

Mapping to SNOMED CT[®] from Legacy SNOMED[®] versions

1 Introduction

SNOMED CT was first released in January 2002. SNOMED CT replaced all previous versions of SNOMED including:

- SNOP
- SNOMED 2
- SNOMED 3.x (also known as SNOMED International)
- SNOMED RT (Reference Terminology)

IHTSDO (<http://ihtsdo.org>), the organization that owns all versions of SNOMED and maintains SNOMED CT, gave notice in 2009 that antecedent versions should *not* be used after 26th April 2017. (See <http://ihtsdo.org/snomed-ct/history0>). This information sheet contains advice on resources available to support migration from these older versions of SNOMED to the latest version of SNOMED CT.

2 Mapping from SNOMED 2 or SNOP to SNOMED CT

To assist in the migration of legacy data from SNOMED II (1979) and SNOP (1965), a "Bridge File" (mapping table) is available which links each legacy code to its corresponding code in the first release of SNOMED CT (note these are same identifier as in SNOMED RT).

The bridge file is included in the SNOMED CT International Release distribution. The files are located in the following subdirectory:

- `SnomedCT_Release_INT_[YYYYMMDD]\RF1Release\OtherResources\BridgeFiles`

The file for mapping from SNOMED 2 is in a zip archive:

- Zip archive name: `zres_BridgeFile_Snomed2ToSnomedRT_INT_20020131.zip`
- File name: `SNO2-SRT10_Bridge.txt`

This is a tab delimited file with column headings

- Column 1: CODE is the SNOMED code
- Column 4: ConceptId is the SNOMED CT Concept identifier

Note: The target ConceptId in SNOMED RT is the same as the identifier in SNOMED CT)

3 Mapping from SNOMED 3.x to SNOMED CT

All codes used in SNOMED International are present in the SNOMED CT in the following mapping reference set distributed as part of the SNOMED CT International Edition:

- 900000000000498005 | SNOMED RT ID simple map reference set |

This links the old alphanumeric codes to the SNOMED CT concept identifiers. For further information see the specification of Simple map reference sets. The SNOMED RT ID simple map reference set | can be used either to allow recognition of legacy data by SNOMED CT retrieval tools or to enable mapping of the codes and storage of the appropriate concept identifier.

The meaning of coded clinical data encoded using SNOMED International is maintained using SNOMED CT mechanisms that support concept permanence and version control. Even when a concept is made inactive its code is never reassigned to another concept. Concept permanence ensures that codes assigned in SNOMED International remain accessible, and are not reused.

4 Mapping from SNOMED RT to SNOMED CT

Migration from SNOMED RT poses no significant issues. Many features of the design of SNOMED CT including the use of numeric identifiers (SCTIDs) were incorporated into SNOMED RT. The transition to SNOMED CT for users of SNOMED RT is relatively straightforward because the Concept Identifiers of SNOMED RT are for the most part the same as those used in SNOMED CT.

In some cases, during the merger of SNOMED RT and Clinical Terms Version 3 some Concepts in SNOMED RT have been found to be ambiguous or duplicated. These Concepts were inactivated but remain in the distribution files. A record in one of the Component Inactivation Reference Set indicates the reason for inactivation. A record in one of the Historical Association Reference Sets refers from the inactive concept to the active concept that represents the same meaning. In case of ambiguity there may be several associations each of these pointing to one active concept which may represent the intended meaning of the inactive concept.

These Associations can be used either to allow records using these Concepts to be recognized by retrieval tools or to enable mapping of the stored information to the appropriate active Concept Identifier.

If any stored Concept Identifier of an Inactive Concept is mapped to an active Concept Identifier using these associations it is strongly recommended that the original Concept Identifier is also retained. This enables future improvements or corrections of such mappings if revised Associations are present in a future release of SNOMED CT.

Note:

SNOMED RT contained both generic and brand name drugs for the US. A decision was made during the merger process to place these components directly in the US Drug Extension. Therefore to access all SNOMED RT components you will need to use the US Drug Extension in addition to the SNOMED CT International Release.

5 Further information

Further information about SNOMED CT and mapping is available in the Technical Implementation Guide (<http://snomed.org/tig.pdf>).