

# January 2016 SNOMED CT to ICNP (Interventions) Release Notes



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Date	20160414
Version	1.0
Status	Final

## Approvals

Final Version	Date	Approver	Comments
1.0	20160321	Ian Green	Final Version

## Draft Amendment History

Version	Date	Editor	Comments
0.1	20151127	Nick Hardiker	First draft
0.2	20151201	Ian Green	Updated
0.3	20151208	Ian Green	Updated with comments from Jane Millar
0.4	20160224	Nick Hardiker	Updated
1.0	20160317	Ian Green	Final edits

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Access to the equivalence table is provided both by ICNP and IHTSDO.

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The equivalency table is also available for download from the ICNP website: <http://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/icnp-download/>

Users of the table must comply with the licensing agreements of both ICNP and SNOMED CT.

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# 1 Introduction

The International Classification of Nursing Practice (ICNP) to SNOMED CT International Release Nursing Interventions equivalency table is a product of an ongoing programme of work carried out under a pre-existing collaboration agreement between the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the International Health Terminology Standards Organization (IHTSDO). The work commenced in 2015 and the joint release of the equivalency table took place in April 2016.

## 2 Background

The overarching aim of the collaboration agreement, first established in 2010 and updated in September 2014, was to advance terminology harmonisation and foster interoperability in health information systems. Joint work would build on previous efforts, culminating in joint publication of:

- a) An equivalence table between the International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP®) and SNOMED Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT®) for nursing diagnoses
- b) An equivalence table between ICNP and SNOMED CT for nursing interventions.

The initial effort centred on nursing diagnoses, specifically problems. The focus of this release document is on the identification of SNOMED CT equivalencies for ICNP nursing interventions.

## 3 Motivation

ICNP, a product of the ICN, is a terminology that enables nurses to describe and report their practice in a systematic way. The resulting information is used to support care and effective decision-making, and to inform nursing education and health policy.

SNOMED CT is the most comprehensive and precise clinical health terminology product in the world, owned and distributed around the world by The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO). The equivalency table is intended for use by nurses, and other interested professional groups. Robust systems and processes within ICN and IHTSDO assure the integrity of both terminologies.

As ICNP is intended for use by and for nurses, ICN has been able to focus attention on the development of ICNP specifically for nursing practice. This has resulted in a rich and comprehensive resource that nurses can use to describe and report in detail the things that they assess (diagnoses e.g. nausea) and the things that they do (interventions e.g. counseling). The potential benefits of a consistent approach to capturing nursing data are far-reaching. However, nurses do not practice in isolation; they practice alongside many other disciplines. One of the potential risks of a specific nursing-focus is that nursing will be somehow disconnected from a larger health information landscape.

The table of equivalence provides a vehicle for transforming ICNP-encoded data into SNOMED CT (e.g. an ICNP concept in a local system can be transformed via the table to the equivalent SNOMED CT concept for use in a multidisciplinary record). By providing a robust pathway from ICNP to SNOMED CT, the table of equivalence helps to ensure that users of ICNP can continue to use their preferred terminology while remaining a central part of the bigger picture and wider implementation of SNOMED CT globally.

## 4 Design

Decisions concerning source concepts, target concepts and validity of equivalencies were made by consensus of all parties (ICN, IHTSDO and the IHTSDO Nursing Special Interest Group (SIG)). In addition, the Nursing SIG has provided international validation of the content included in the subset prior to publication.

### 4.1 Version

The version of ICNP used is the July 2015 release.  
The version of SNOMED CT used is the January 2016 International Release.

## 4.2 Source

The source is a subset of 992 ICNP interventional concepts.

## 4.3 Target

All target concepts are drawn from SNOMED CT Procedures. As part of the work, over 416 new concepts were identified as relevant and needed within SNOMED CT. These were modeled as Procedures.

## 4.4 Direction

The direction is from the ICNP classification to SNOMED CT International Release procedures.

## 4.5 Cardinality

The cardinality for all equivalents in the table is one-to-one.

## 5 Content

The ICNP to SNOMED CT nursing interventions equivalency table covers just one semantic type – nursing interventions – with equivalent ICNP and SNOMED CT concepts for each intervention. The table comprises 953 equivalents, representing a subset of ICNP and a subset of SNOMED CT – equivalents have not been identified for all ICNP interventions, or for all SNOMED CT Procedures.

## 6 Obtaining the equivalency table

The equivalency table is released in April 2016 as a full release and will subsequently be maintained according to the release schedules of ICNP and SNOMED CT.

Access within IHTSDO member countries is provided by the Member National Release Centre in each country, via the relevant Member web page. Affiliates of IHTSDO in non-member countries can access the table in IHTSDO Release Format 2 (RF2) through their MLDS (Member Licensing & Distribution Service) account <https://mlds.ihtsdotools.org>. Please contact [info@ihtsdo.org](mailto:info@ihtsdo.org) for more information if required.

The equivalency table is available for download in human readable format from the ICNP website: <http://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/icnp-download/>

Users of the table should comply with licensing arrangements for both ICNP and SNOMED CT.

## 7 Feedback

ICN and IHTSDO are keen to receive feedback on this product – from both a clinical content perspective and from an implementer's perspective. Feedback should be sent jointly to [info@ihtsdo.org](mailto:info@ihtsdo.org) and [aamherdt@uwm.edu](mailto:aamherdt@uwm.edu). Feedback should include any issues relating to implementation, suggestions for future content inclusion or general comments regarding the equivalence table.