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SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) International Release – January 2013

The SNOMED CT core terminology provides a common language that enables a consistent way of indexing, storing, retrieving, and aggregating clinical data across specialties and sites of care. The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO®) maintains the SNOMED CT technical design, the core content architecture, the SNOMED CT core content (includes the concepts table, the descriptions table, the relationships table, a history table, and ICD mappings), and related technical documentation.

Concepts

The January 2013 International Release content hierarchy includes more than 297,000 active concepts with formal logic-based definitions, organized into top-level hierarchies:

Body structure	Observable entity	Situation with explicit content
• Morphologically abnormal structure	Organism	Social context
Clinical finding	Pharmaceutical / biologic product	Special concept
• Finding	Physical force	Specimen
• Disease	Physical object	Staging and scales
Environment or geographical location	Procedure	Substance
Event	Qualifier Value	
Linkage concept (<i>RF1 only</i>)	Record artifact	

Descriptions

Contains more than 777,000 active English-language descriptions for flexibility in expressing clinical concepts.

Relationships

Provides more than 890,000 logically-defining relationships enable consistency of data retrieval and analysis.

Attributes

Body Structure	Event	Procedure	Revision Status
Laterality	Associated With	Access	Route of Administration
Clinical Finding	• After	Direct Substance	Surgical Approach
Associated With	• Causative Agent	Has Focus	Using Energy
• After	• Due To	Has Intent	Using Substance
• Causative Agent	Occurrence	Method	Situation with Explicit Context
• Due To	Evaluation Procedure	Priority	Associated Finding
Associated Morphology	Component	Procedure Device	Associated Procedure
Clinical Course	Has Specimen	• Direct Device	Finding Context
Episodicity	Measurement Method	• Indirect Device	Procedure Context
Finding Informer	Property	• Using Access Device	Subject Relationship Context
Finding Method	Scale Type	• Using Device	Temporal Context
Finding Site	Time Aspect	Procedure Morphology	
Has Definitional Manifestation	Pharmaceutical/Biologic Product	• Direct Morphology	Specimen
Has Interpretation	Product	• Indirect Morphology	Specimen Procedure
Interprets	Has Active Ingredient	Procedure Site	Specimen Source Identity
Occurrence	Has Dose Form	• Procedure Site – Direct	Specimen Source Morphology
Pathological Process	Physical Object	• Procedure Site – Indirect	Specimen Source Topography
Severity	Has Active Ingredient	Recipient Category	Specimen Substance
	Has Dose Form		

Release Notes for the January 2013 International Release

1. New SNOMED CT Content

1,678 concept codes were added for the January 2013 International Release, along with 509 new descriptions for previously released, active concepts.

2. IMPORTANT CHANGE TO INTERNATIONAL RELEASE DOCUMENTATION

Beginning with the January 2013 International Release, current SNOMED CT documentation will no longer be included in the download package for each new International Release.

In order to improve the availability of up-to-date SNOMED CT documentation to all stakeholders, the IHTSDO will no longer be distributing release documents along with the data files for each new International Release.

Instead, the IHTSDO has decided that the International Release download package should reference, rather than include, the main guidance documents. The reasons for this change include:

- an established web-publication with online access and downloads;
- concerns that old versions (containing known defects) gain permanence within the release file archives;
- introduction of new documents (FAQ and How To Guides) that depend on live web-links; and
- different review timetables leading to inefficient use of available time between releases.

Twice yearly document updates will continue to be synchronized with the International Release dates. These documents will be posted to the document directory (www.snomed.org/doc) and referenced by a documentation guide accompanying the International Release.

Current versions of the SNOMED CT guidance documentation will be maintained on the IHTSDO's website. Most documents will be available in both online, web-browsable versions and as downloadable PDF files. A few documents that have not yet been incorporated into the main document development repository may only be available as PDF downloads. Some other materials that depend on external links (such as FAQs and document directories) may only be available online.

The SNOMED CT Documentation Guide, containing links to documentation on the IHTSDO's website, has been added to the "Documentation" directory of the International Release package:

- doc_SnomedCTDocumentationGuide_Current-en-US_INT_20130131.pdf

The following documents have been removed from the release package, and are now available from the IHTSDO's website:

- SNOMED CT Editorial Guide
- SNOMED CT IHTSDO Glossary
- SNOMED CT Namespace Identifier Registry
- SNOMED CT Release Format 1 (RF1) Guide
- SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide
- SNOMED CT User Guide

The following documents, along with the new SNOMED CT Documentation Guide, will continue to be distributed as part of the International Release package:

- January 2013 International Release Scope Memo
(doc_ScopeMemo_Current-en-US_INT_20130131.pdf)
- SNOMED CT Non-Human Refset Guide
(doc_NonHumanRefsetGuide_Current-en-US_INT_20130131.pdf)
- SNOMED CT Developer Toolkit Guide
(doc_DeveloperToolkitGuide_Current-en-US_INT_20130131.pdf)
- SNOMED CT Canonical Table Guide
(doc1_CanonicalTableGuide_Current-en-US_INT_20130131.pdf)

3. Other Content Changes

Information regarding SNOMED CT content changes can be found in the January 2013 Content Release Notes.