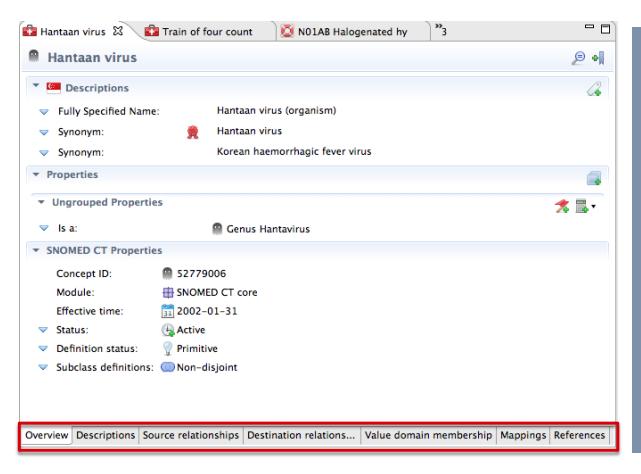
Double-click the tab to maximize the editor.

Click the x symbol to close the editor or right-click to select from many options to close editors.

Displaying editors side by side



SNOMED CT concept editor pages

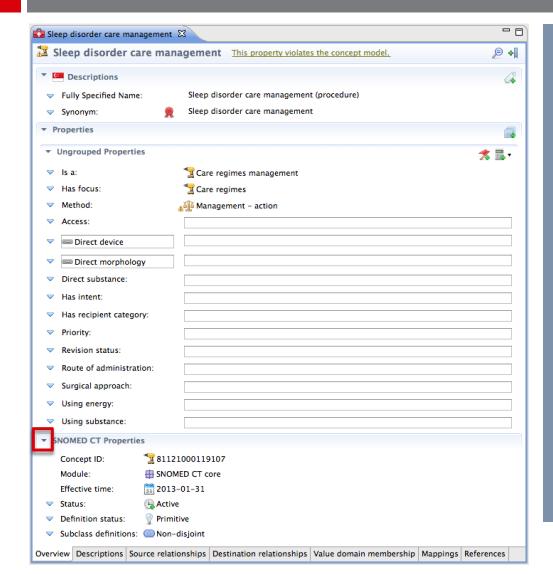


The concept editor displays information on a series of pages (e.g. value domain membership, mappings).

Click the tabs on the bottom to select a page.



Editor – Overview page



The **overview page** shows information on the concept's descriptions, relationships, and metadata.

It is comprised of three sections:

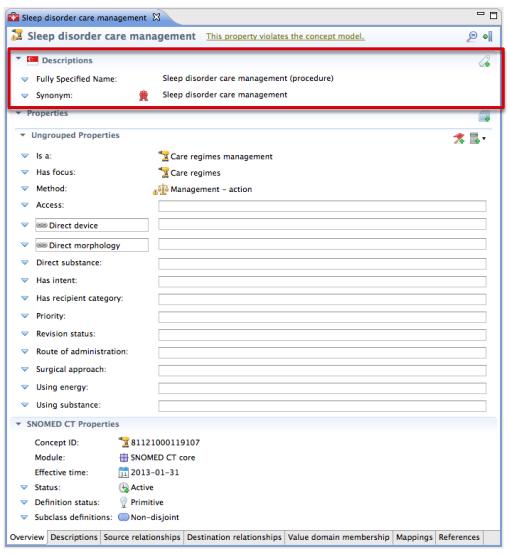
- Descriptions
- Properties
- SNOMED CT Properties

The sections can be expanded or collapsed using the small triangle next to the section heading.



Editor - Overview page

The **descriptions section** shows the clinical phrases that describe this concept.





Editor – Description section

The description type is displayed on the left (e.g. FSN, Synonym).

The **description term** is displayed on the right (e.g. Sleep disorder care management).



A **rosette icon** indicates the preferred term.

The **flag** on the section heading indicates the currently active language dialect (here: Singaporean English).

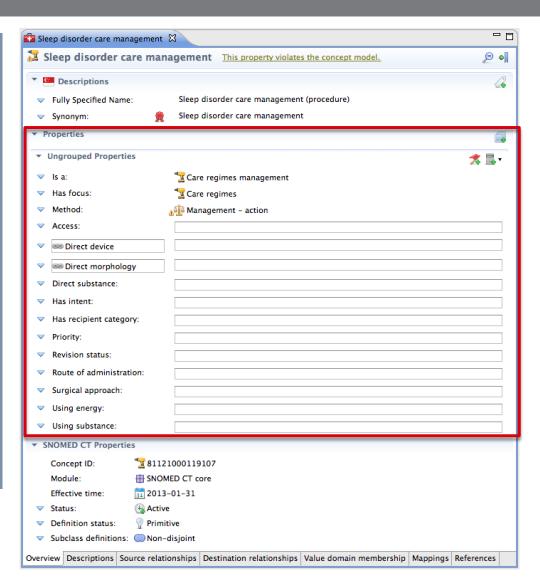


Editor - Properties section

The **Properties section**displays the concept's
relationships and datatype
properties.

The property type (here: Is a, Has focus, Method) is displayed on the left.

The property value (e.g. Care regimes management) is displayed on the right.

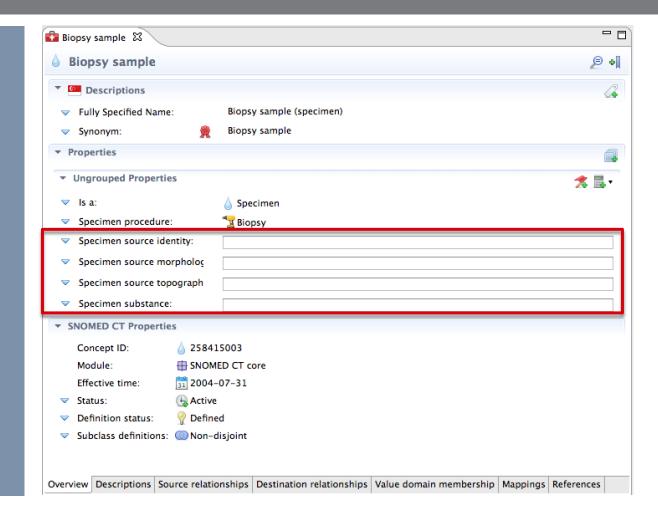




Concept model backed editing

To prevent the creation of erroneous relationships, the editor displays only attribute relationships of the predefined range and domain.

Example: Since Biopsy sample is a specimen, only attributes used to define specimens are displayed.

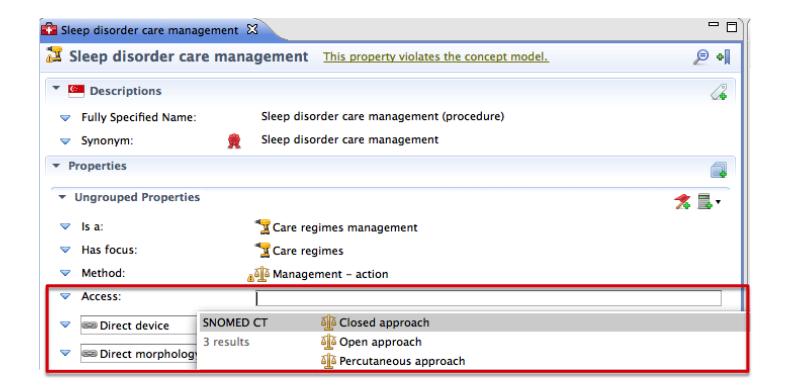




Editor – Properties section

The properties section automatically creates entry fields for all relationships and datatype properties specified in the concept model.

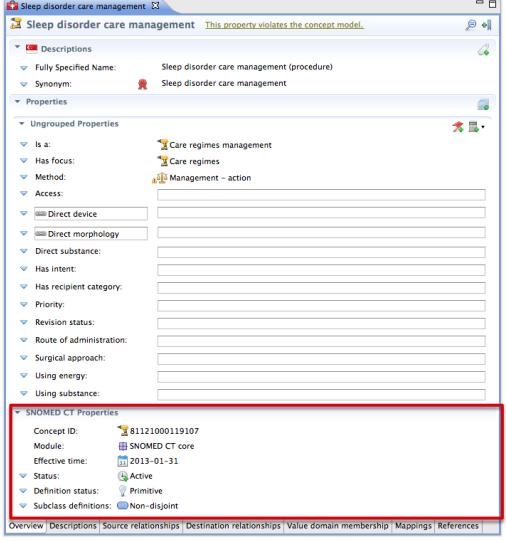
A list with valid values is displayed when clicking into the text field. The editor also validates erroneous entries and provides a link (here: *This property violates the concept model*) with further information.





Editor - Overview page

The **SNOMED CT Properties section**displays the Concept ID and other metadata such as Module, Effective time, Status, Definition status, and Subclass definition.

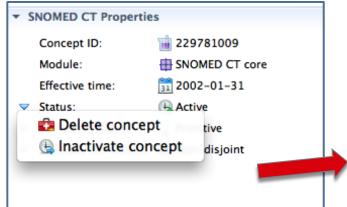


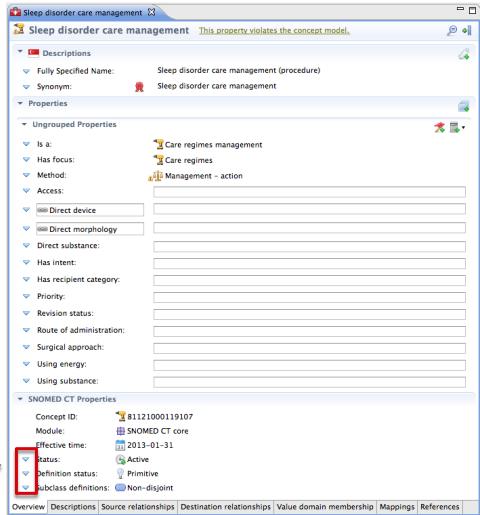


Editor - Overview page

The overview page can also be used for editing.

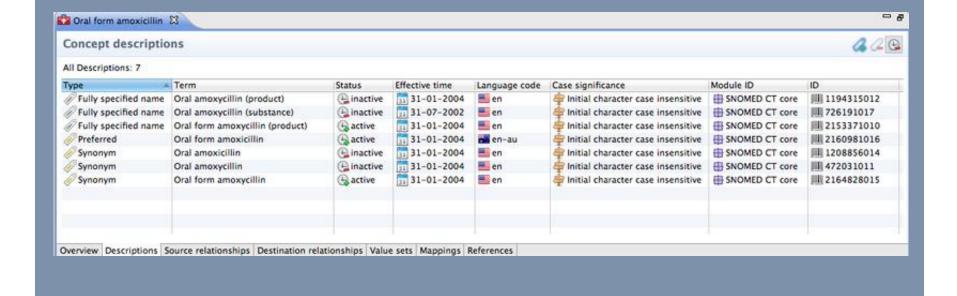
Clicking on the blue triangles will display a list of actions (e.g. create a copy of a description, inactivate a concept).





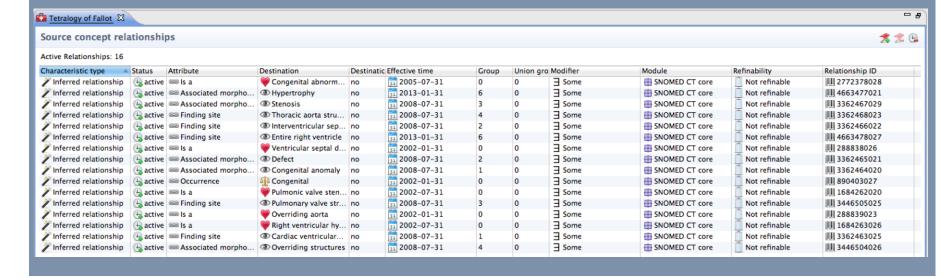
Editor – Descriptions page

The **Description** page shows information about the descriptions associated with the selected concept. Descriptions can be added, modified, deleted and inactivated. Use the toggle button to show inactive descriptions.



Editor – Source relationships page

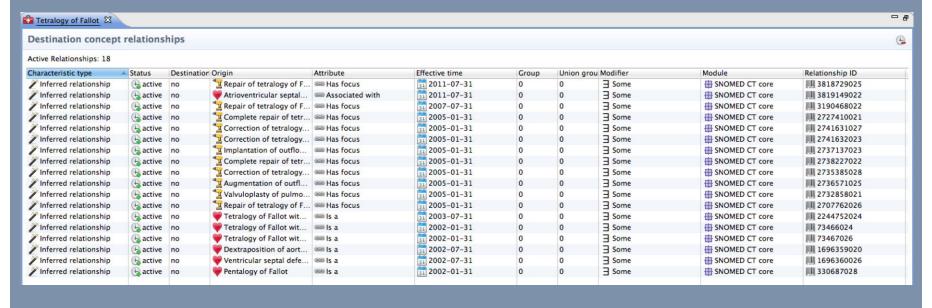
Source relationships originate from the selected concept and point to a different concept. The selected concept is the source. Source relationships are also displayed in the properties section of the overview page. They can be viewed and edited on this page.





Editor – Destination relationships page

Destination relationships originate from a different concept and point to the given concept. The selected concept is the target. The page is read-only, if you want to edit the relationships displayed here, you need to open the source concept.



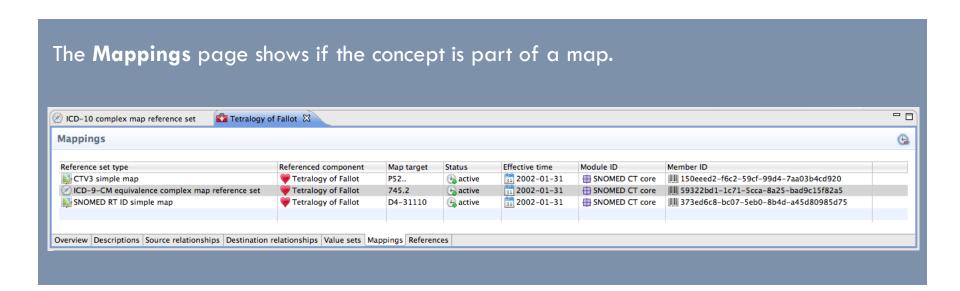


Editor – Value domain membership page

The Value domain membership page shows if the concept is a member of a reference set or value set. 🖺 Tetralogy of Fallot 🛭 Value domain membership Effective time Reference set type Referenced component Status Module ID Member ID Cardiology reference set Tetralogy of Fallot active 31 2011-11-11 SNOMED CT B2i Extensio... |||||| a5768100-5a5c-4f53-aa... Valvular Heart Disease Tetralogy of Fallot (disorder) active 31 Unpublished Overview Descriptions Source relationships Destination relationships Value domain membership Mappings References



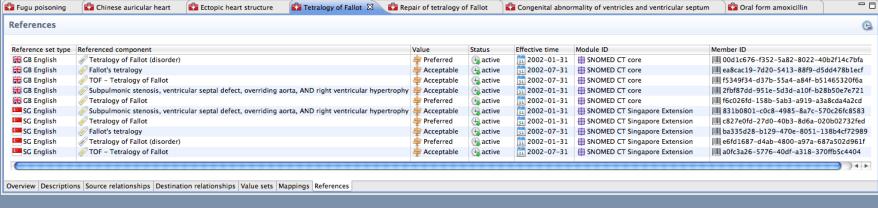
Editor – Mappings page





Editor – References page

The **References** page shows if the concept, its descriptions or relationships are referenced in any reference sets, e.g. language acceptability reference sets.



Note: If the concept is a member of a query or simple type reference set, the membership will be displayed on the value domain membership page.

Hands-on Snow Owl

Get familiar with the editor

- Open multiple concepts in the editor
- Use tabs on top to switch between editors
- Link editor to SNOMED CT view (click link button)
- Click tabs on bottom to review different pages
- Open: Angina (disorder). Review reference set membership (value set tab) and mapping
- Right-click editor tab to "Close all"



Editing concepts

Editing an existing concept

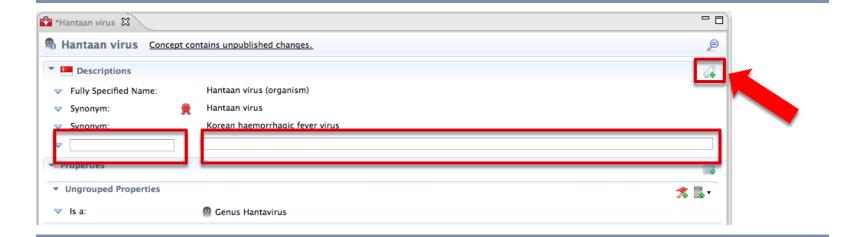
- Adding a description
- Changing the preferred term

Creating a new concept



Adding a synonym

Open concept in editor. Click the Add unsanctioned description icon.



Click into empty text box.

Enter "Synonym" in the text box on the left, and a new description term in the text box to the right.

Save and enter a commit comment.



Adding a synonym

Review the new synonym in the editor



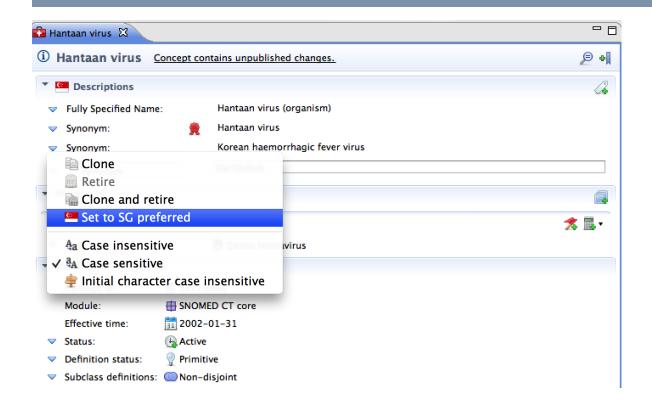
The box around the description term (here: *Hantavirus*) indicates an unpublished change. This means that the change has been saved in the repository but not been formally published yet. Unpublished components don't have an effective time assigned. Once a concept has been published, only the text appears in the editor.



Changing the preferred term

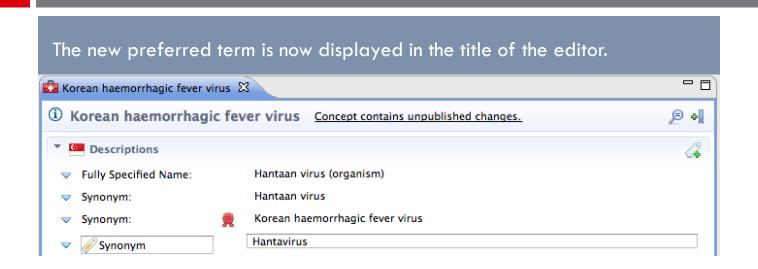
Click the blue triangle in front of new preferred term (in this case: Korean haemorrhagic fever virus)

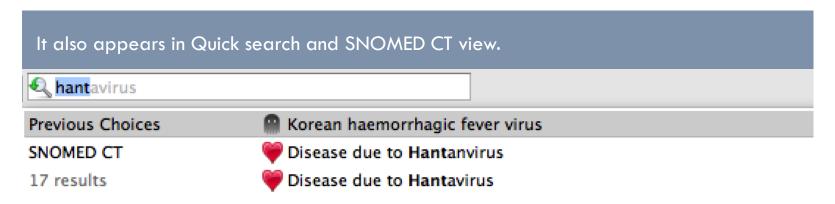
Chose Set to ... preferred from the actions. Save and enter commit comment.





Changing the preferred term







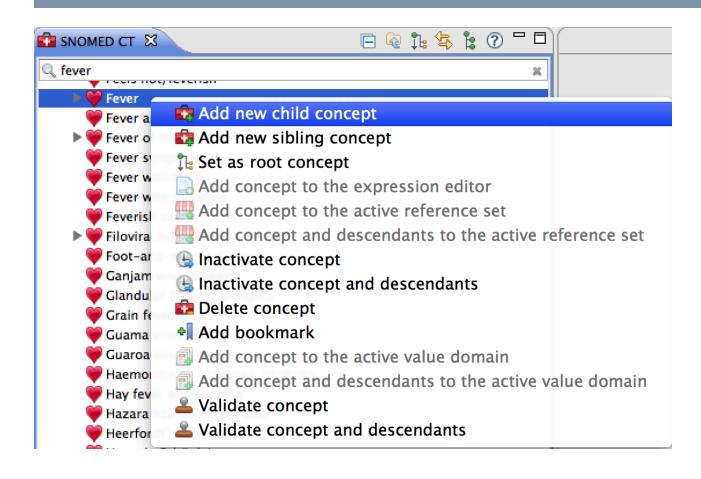
Hands-on Snow Owl

Edit an existing concept

- □ Open a SNOMED CT concept
- □ Add a synonym
- Add a definition
- Change the preferred term



Right-click on desired parent concept. Select "Add new child concept" from context menu.

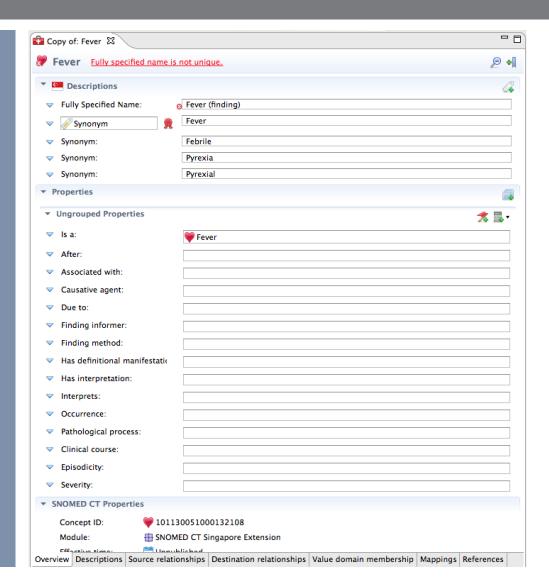




Review the new concept in the editor.

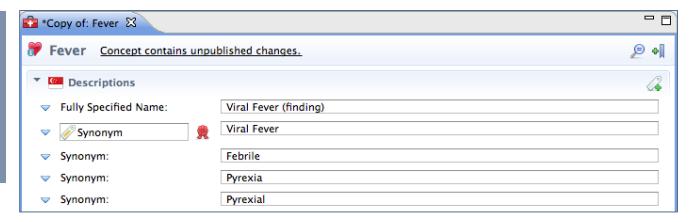
An IS A relationship to the parent concept was generated as well as unique concept ID.

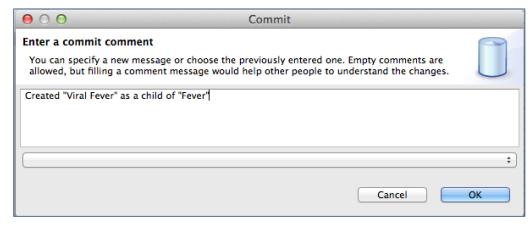
The new concept has identical SNOMED CT descriptions. This way, only differing information has to be entered.





Enter information for the new concept in the editor. The FSN has to be unique.

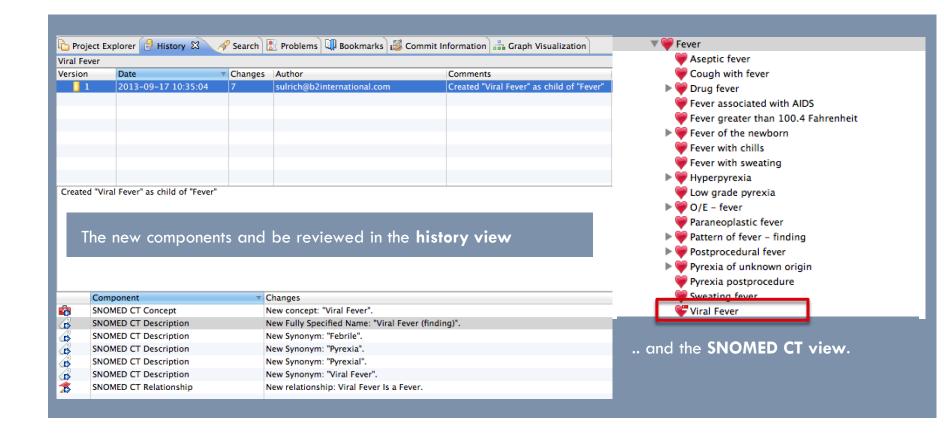




Save and enter commit comment.

This action submits the change to the repository where it is maintained.





Hands-on Snow Owl

Create a new SNOMED CT concept

- Right-click a concept in the SNOMED CT view to create a child concept
- Enter new FSN, enter new synonym,
- □ Save, enter commit comment
- □ Review new concept in SNOMED CT view
- □ Review new concept in history view



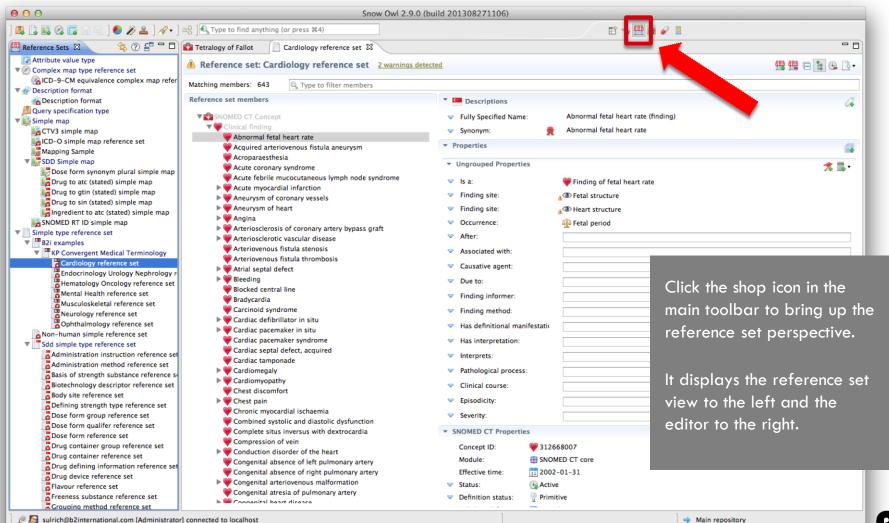
Reference sets

Snow Owl supports the creation of reference sets based on the RF2 specifications. When working with reference sets you will primarily use

- The Reference set perspective which is useful to manage reference sets in general.
- The Reference set view as an overview of the reference sets in the repository.
- The Reference set editor to manage the members. The user interface of the editor changes, dependent on the type of reference set.



Reference set perspective



Reference set view

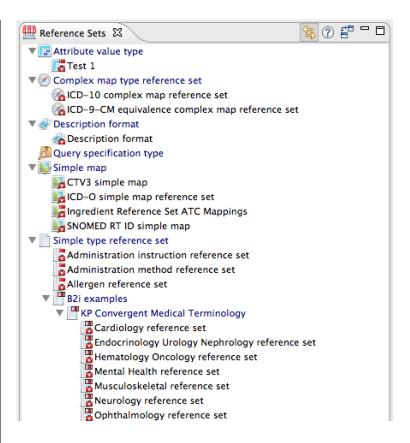
Existing reference sets and maps are displayed in the Reference Sets view.

Reference sets are sorted by type:

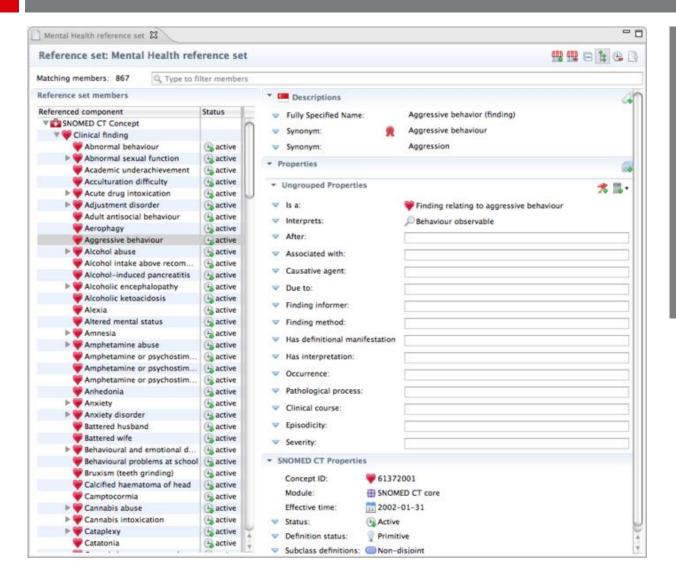
- Simple type
- Attribute value type
- Query type

Click the triangle to expand or collapse the categories.

Double-click a reference set to open the editor.



Reference set editor



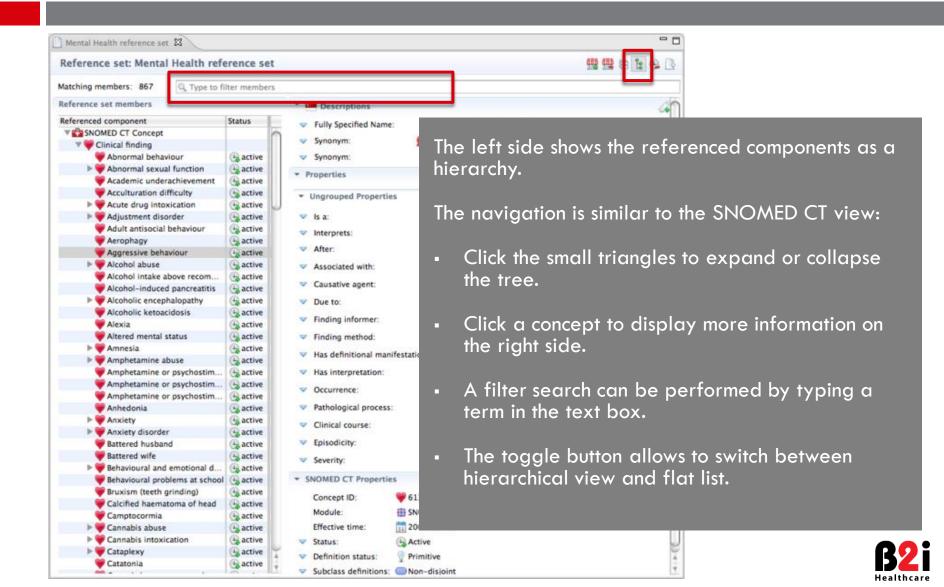
The reference set editor contains components from

the SNOMED CT concepts view and

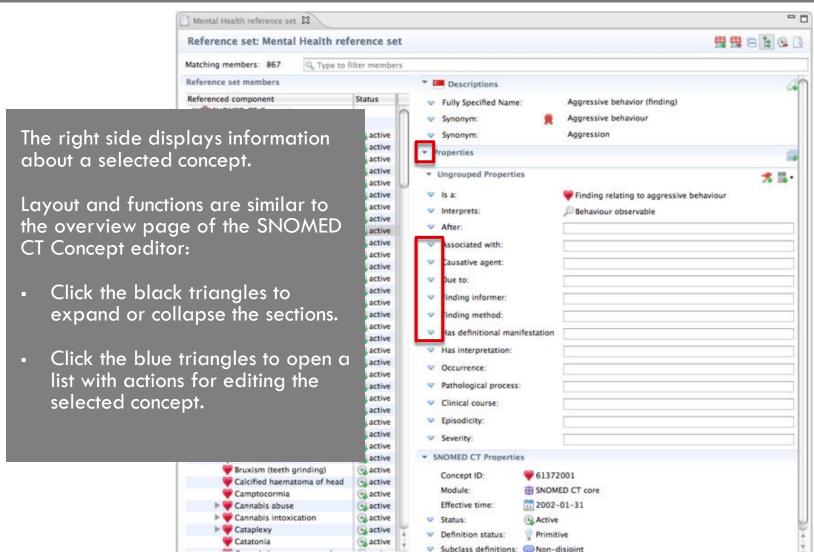
the SNOMED CT concepts editor.



Reference set editor – left side



Reference set editor – right side



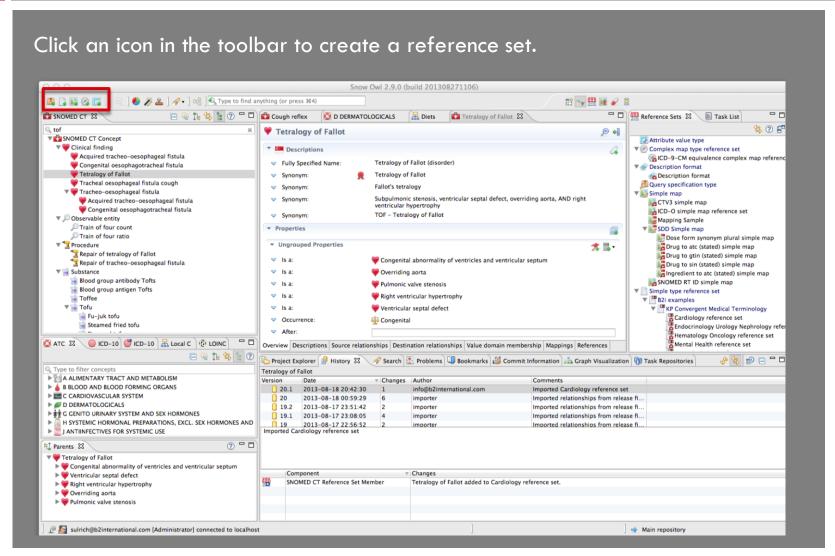
Hands-on Snow Owl

Get familiar with reference sets

- Open the reference set perspective
- Expand nodes in reference set view
- Open a simple type reference set (e.g. Cardiology)
- Review members in the reference set editor
- Click member to see it in the reference set editor
- Double-click member to open the concept editor



Creating a new reference set



Different kinds of reference sets

The **simple type** reference set is a plain grouping of concepts by user preferences.

An attribute value type reference set allows associating a value concept with the referenced component. It can be used to extend the ontology with custom properties on the concept.

The members of a **query type** reference set are determined based on a semantic query.



Creating a simple type reference set

To create a simple type reference set click the notebook 🔀 icon on the main tool. The wizard automatically creates a reference set identifier concept with the title as a description. Type a reference set description (here: Shoulder Reference Set), and select SNOMED CT Concept as the referenced component type. 0 0 New Reference Set Wizard Click Finish to proceed. Create a new simple type reference set Please select the referenced component type and specify the concept details for the reference set identifier concept. Reference set ID: 251641691000132108 Reference set description: Shoulder reference set Referenced component type: SNOMED CT Concept Cancel **Finish**

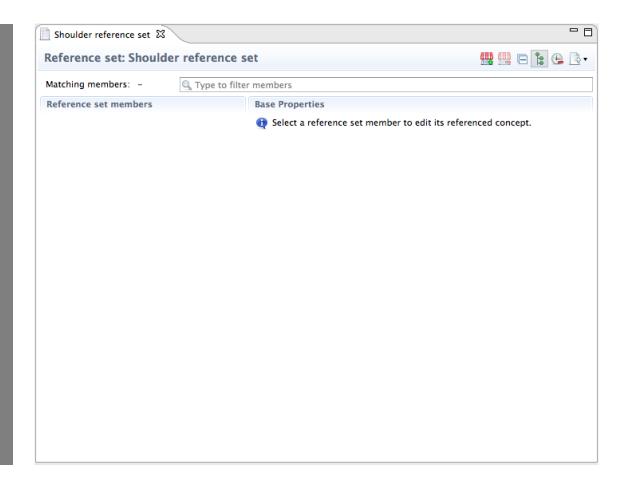


Creating a reference set

The new reference set will appear in the reference set view.

The editor is automatically opened.

The list of reference set members in the editor is empty since there were no referenced components added yet.



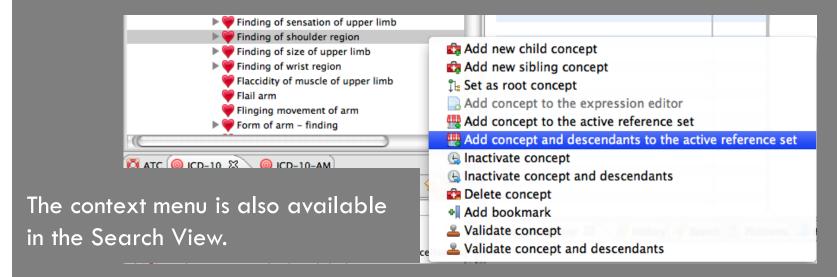


Adding members to a reference set

To add referenced components go to the SNOMED CT View and choose a concept from the hierarchy (here: Finding of shoulder region).

Right-click the concept and select Add concept and descendants to the active reference set. This will add the concept and all of its children to the reference set.

If you want to add only this particular concept use Add concept to the active reference set.





Adding members to a reference set

A concept can also be dragged from the SNOMED CT Concepts view and dropped into the Reference set editor. This will add only the selected concept.

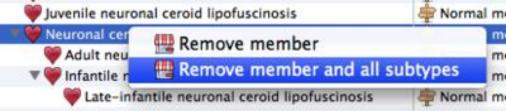
Search results can also be added this way from the search view. Press CTRL (Windows) or CMD (Mac) to select multiple search results and drag them into the editor.

Project Explorer	r 🗐 History 🔗 Search 🟻	Problems Bookmarks 💋 Commit Information 👬 Graph Visualization			
Concept search – SNOMED CT Concept query: 'diabetes' [Results: 345]					
Type to filter search results					
Score	Concept ID	Preferred term	Status		
8.235283	P 11530004	Brittle diabetes mellitus	active		
6.6708536	9 445353002	Brittle type 2 diabetes mellitus	active		
6.5695896	9 290002008	Brittle type 1 diabetes mellitus	active		
6.307207	* 444073006	Type 1 diabetes mellitus uncontrolled	active		
5.866001	* 443694000	Type II diabetes mellitus uncontrolled	active		
5.6814165	> 444074000	Type 1 diabetes mellitus well controlled	active		
5.6814165	* 444110003	Type 2 diabetes mellitus well controlled	active		
4.7652016	9 399144008	Bronze diabetes	active		
4.7652016	> 127012008	Lipoatrophic diabetes	active		
4.4612637	9 82980005	Anaemia of diabetes	active		

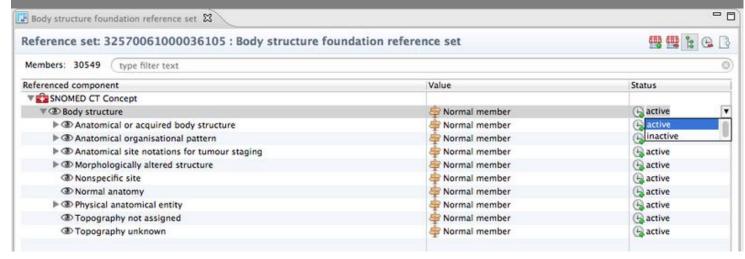


Deleting and inactivating members

Right-click a member to remove it from the reference set. You can also remove a member and its descendants.



Click in the status column to inactivate a member. Published reference set members can only be inactivated, not deleted.





Hands-on Snow Owl

Create a reference set and add members

- □ Create a new simple type reference set
- □ Find new reference set in reference set view
- Add members from SNOMED CT view (drag and drop, context menu)
- Delete member
- Save and close reference set



Creating a query type reference set

The members of a query type reference set are determined based on a semantic query.

They can be automatically updated when a new version of SNOMED CT is released.



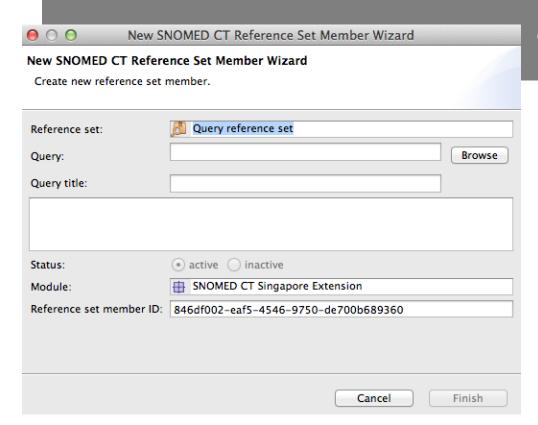
Creating a query type reference set

To create a query type reference set click the 異 box icon on the main tool.					
The wizard automatically creates a reference set identifier concept with the title as a description. Type a reference set description (here: Query reference Set).					
0 0	New Reference Set Wizard				
Create a new query type reference set Please select the referenced component type and specify the concept details for the reference set identifier concept.					
Reference set ID:	829559991000154107				
Reference set description:	Query reference set				
Referenced component type:	SNOMED CT Reference Set				
	Cancel Finish				



Adding queries

Click the Add member icon the toolbar of the editor to bring up the wizard.



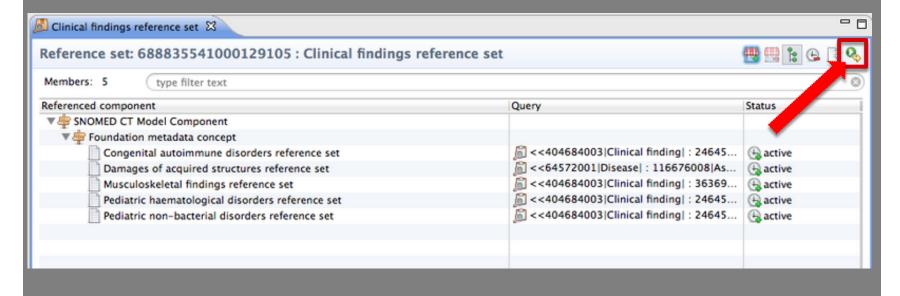
Click Browse to select a query.



Query type reference set

A query type reference set can include multiple ESCG queries and therefore contain references to multiple simple type reference sets.

When a new version of SNOMED CT is released, all the reference sets can be updated by using the *Update to current ontology* button in the toolbar.



Query type reference set

000 Review updates wizard This action will display any Changes in members of query type reference set 'Pharmaceuticals' changes that would be Select changes to apply. included by re-running the ▼ AllDrugs queries. Amoxicillin 500mq Select All Deselect All The changes can be reviewed and selected to update the corresponding reference sets. Finish Cancel



Introduction to semantic queries

Snow Owl includes an editor and execution environment for Extended SNOMED CT Compositional Grammar (ESCG) expressions.

ESCG is a formal grammar to compose expressions that include operators and defined concept identifiers. It can be used for semantic querying.

All of the operators and grammar constructs are supported as defined in the NHS LRA terminology binding specification, which is itself an extension of the HL7 TermInfo specification.

Concepts can be queried by their relationships, as opposed to their human readable descriptions.



ESCG operators

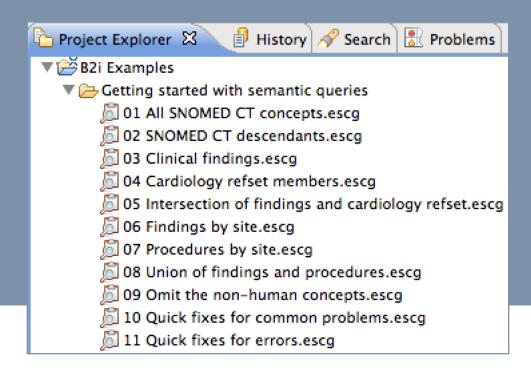
Operator	Function		
<<	Retrieves the concept and all of its subtypes		
<	Retrieves all subtypes of this concept, but not the concept itself		
ItextI	Displays Preferred term of the concept to aid readability		
٨	Retrieves all the members of this reference set		
+	Retrieves only concepts that are results of both expressions (intersection)		
UNION	Combines the result set of two queries		
iv	Excludes members of this reference set		
!<<	Excludes this concept and all of its subtypes		
!<	Excludes this concept's subtypes		
=	Defines an attribute refinement, e.g. a finding site or a causative agent		
:	Refines an attribute range, operator is used in combination with an attribute		
AND	Used to express intersections of attribute ranges		
OR	Used to express unions of attribute ranges		



Sample queries

The free Snow Owl download contains a B2i examples folder with sample queries.

Go to Project Explorer View, and open the B2i Folder. Double-click *All SNOMED CT Concepts.escg* to open the editor and see the query script.

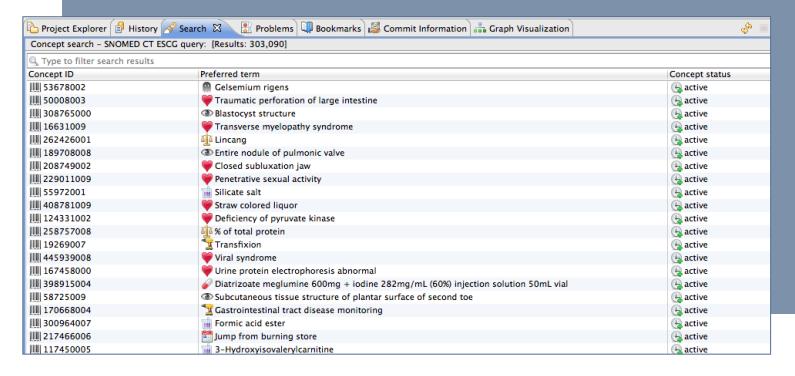




Query results

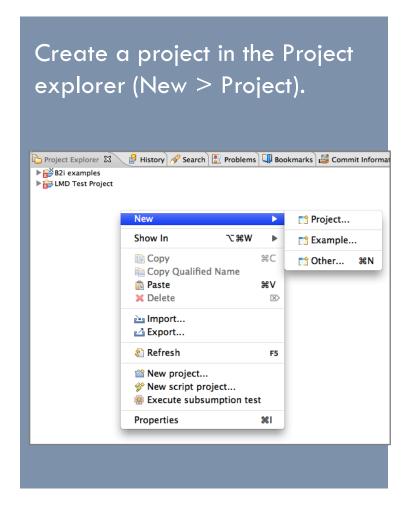
Click Execute button **1** in the toolbar to run the query.

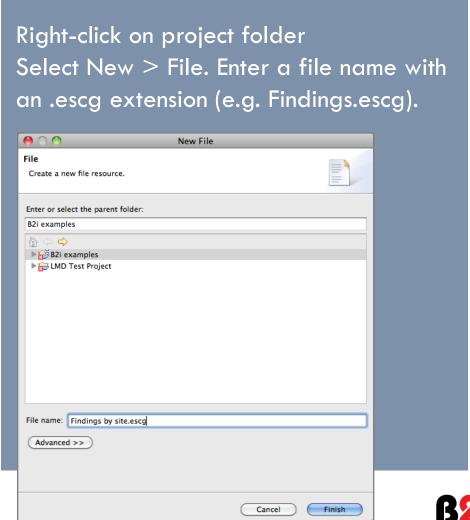
Review query results in the Search view. The results comprise all SNOMED CT concepts including the root concept.





Creating a new .escg file







Entering query script

Double-click the file to launch the empty expression editor.

Type the operator < in the text field.

Drag Clinical Finding from the SNOMED CT view into the editor. Concept ID and optional text will be automatically added to the query. This query retrieves all clinical findings.

<404684003 Clinical finding

It might be useful to save the query script, so that you can easily update your search results when release data are changing.



Content assist

Hit **Ctrl** + **Space** to bring up content assist.

Only operators that can be used at the active part of the query are displayed.

Content assist also includes a quick search to find concepts.

```
Congenital anomaly of artery
                                 🖟 disease.escg 🔀
     * ESCG expression to return degenerative abnormalities
        @RefsetId 12345
        @author obali
       @date 2010.06.01

    @language code en_GB

  @<64572001|Diseasel: B63698007|Finding sitel =
         (<<442083009 | Ana!
              AND ! << 91723 <
                  ,1166760 <<
         (<<37782003 | Dama
                            Concept - add new concept from picker
                            Template - Bleeding finger
                            associated morphology - Associated morphology
                            causative agent - Causative agent
                            site - Finding site
                            make has active ingredient - Has active ingredient
                            make has dose form - Has dose form
SCT Search & Validation
                            interprets - Interprets
                             isa − Is a
Concept search - Results: 43
                            method - Method
                            part of - Part of
                    Preferrer procedure site-direct - Procedure site - Direct
 Concept ID
 469081000000106
                    [X]Dislocation, sprain and strain of unspecified joint and ligament of leg, level
```

Refinement

The refinement operator (:) is usually used in combination with the attribute value operator (=). These operators are useful to restrict a query to concepts with certain attributes.

Example: All Clinical findings that have a Finding site relationship with the target concept being the Cardiovascular system.

```
<<404684003|Clinical finding|:
```

363698007|Finding site| = <<113257007|Structure of

cardiovascular system



Refinement

It's also possible to refine the query by adding additional property constraints using a comma as a separator.

This query retrieves bacterial infectious diseases of the lung caused by streptococcus pneumonia.

```
<<87628006|Bacterial infectious disease|:
```

363698007|Finding site| = <<39607008|Lung structure|,

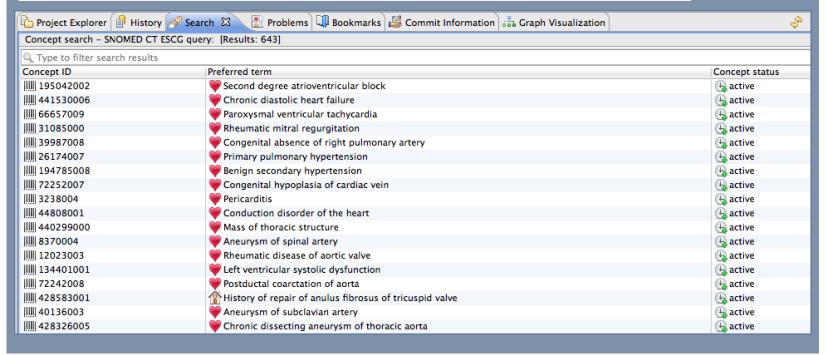
246075003|Causative agent| = <<9861002|Streptococcus pneumoniae|



Retrieving reference set members

The **caret** operator ^ will list the members of a reference set. Here is an example for retrieving the members of the Cardiology reference set.

^152725851000154106|Cardiology reference set|



Intersection

The query below retrieves all Clinical findings that are also members of the Cardiology reference set.

The intersection operator is used to connect the two expressions.

<404684003|Clinical finding| + ^152725851000154106 | Cardiology

reference set



Excluding concepts

The! operator is used to **omit concepts** or members of a reference set from a query. It excludes the concept behind it.

All Clinical findings that are not a disease:

<<404684003 Clinical finding + !<<64572001 Disease

All Clinical findings that are not a member of the non-human reference set.

<<404684003|Clinical finding| + !^447564002|Non-human simple reference

set



Excluding concepts

You can also use the exclusion to express negation.

This query will return all Clinical findings that do not have a Bacteria causative agent. These concepts either do not have any causative agents at all, or they have a different causative agent.

```
<<404684003|Clinical finding|:
246075003|Causative agent| = !<<409822003|Bacteria|
```



Additional features of Snow Owl

- Collaborative authoring
- Workflow
- Value Domains, Local Code Systems, Mapping sets
- Ontology generation framework
- Pluggable classifiers
- Reporting
- Groovy scripting
- Integrated help





FURTHER INFORMATION

Online videos

http://b2international.com/portal/video-tutorials

Snow Owl on Facebook

http://facebook.com/SnowOwlPlatform

Documentation

http://b2international.com/help

