

# Avoiding Excessive Description Logics Through Concrete Domains

Michael Lawley | Principal Research Scientist, AEHRC  
October 2014

THE AUSTRALIAN E-HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE | DIGITAL PRODUCTIVITY FLAGSHIP  
[www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

# The Australian e-Health Research Centre Partnered for success

Australia's leading national  
eHealth research centre

- 70 staff, students, visiting researchers
- Embedded in RBWH

Funding from

- CSIRO
- Queensland Health
- Engagement partners

Success built on partnering -  
Government, clinicians, industry



# Description Logic: the semantic foundation for SNOMED CT

## OWL2-EL

- no negation
- no universal quantification
- polynomial algorithm
  - SNOMED CT:  $n \sim 300,000$  (flat)
  - AMT:  $n \sim 60,000$  (nested)
- $\Rightarrow$  tractable reasoning
- $\Rightarrow$  tractable modelling

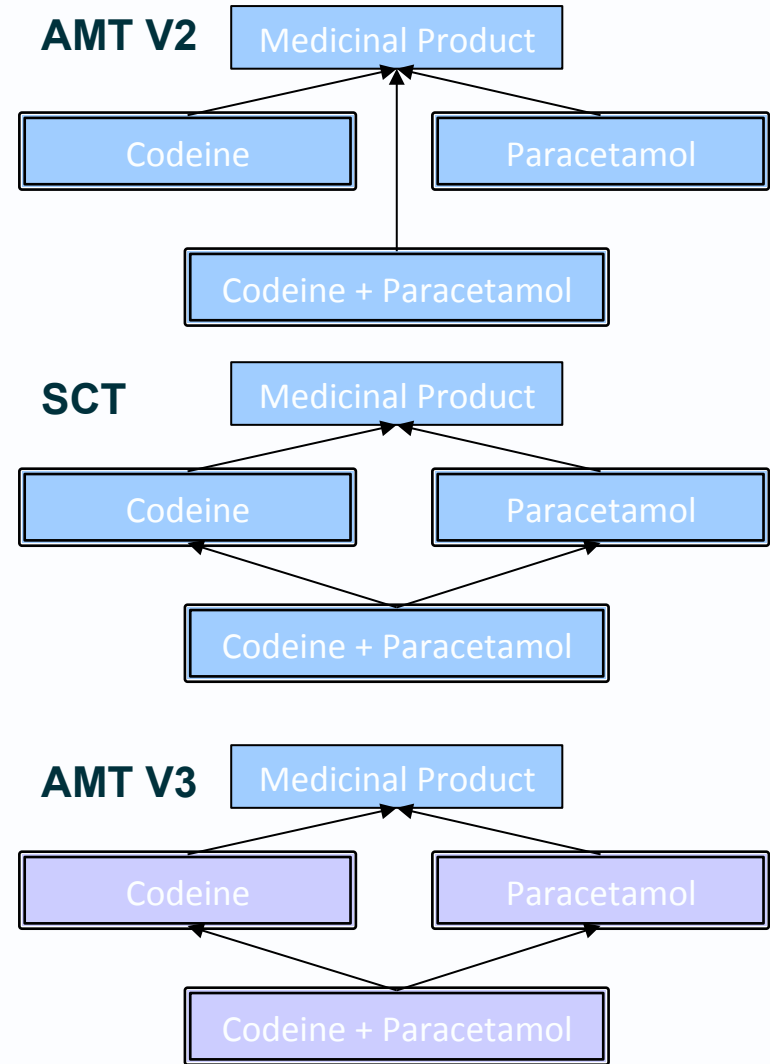
# Modelling Medicines

Primitive concepts hide modelling errors

Fully defined concepts

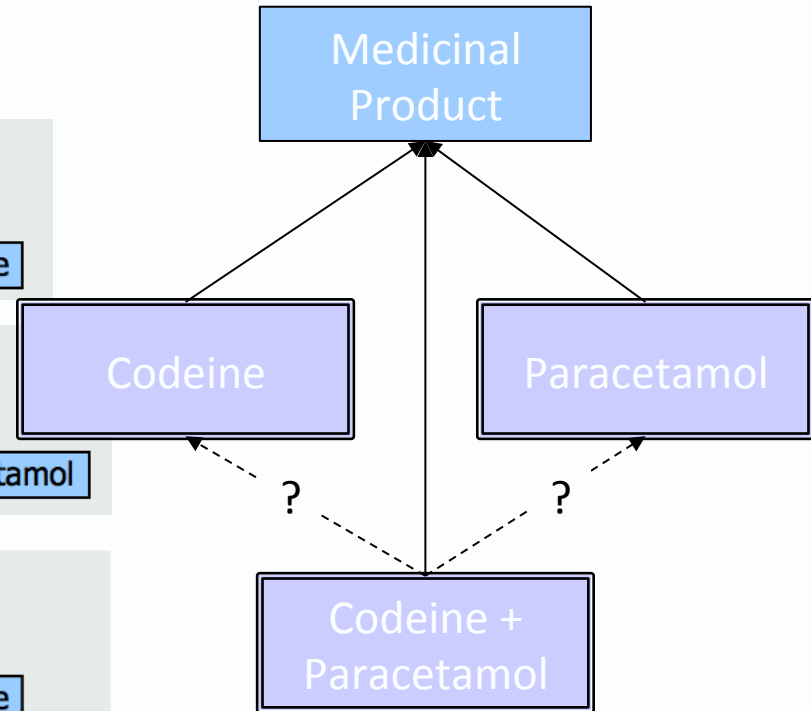
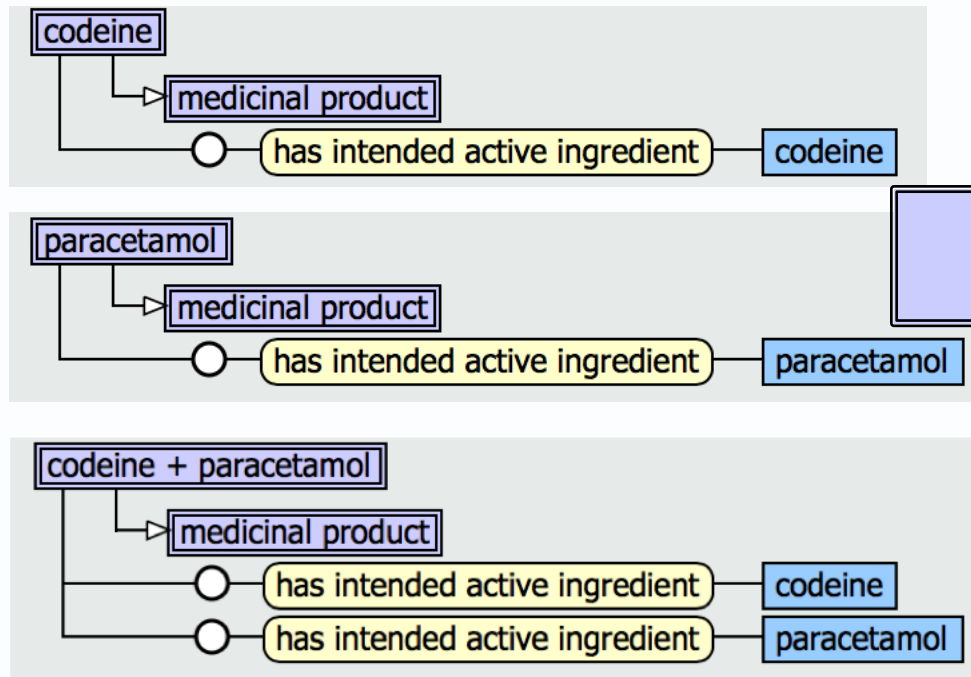
- expose modelling errors
- lead to higher quality
- better for querying and post coordination

Multi-ingredient medications  
codeine + paracetamol



# Modelling Medicines

Has *some* ingredient



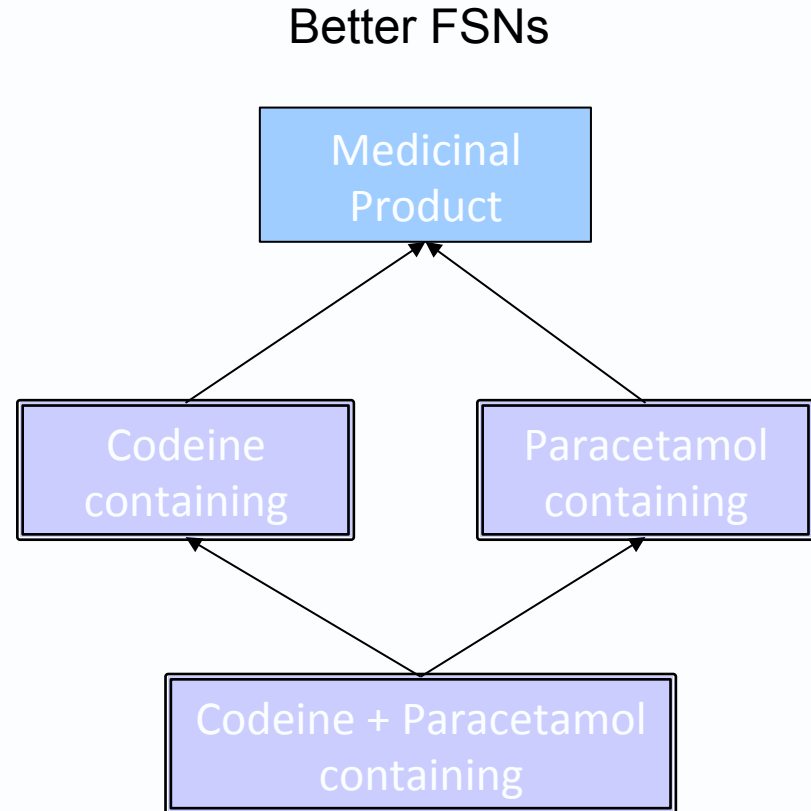
# Modelling Medicines

Primitive concepts hide modelling errors

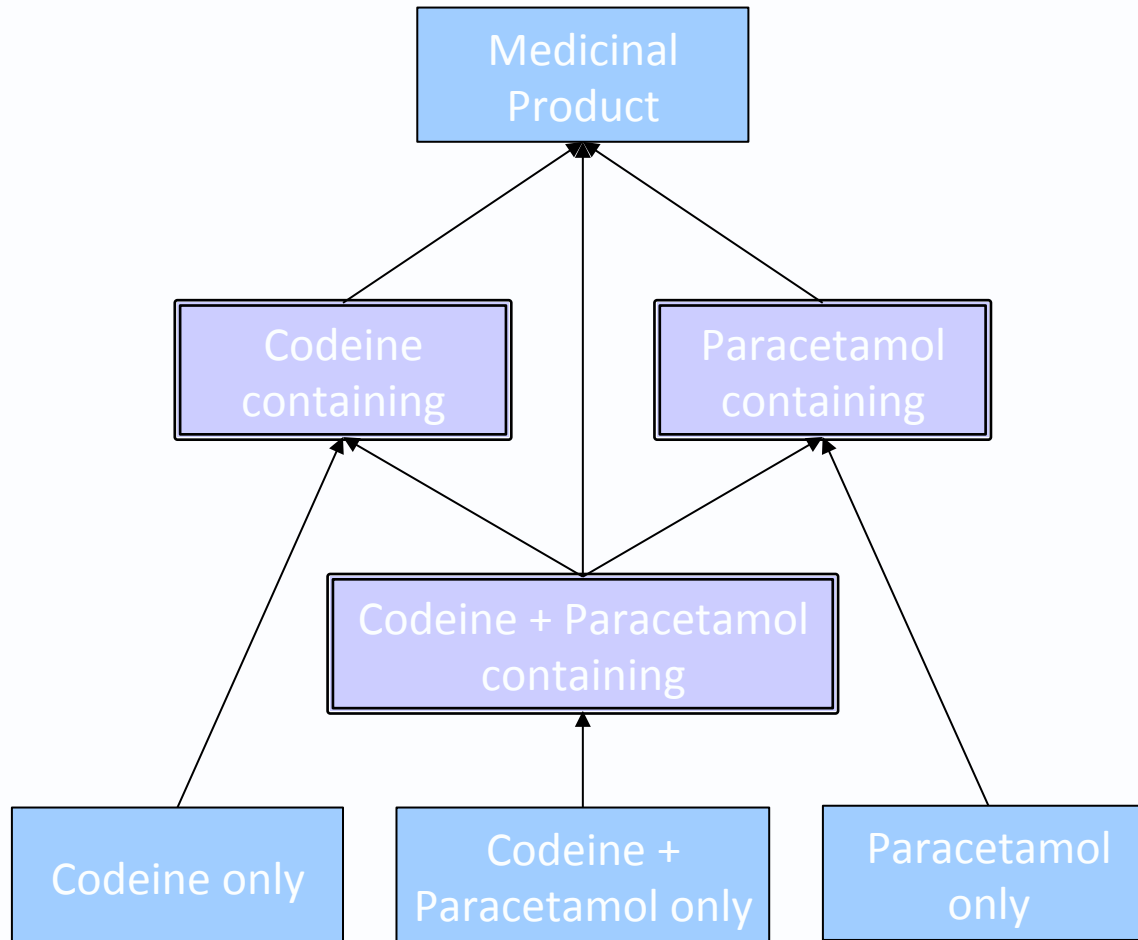
Fully defined concepts

- expose modelling errors
- lead to higher quality
- better for querying and post coordination

Multi-ingredient medications  
codeine + paracetamol



# -only medications



# Modelling –only medications

|Medicinal Product| : |has Active Ingredient| = |Codeine|

this says that it has **some** ingredient which is |Codeine|

we need to restrict it to **only** ingredients which are |Codeine|  
but without going outside of OWL2-EL



# Modelling –only medications

**Solution:** use concrete domains to model the number of ingredients

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | = | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient Count | = #1

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | = | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient | = | Paracetamol |

| has Active Ingredient Count | = #2

# Compare to extended DL approach

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | =only | Codeine |

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | =only | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient | =only | Paracetamol |

# Compare to extended DL approach

|Medicinal Product| :  
|has Active Ingredient| =only |Codeine|

|Medicinal Product| :  
|has Active Ingredient| =only (|Codeine| or |Paracetamol|)

# Compare to extended DL approach

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | =only | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient | = | Codeine |

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | =only ( | Codeine | or | Paracetamol | )

| has Active Ingredient | = | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient | = | Paracetamol |

# Modelling –only medications

**Solution:** use concrete domains to model the number of ingredients

| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | = | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient Count | = #1

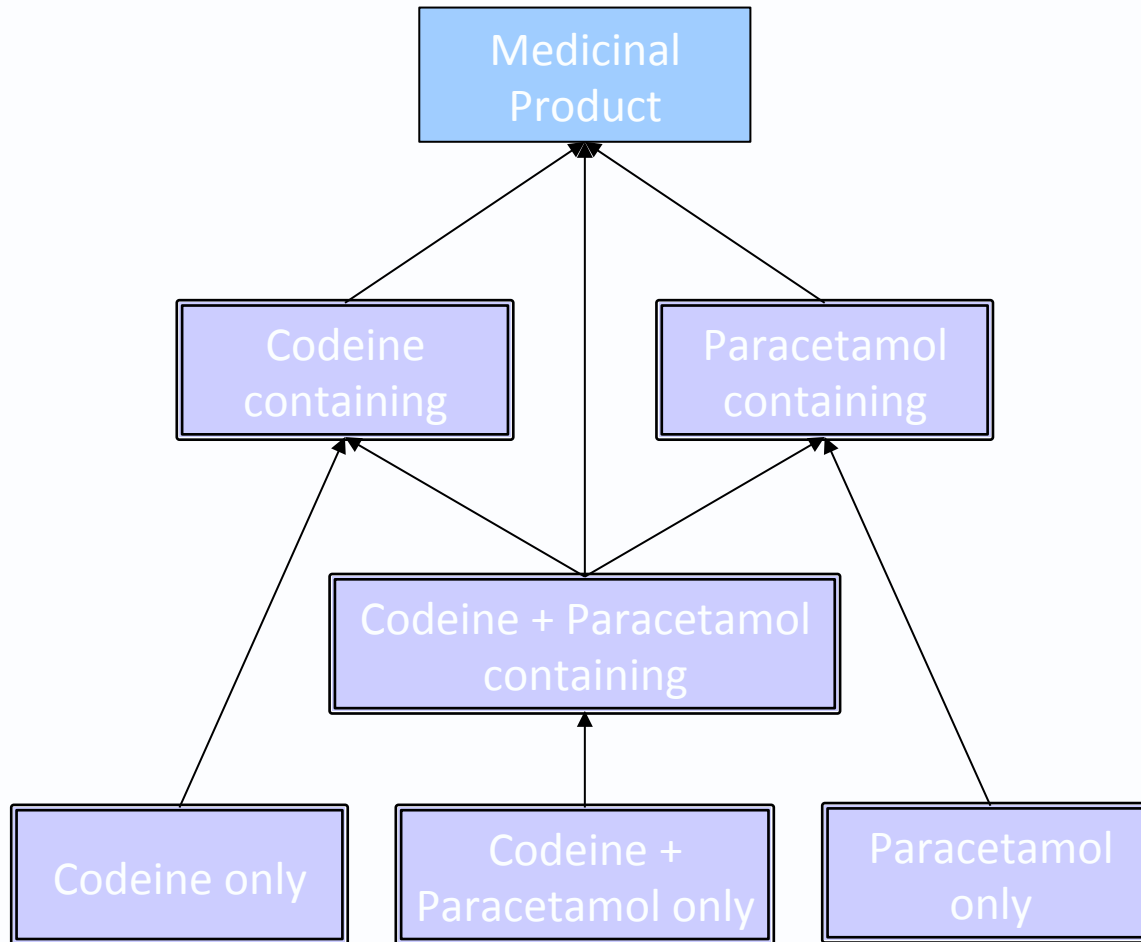
| Medicinal Product | :

| has Active Ingredient | = | Codeine |

| has Active Ingredient | = | Paracetamol |

| has Active Ingredient Count | = #2

# -only medications, fully defined



# Protege example

- ▼ ● Product
  - ☹ Caffeine\_containing\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Caffeine\_only\_product
  - ☹ Codeine\_containing\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Codeine\_only\_product
  - ▶ ☹ One\_or\_more\_ingredient\_product
  - ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_&\_Codeine\_containing\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_&\_Codeine\_only\_product
  - ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_containing\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_only\_product
  - ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Codeine\_containing\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Codeine\_only\_product
  - ☹ Paracetamol\_containing\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Paracetamol\_only\_product
  - ▶ ☹ **Single\_ingredient\_product**
  - ▶ ☹ Three\_ingredient\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Three\_or\_more\_ingredient\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Two\_ingredient\_product
  - ▶ ☹ Two\_or\_more\_ingredient\_product
- ▼ ● Substance
  - Caffeine
  - Codeine
  - Paracetamol

- ▼ ● Product
  - ☹ One\_or\_more\_ingredient\_product
    - ▼ ☹ Caffeine\_containing\_product
      - ▶ ☹ Caffeine\_only\_product
      - ▼ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_containing\_product
        - ▼ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_&\_Codeine\_containing\_product
          - ▼ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_&\_Codeine\_only\_product
            - ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_&\_Codeine\_tablet
        - ▼ ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_only\_product
          - ☹ Paracetamol\_&\_Caffeine\_tablet
      - ▶ ☹ Codeine\_containing\_product
      - ▶ ☹ Paracetamol\_containing\_product
    - ▼ ☹ Single\_ingredient\_product
      - ▶ ☹ Caffeine\_only\_product
      - ▼ ☹ **Codeine\_only\_product**
        - ☹ Codeine\_tablet
      - ▶ ☹ Paracetamol\_only\_product
      - ▶ ☹ Two\_or\_more\_ingredient\_product
  - ▼ ● Substance
    - Caffeine
    - Codeine
    - Paracetamol

# Benefits

Removes need for primitive –only concepts;  
primitive concepts hide modelling errors

QA rules can be implemented to check the stated ingredient count  
and the inferred # of active ingredient attributes

Abstract –only concepts such as |single ingredient product| can be  
defined as used to simplify modelling

Ingredient count is available directly from model which aids in  
implementation and querying



# Additional benefits

|Placebo|

=== |Medicinal Product|:

|has Active Ingredient Count| = #0

Non-acting ingredients (colours, flavours, other) need not be included in the count:

|Inert substance (only) tablet|

=== |MPUU|:

|has Active Ingredient| = |inert substance|

|has Active Ingredient Count| = #0

|hasForm| = |tablet|

# Uni-lateral & Bi-lateral

Unspecified      site count > #0

Unilateral        site count = #1

Bilateral         site count = #2

Allows such concepts to reside in Findings hierarchy rather than being relegated to Situations hierarchy



# Thank you

Australian e-Health Research Centre  
Michael Lawley  
Principal Research Scientist

t +61 7 3253 3609  
e michael.lawley@csiro.au  
w aehrc.com

