



SNOMED CT/ICNP Nursing Collaboration

*Presenters: Susan Matney¹; Zac Whitewood-Moores; Amy Coenen³; Nicholas Hardiker³; Jane Millar⁴
¹3M HIS; ²Health & Social Care Information Centre; ³International Council of Nurses; ³IHTSDO*

Audience

Groups or individuals interested in the presentation will be those who create, implement, or use nursing specific content or wish to apply the principles learnt to other professional areas.

Objectives

1. To describe the collaboration between the International Council of Nursing and IHTSDO.
2. To describe the current equivalence tables and future activities between ICNP and SNOMED CT.
3. To illustrate how the mapping principles and lessons learned apply to other clinical areas using concrete examples.

Abstract

In January 2014, the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) and the International Council of Nursing (ICN) announced the release of an equivalency table between the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP[®]) concepts and SNOMED CT concepts.¹ This presentation describes the collaboration agreement between the ICN and IHTSDO, provides an overview of ICNP, and discusses how this agreement and resulting products leverage nursing content interoperability.

The IHTSDO has an agreement on harmonization principles with ICN to “advance terminology harmonization and foster interoperability in health information systems”. ICN is an international federation of more than 130 national nurse associations representing millions of nurses. ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally. ICN develops and maintains the ICNP, which includes nursing process content including nursing diagnoses, interventions and outcomes.

The World Health Organization (WHO) accepted ICNP as a Related Classification in the WHO-Family of International Classifications to extend coverage of the domain of nursing practice as an essential and complementary part of professional health services. ICNP classifies patient data and clinical activity in the domain of nursing. Nurses need to be able to access and share patient information in a standard way, to ensure safety, improve quality of care across the health care delivery system, and communicate with other health professions. An equivalency map between ICNP and SNOMED CT must exist for full interoperability of nursing data and to ensure adequate coverage in SNOMED CT for concepts in the domain of nursing.

ICN performed a comparison of ICNP diagnostic concepts (problems) to SNOMED CT and have identified gaps (missing concepts) and semantic inconsistencies. The goal is to create and maintain an equivalence reference set of pre-coordinated diagnostic concepts in ICNP and clinical findings in SNOMED CT. This project consists of two phases: 1) the addition of ICNP nursing problems that do not exist in SNOMED CT; and 2) the creation of the nursing problem SNOMED CT subset. Future collaborative work will focus on content for nursing interventions and patient outcomes or goals. The mapping principles and lessons learned can be applied to other specialty areas and will be demonstrated during this presentation.

In conclusion, ICN and IHTSDO are working together to operationalize their Harmonization Agreement. These shared efforts will provide nurses with comparable and interoperable data-based information for practice, administration, education and research.