

Briefing Note
NMO and “Other” ethnic non-mixed (NMO)
January 4, 2019

Background

Initial request received via Content request service:

[Change Description] Review 186005001 |Other ethnic non-mixed (NMO)| and children.
PT contains acronym that does not comply with Editorial Guide.

Upon further review it was noted that there are many concepts that do not conform to SCT editorial guidance. E.g. 186005001 |Other ethnic non-mixed (NMO)|

Terms with the word “Other” are all residual classes and cannot be universally defined and are variable in meaning based on the sibling terms available. These should be inactivated for reasons that are the same as that used for rejection of residual classes from ICD.

Proposal

Propose that ethnicity is a concept that cannot be deemed as internationally interoperable and therefore is inappropriate to be included in SNOMED International. Therefore all ethnicity concepts should be inactivated and local NRCs can develop and maintain their own content in this area.

Scope

Examples only, not complete set:

- 18599600
 - 2 Black - other Asian (ethnic group)
- 31527900
 - 3 Other black ethnic group (ethnic group)
- 18602000
 - 7 Other ethnic, Black/White origin (ethnic group)
- 18599300
 - 5 Black - other African country (ethnic group)
- 18599800
 - 1 Black - other, mixed (ethnic group)

18599900
 9 Other Black - Black/White orig (ethnic group)
 18601900
 1 Other ethnic, mixed origin (ethnic group)
 18598900
 4 Black, other, non-mixed origin (ethnic group)
 18602300
 9 Other ethnic, other mixed origin (ethnic group)
 18600000
 6 Other Black - Black/Asian orig (ethnic group)
 18600500
 1 Other ethnic non-mixed (NMO) (ethnic group)
 18601300
 0 Other Asian (NMO) (ethnic group)
 18601000
 2 Other African countries (NMO) (ethnic group)
 40121400
 2 Other white British ethnic group (ethnic group)
 18602200
 4 Other ethnic, mixed white origin (ethnic group)
 18602100
 6 Other ethnic, Asian/White origin (ethnic group)
 18603700
 0 Other European in New Zealand (ethnic group)
 18601700
 4 Other European (NMO) (ethnic group)
 18603400
 7 Ethnicity / related nationality data (observable entity)
 31528100
 1 Other Asian ethnic group (ethnic group)
 27559400
 2 North African Arab (NMO) (ethnic group)
 27560100
 9 Turkish (NMO) (ethnic group)
 27046700
 2 Turkish/Turkish Cypriot (NMO) (ethnic group)
 18601400
 6 Irish (NMO) (ethnic group)
 27559900
 7 Greek (NMO) (ethnic group)
 18601000
 2 Other African countries (NMO) (ethnic group)
 27559500
 1 Iranian (NMO) (ethnic group)
 27559200
 3 West Indian (NMO) (ethnic group)

27559100
5 Caribbean Island (NMO) (ethnic group)
18600500
1 Other ethnic non-mixed (NMO) (ethnic group)
27046500
5 E Afric Asian/Indo-Carib (NMO) (ethnic group)
18601700
4 Other European (NMO) (ethnic group)
27560000
5 Greek Cypriot (NMO) (ethnic group)
27046600
6 Greek/Greek Cypriot (NMO) (ethnic group)
27046400
9 N African Arab/Iranian (NMO) (ethnic group)
27559300
8 Guyana (NMO) (ethnic group)
18600700
9 British ethnic minority unspecified (NMO) (ethnic group)
27046300
3 Caribbean I./W.I./Guyana (NMO) (ethnic group)
18600600
0 British ethnic minority specified (NMO) (ethnic group)
18601200
5 Indian sub-continent (NMO) (ethnic group)
27560200
2 Turkish Cypriot (NMO) (ethnic group)
27559600
0 East African Asian (NMO) (ethnic group)
27559700
9 Indo-Caribbean (NMO) (ethnic group)
18601300
0 Other Asian (NMO) (ethnic group)

Discussion

The whole area of ethnicity is confusing and open to interpretation. E.G. Turkish cypriot is simply an artificial construct and conflation of a turk living on the disputed turkish side of cyprus. It is not a specific ethnicity (although there are some who would dispute that for their own reasons). This is akin to for example issues in veterinary medicine with "customized dog breeds" like labradoodles and maltipoos. Even the definition of ethnicity "large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background" is fuzzy enough to make it practically less than useful.

The immediate issue is the concepts that contain the acronym NMO - which can also

mean and IS more commonly understood to mean Neuromyelitis optica:

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/neuromyelitis-optica/symptoms-causes/syc-2037565>
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Recommendation

All ethnicity concepts be inactivated and local NRCs can develop and maintain their own content in this area. This would be a more consistent approach than just removing the most ambiguous concepts.

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