

■ INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



SNOMED CT[®] IHTSDO Glossary - (DRAFT VERSION)

January 2015 International Release (US English)

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Directory of available documents: www.snomed.org/doc

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Chapter 1

1 Preface



The purpose of this glossary is to meet the needs of people who require a single resource that allows them to understand the particular words and phrases used in *SNOMED CT* documentation.

The current DRAFT of the glossary will be reviewed during the latter half of 2012 with the intention of providing a quality assured version with the January 2013 release.

This glossary is available in two forms:

- **WebHelp (HTML):** (file suffix .html)
 - A hyper-linked version viewable in a standard web-browser.
 - This version includes searching and glossary lookups.
 - The web-based version is most effective when used online. Some features may not work on a local version of this resource.
- **Adobe Acrobat:** (file suffix .pdf)
 - A browsable and printable version arranged for page layout rather than in separate topics.
 - The text content is identical to the HTML version but there are some difference to navigation and cross references resulting from page oriented formatting.
 - This version is searchable.

A version of each of the above is available configured for the US English and GB English. Note that the PDF versions are formatted for different paper sizes (US - Letter, GB - A4).

Document Properties



Table 1:

Title:	<i>IHTSDO Glossary</i>
Date	2012-07-31
Version	2012-07-31 (DRAFT RELEASE)
Creating Author:	David Markwell / Sarah Ryan
Subject:	<i>IHTSDO Glossary</i>

Amendment History



Table 2: Amendment History

Version	Date	Editor	Comments
1.00	2012 07 31	David Markwell / Sarah Ryan	Initial draft of <i>IHTSDO</i> Glossary based on glossaries within existing <i>IHTSDO</i> documents.

1.3 Status







This guide contains parts and sections which differ in terms of the authority and status of their content. Each section of the guide is marked to indicate its publication type and status using the symbols shown in [Table 3](#) and [Table 4](#).

Table 3: Document Types

Type Name and <i>Description</i>	Draft	Review	Current
Standard A document or other resource that is intended to be authoritative. This includes specifications of <i>SNOMED CT</i> content and <i>release files</i> . Normative requirements for particular functions are also standards.			
Guidance A document or other resource that is intended to provide advice or suggest possible approaches to particular requirement or subject area.			


Table 4: Document Status

Status Name and <i>Description</i>	Standard	Guidance
Current Indicates that the document or resource is considered to be up-to-date and complete for the current release of <i>SNOMED CT</i> (indicated by an explicitly stated version date or by the publication date).		

Status Name and <i>Description</i>	Standard	Guidance
Review Indicates that the document or resource has been released for review and comments from <i>SNOMED CT</i> users and other stakeholders. It is intended to be complete but has not been formally approved as a final version.		
Draft Indicates that the document or resource is a draft version. It may be incomplete and has not been approved in a final version.		

This edition of the document is configured to use US English .

The PDF version of this draft is formatted to be printed on US Letter paper.







 **Note:** This is one of a several large documents that are regularly revised by the *IHTSDO*. Therefore, for the sake of the environment, please think carefully before deciding to print the entire document.

1.4 Referencing and Commenting




This document contains a way to reference topics in a way that is not dependent on changes to the structure of the document as new versions are released including additional topics. These references are web addresses that will point to the latest version of and topic in the document.

If you are using the PDF version of the document there are three icons to the right of each title which provide useful information and relevant links.

-  The  icon indicates the status of the topic (see [Status](#)).
-  The  icon provides a link to the web address to access and reference this topic online. Please use this reference to identify or share references to the topic as section and page numbers change between versions.
-  The  icon links directly to a page where you can submit comments or report errors about this topic. The comment tracker is an online resource that requires you to login to an IHTSDO CollabNet account. If you do not have an account, there is an option to create an account available on the login page.



If you are using the online web version of this document then there is a single bookmark icon  which, when clicked, opens a small form with an easy copy and paste option for access to the topic reference and button to click to take you direct to the comment tracker.

1.5 Additional information



Further information about *SNOMED CT* is available by contacting *IHTSDO*:

IHTSDO Contact Details:

Web:

- www.ihtsdo.org

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- support@ihtsdo.org

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- 1457 Copenhagen K
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-
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1.6 Inventory of Documentation



The following *SNOMED CT* documentation is made available to accompany the *International Release of SNOMED CT* from the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (*IHTSDO*). In the following listing hyperlinks are provided which will be maintained to point to the latest version of each of these documents.

- A list of documents, including a wider range of versions, is available from: www.ihtsdo.org/doc.

SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide (TIG)

- On line HTML version: www.ihtsdo.org/tig
- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/tig.pdf
- PDF version UK English A4 page size: www.ihtsdo.org/tig_gb.pdf

The TIG is intended for *SNOMED CT* implementers, such as software designers. The TIG assumes information technology and software development experience. Clinical knowledge is not required, although some background is helpful to understand the application context and needs.

The TIG contains guidelines and advice about the design of applications using *SNOMED CT*, and covers topics such as *Terminology services*, entering and storing information, and migration of legacy information.

SNOMED CT Editorial Guide

- On line HTML version: www.ihtsdo.org/eg
- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/eg.pdf
- PDF version UK English A4 page size: www.ihtsdo.org/eg_gb.pdf

The Editorial Guide is intended for clinical personnel, business directors, software product managers, and project leaders; information technology experience, though not necessary, can be helpful.

The Editorial Guide is intended to explain *SNOMED CT*'s capabilities and uses from a content perspective. It explains the content and *concept model*, and the principles used to edit the terminology.

SNOMED CT User Guide

- On line HTML version: www.ihtsdo.org/ug
- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/ug.pdf
- PDF version UK English A4 page size: www.ihtsdo.org/ug_gb.pdf

The User Guide provides a less detailed introduction to the topics covered in the Technical Implementation and Editorial Guides.

IHTSDO Glossary (DRAFT)

- On line HTML version: www.ihtsdo.org/glossary
- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/glossary.pdf
- PDF version UK English A4 page size: www.ihtsdo.org/glossary_gb.pdf

The Glossary is a general resource used to support all the other documents in this inventory.

SNOMED CT Release Format 1 Guide

- On line HTML version: www.ihtsdo.org/rf1
- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/rf1.pdf
- PDF version UK English A4 page size: www.ihtsdo.org/rf1_gb.pdf

The RF1 Guide provides technical information relevant to those using the original *SNOMED CT Release Format*. Although this format was replaced by RF2 in January 2012, the old format is being maintained for a transitional period.

SNOMED CT Non-Human Refset Guide


- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/guide/non_human_rs.pdf

A guide to use of the "Non-Human" Simple *Reference Set* that contains *concepts* and terms that are only used in veterinary medicine.

SNOMED CT Developer Toolkit Guide

- PDF version US English Letter page size: www.ihtsdo.org/guide/toolkit.pdf

A guide to use of value-added files and scripts that are provided as a toolkit available as part of the *SNOMED CT International Release*.

 **Additional Documentation:** The following materials previously published in separate documents are now integrated as part of the Technical Implementation Guide.

- *Technical Reference Guide*
- *Namespace Identifier Guide*
- *Namespace Identifier Registry*
- *File Naming Convention*
- *RF2 Data Structures Specification*
- *RF2 Reference Set Specifications*
- *RF2 Update Guide*
- *Stated Relationships Guide*
- *Canonical Table Guide* (previously included in RF1)

1.7 Copyright Notice



Copyright Notice:

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SNOMED CT has been created by combining *SNOMED RT* and a computer based nomenclature and classification known as *Clinical Terms Version 3*, formerly known as *Read Codes Version 3*, which was created on behalf of the UK Department of Health.

This document forms part of the *International Release* of *SNOMED CT* distributed by the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (*IHTSDO*), and is subject to the *IHTSDO's SNOMED CT Affiliate License*. Details of the *SNOMED CT Affiliate License* may be found at www.ihtsdo.org/licensing/.

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Chapter 2

2 Introduction



This is the third DRAFT release of the *IHTSDO* Glossary as a standalone resource. Many of the definitions have been taken from the glossary section included in earlier technical documents. Additional terms and definitions have been added from other *IHTSDO* documents and/or to meet needs identified by references in other documents.

The DRAFT status of this release of the *IHTSDO* Glossary indicates that it has not yet been formally reviewed and continues to contain some definitions that would benefit from improvement and greater consistency of style.

The *IHTSDO* Glossary includes:

- "General" entries, including words and phrases used with similar meanings in the broader domain of healthcare.
- "*SNOMED CT* Specific" entries, which provide a source of reference for various words, phrases and acronyms used in other documents connected with *SNOMED Clinical Terms*.

Chapter 3

3 GlossaryIndex



A



- **Active component**
- **Active concept**
- **Active description**
- **Affiliate**
- **Affiliate Licence** (*Affiliate Licence Agreement*)
- **Affiliate Licence Agreement**
- **Affiliate Licensee** (*Affiliate*)
- **American National Standards Institute** (*ANSI*)
- **Ancestor** (*Supertype ancestor*)
- **ANSI**
- **API** (*Application Programming Interface*)
- **Application Programming Interface**
- **As defined in the** (*Intellectual property rights*)
- **ATO** (*Authorized Triage Organization*)
- **Attribute**
- **Attribute group**
- **Attribute name**
- **Attribute value**
- **Attribute value pair**
- **AttributeGroup** (*Attribute group*)
- **AttributeName** (*Attribute name*)
- **Attribute-value** (*Attribute value*)
- **Authoritative concept**
- **Authorized Triage Organization**
- **Auto classify** (*Automatic classification*)
- **Automatic classification**

B



- **Baseline**
- **Browser**

C



- **Candidate Baseline**
- **Canonical form**
- **Cardinality**
- **CEN**
- **CEN TC251**
- **Check digit**
- **Child** (*Subtype child*)
- **Children** (*Subtype child*)
- **CIS** (*Clinical Information System*)
- **Classifier** (*Description logic classifier*)
- **Clinical Information System**
- **Clinical situation** (*Situation with explicit context*)
- **Clinical Terms Version 3**
- **C-NPU**
- **Collabnet** (*Collaborative Space*)
- **Collaborative Space**
- **Comité Européen de Normalisation** (*CEN*)
- **Common Terminology Services 2**
- **Complement**
- **Component** (*SNOMED CT Component*)
- **Component history**
- **Compositional grammar**
- **Concept**
- **Concept enumeration**
- **Concept equivalence**
- **Concept Identifier**
- **Concept model**
- **Concept Model Attribute** (*Attribute*)
- **Concept model domain** (*Domain*)
- **Concept model range** (*Range*)
- **Constraint**
- **Context domain**
- **Context specific characteristic**
- **Context wrapper**
- **Core file**
- **Core table** (*Core file*)
- **Cross Mapping** (*Mapping*)
- **CTS2** (*Common Terminology Services 2*)
- **CTV3** (*Clinical Terms Version 3*)

D



- **DAG** (*Directed Acyclic Graph*)
- **Darwin Information Typing Architecture**

- **Data Analysis System**
- **Data Creation System**
- **Data migration**
- **Defining characteristic** (*Defining relationship*)
- **Defining relationship**
- **Delta release**
- **Derivative** (*SNOMED CT Derivative*)
- **Descendant** (*Subtype descendant*)
- **Description**
- **Description Identifier**
- **Description logic**
- **Description logic classifier**
- **Description Type**
- **Dialect**
- **Directed Acyclic Graph**
- **DL** (*Description logic*)
- **Domain**
- **Draft Standard for Trial Use**
- **DSTU** (*Draft Standard for Trial Use*)
- **Duplicate term**
- **Dynamic snapshot view**

E



- **Edition** (*SNOMED CT Edition*)
- **EHR** (*Electronic health record*)
- **Electronic health record**
- **EN13606**
- **Enabled application**
- **Enabled implementation**
- **Entire** (*Structure-Entire-Part*)
- **Equivalence**
- **Europäisches Komitee für Normung** (*CEN*)
- **European Committee for Standardization** (*CEN*)
- **Explicit context** (*Situation with explicit context*)
- **Expression**
- **Expression refinement**
- **Extension** (*SNOMED CT Extension*)
- **Extension namespace identifier**
- **Extension namespace identifiers** (*Namespace identifier*)

F



- **Focus concept**
- **FSN** (*Fully Specified Name*)
- **Full release**

- **Full view**
- **Fully defined concept** (*Sufficiently defined concept*)
- **Fully Specified Name**

H



- **Health Level 7**
- **Health Level 7 Version 3**
- **Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model**
- **Hierarchy**
- **HL7** (*Health Level 7*)
- **HL7 CTS2** (*Common Terminology Services 2*)
- **HL7 TermInfo**
- **HL7 V3** (*Health Level 7 Version 3*)
- **HL7 V3 RIM** (*Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model*)

I



- **ICD-10**
- **ICD-9**
- **ICD-9-CM**
- **Identifier** (*SNOMED CT Identifier*)
- **IFCC IUPAC** (*C-NPU*)
- **IHTSDO** (*International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation*)
- **IHTSDO Affiliate** (*Affiliate*)
- **IHTSDO member** (*Member*)
- **IHTSDO Workbench** (*Workbench*)
- **Inactive** (*Inactive component*)
- **Inactive component**
- **Inactive concept**
- **Inactive description**
- **Intellectual Property** (*Intellectual property rights*)
- **Intellectual property rights**
- **International edition** (*SNOMED CT International Edition*)
- **International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation**
- **International Release** (*SNOMED CT International Release*)
- **Intersection**
- **IP** (*Intellectual property rights*)
- **IPR** (*Intellectual property rights*)
- **IS A**
- **ISO**
- **ISO TC215**

K



- [*Kind of value*](#)

L



- [*Language*](#)
- [*Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes \(LOINC \)*](#)
- [*LOINC*](#)

M



- [*Machine readable concept model*](#)
- [*Managed content addition*](#)
- [*Mapping*](#)
- [*MCA \(Managed content addition \)*](#)
- [*Med \(SNOMED \)*](#)
- [*Member*](#)
- [*Member territory*](#)
- [*Metadata*](#)
- [*Migration*](#)
- [*Model of meaning*](#)
- [*Model of use*](#)
- [*Modeler*](#)
- [*Modeling*](#)
- [*Modeller \(Modeler \)*](#)
- [*Modelling \(Modeling \)*](#)
- [*Module \(SNOMED CT Module \)*](#)
- [*Monohierarchical classification \(Monohierarchy \)*](#)
- [*Monohierarchy*](#)
- [*Moved elsewhere*](#)
- [*MRCM \(Machine readable concept model \)*](#)

N



- [*Namespace concept*](#)
- [*Namespace identifier*](#)
- [*NamespaceId \(Namespace identifier \)*](#)
- [*National Edition \(SNOMED CT National Edition \)*](#)
- [*National Health Service*](#)
- [*National Library of Medicine*](#)
- [*National Release \(SNOMED CT National Release \)*](#)

- **National Release Center**
- **Natural language processing**
- **Navigation**
- **Navigation concept**
- **Navigation Hierarchy**
- **NHS** (*National Health Service*)
- **NLM** (*National Library of Medicine*)
- **NLP** (*Natural language processing*)
- **No** (*SNOMED*)
- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units** (*C-NPU*)
- **Non-member territory**
- **Normal form**
- **Normal form transformation**
- **NPU** (*C-NPU*)

O



- **openEHR**
- **Operational migration**

P



- **Part** (*Structure-Entire-Part*)
- **PartitionId** (*Partition-identifier*)
- **Partition-identifier**
- **Pending move**
- **Phrase equivalence**
- **Polyhierarchical classification** (*Polyhierarchy*)
- **Polyhierarchy**
- **Postcoordinated** (*Postcoordinated expression*)
- **Postcoordinated expression**
- **Postcoordination** (*Postcoordinated expression*)
- **Precoordinated** (*Precoordinated expression*)
- **precoordinated expression** (*Precoordinated expression*)
- **Precoordination** (*Precoordinated expression*)
- **Predicate migration**
- **Preferred term**
- **Primitive concept**

Q



- **Qualifier** (*Qualifying characteristic*)
- **Qualifying characteristic**
- **Quality characteristic**

- [Quality metric](#)
- [Quality target](#)
- [Query predicate](#)

R



- [Range](#)
- [Read Code](#)
- [Read Codes 4-Byte Set](#) ([Read Code](#))
- [Read Codes Version 2](#) ([Read Code](#))
- [Realm](#)
- [Record services](#)
- [Reference information model](#)
- [Reference set](#)
- [Reference set member](#)
- [Reference terminology](#)
- [Refinement](#) ([Expression refinement](#))
- [Refset](#) ([Reference set](#))
- [Relationship](#)
- [Relationship Type](#) ([Attribute](#))
- [Release file](#)
- [Release format](#)
- [Release Format 1](#)
- [Release Format 2](#)
- [Release Type](#)
- [RF1](#) ([Release Format 1](#))
- [RF2](#) ([Release Format 2](#))
- [Role](#) ([Attribute](#))
- [Root concept](#)
- [Root metadata code](#) ([Root metadata concept](#))
- [Root metadata concept](#)

S



- [SCTID](#) ([SNOMED CT Identifier](#))
- [SEP](#) ([Structure-Entire-Part](#))
- [Situation with explicit context](#)
- [Snapshot release](#)
- [Snapshot view](#)
- [SNOMED](#)
- [SNOMED application](#) ([Enabled application](#))
- [SNOMED Clinical Terms](#)
- [SNOMED CT](#) ([SNOMED Clinical Terms](#))
- [SNOMED CT application](#) ([Enabled application](#))
- [SNOMED CT author](#) ([Modeler](#))
- [SNOMED CT authoring](#) ([Modeling](#))

- **SNOMED CT browser** (*Browser*)
- **SNOMED CT Component**
- **SNOMED CT compositional grammar** (*Compositional grammar*)
- **SNOMED CT concept** (*Concept*)
- **SNOMED CT core** (*Core file*)
- **SNOMED CT core file** (*Core file*)
- **SNOMED CT core table** (*Core file*)
- **SNOMED CT Derivative**
- **SNOMED CT description** (*Description*)
- **SNOMED CT distribution file** (*Release file*)
- **SNOMED CT distribution format** (*Release format*)
- **SNOMED CT Edition**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application** (*Enabled application*)
- **SNOMED CT enabled implementation** (*Enabled implementation*)
- **SNOMED CT expression** (*Expression*)
- **SNOMED CT Extension**
- **SNOMED CT Identifier**
- **SNOMED CT implementation** (*Enabled implementation*)
- **SNOMED CT International Edition**
- **SNOMED CT International Release**
- **SNOMED CT Metadata** (*Metadata*)
- **SNOMED CT modeler** (*Modeler*)
- **SNOMED CT modeling** (*Modeling*)
- **SNOMED CT Module**
- **SNOMED CT National Edition**
- **SNOMED CT National Extension**
- **SNOMED CT National Release**
- **SNOMED CT reference set** (*Reference set*)
- **SNOMED CT relationship** (*Relationship*)
- **SNOMED CT Release**
- **SNOMED CT release file** (*Release file*)
- **SNOMED CT release format** (*Release format*)
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1** (*Release Format 1*)
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2** (*Release Format 2*)
- **SNOMED CT terminology server** (*Terminology server*)
- **SNOMED enabled application** (*Enabled application*)
- **SNOMED enabled implementation** (*Enabled implementation*)
- **SNOMED implementation** (*Enabled implementation*)
- **SNOMED International**
- **SNOMED Reference terminology**
- **SNOMED RT** (*SNOMED Reference terminology*)
- **Source language** (*Translation source language*)
- **Sponsored Territory**
- **Stated form** (*Stated view*)
- **Stated view**
- **Statistical classification**
- **Structure-Entire-Part**
- **Structure** (*Structure-Entire-Part*)
- **Subset**
- **Subsumption test**

- **Subtype**
- **Subtype child**
- **Subtype children** (*Subtype child*)
- **Subtype classification**
- **Subtype descendant**
- **Subtype hierarchy** (*Subtype classification*)
- **Subtype test** (*Subsumption test*)
- **Sufficiently defined concept**
- **Supertype ancestor**
- **Supertype parent**
- **Synonym**

T



- **Target code**
- **Target language** (*Translation target language*)
- **Target scheme**
- **Technology Preview**
- **Term**
- **Term Info** (*HL7 TermInfo*)
- **Terminology binding**
- **Terminology server**
- **Terminology services**
- **Textual definition**
- **Top level concept code**
- **Top level metadata code**
- **Transform** (*Normal form transformation*)
- **Transformation** (*Normal form transformation*)
- **Transitive closure**
- **Translation**
- **Translation Service Provider**
- **Translation source language**
- **Translation target language**
- **TSP** (*Translation Service Provider*)

U



- **UI** (*User interface*)
- **UK National Health Service** (*National Health Service*)
- **UK NHS** (*National Health Service*)
- **Understandability, Reproducibility and Usefulness**
- **Union**
- **URU** (*Understandability, Reproducibility and Usefulness*)
- **User interface**

V

-
- [Value Set](#)
 - [Version 3 of the Read Codes](#) ([Clinical Terms Version 3](#))

W

-
- [WHO](#) ([World Health Organization](#))
 - [Word equivalent](#)
 - [Workbench](#)
 - [World Health Organization](#)

Chapter

4

A



Active component



A *SNOMED CT component* that is intended for use. *Release files* contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

- Note:** A component is active when the most recent row with the relevant *Component.id* in the *Full Release* of the relevant *Release File* has the value *Component.active=1* (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the *Component.effectiveTime* value.

Active concept



A *Concept* that is intended for use. *Release files* contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

- Note:** A component is active when the most recent row with the relevant *Component.id* in the *Full Release* of the relevant *Release File* has the value *Component.active=1* (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the *Component.effectiveTime* value.

Active description



A *Description* that is intended for use. *Release files* contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

- Note:** A component is active when the most recent row with the relevant *Component.id* in the *Full Release* of the relevant *Release File* has the value *Component.active=1* (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the *Component.effectiveTime* value.

Affiliate



An *IHTSDO Affiliate Licensee* in accordance with the *IHTSDO Affiliate License Agreement*.

Alternatives

IHTSDO Affiliate
Affiliate Licensee

Affiliate Licence Agreement



The agreement between an *IHTSDO affiliate* (the licensee) and the *IHTSDO* (the licensor) under which developers and implementers are permitted to use the *SNOMED CT International Release* and distribute it to their sub-licensees as part of a software system.

Alternatives

Affiliate Licence

ANSI



American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the United States. The organization also coordinates U.S. standards with international standards.

Alternatives

ANSI

American National Standards Institute

Application Programming Interface



Application Programming Interface

A set of rules and specifications that enable communication between software programs. *Application Programming Interfaces* enables interaction between separate software programs, in much the same way that a *user interface* facilitates interaction between humans and computers.

Alternatives

API

Attribute



An *attribute* represents a characteristic of the meaning of a *concept* or the nature of a refinement.

👉 **Note:** An *attribute* has a name which is represented by a *concept*. All the *concepts* that can be used to name *attributes* are *subtypes* of the *concept | concept model attribute |*. An *attribute* is assigned a value (*attribute value pair*) when used in the definition of a *concept* or in a *postcoordinated expression*. The permitted *attribute values (range.)* for an *attribute* depend on the *attribute name* and on the *domain* of the *concept* being refined.

👉 **Example:** 116676008 | Associated morphology |

Alternatives

Concept Model Attribute

Relationship Type

Role

Attribute group



An association between a set of *attribute value* pairs which causes them to be treated separately from other *attribute value* pairs in the same definition or *postcoordinated expression refinement*.

👉 **Example:**

The definition of the *concept |cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct|* has two *|method|* attributes with different values (*|excision -action|* and *|exploration -action|*) and two *|procedure site direct|* attributes with different values (*|common bile duct structure|* and *|gallbladder structure|*). The attributes are grouped so that procedure is not incorrectly classified as an *|excision of common bile duct|*.

Alternatives

AttributeGroup

Attribute name



A *concept* that represents the type of a *relationship* or the type of a *refinement* in a *postcoordinated expression*.

👉 **Notes:**

1. The type of a *relationship* is indicated by the *typed* attribute in the *Relationship file*
2. The *concepts* that can be used to name attributes are:
 - 116680003 | Is a (attribute) | and

- *subtypes* of 410662002 | Concept model attribute |

Alternatives

Relationship Type
AttributeName

Attribute value

A *concept* that represents the target of a *relationship* or the value of an *expression refinement* in a *postcoordinated expression*.



Alternatives

Attribute-value
AttributeValue

Attribute value pair

A combination of an *attribute name* and an *attribute value* used to represent a specific type of information in a generic way without altering the underlying structure of an information model. The *attribute name* identifies the type of information and the *attribute value* provides a value.



- 👉 **Note:** *Attribute value pairs* are used by *SNOMED CT* in *relationships* and *postcoordinated expressions*. In both cases, the *attribute name* and *attribute value* are expressed using *SNOMED CT concept identifiers*. In the *Relationship file*, the *attribute name* is represented by the *Relationship.typeId* and the *attribute value* by the *Relationship.destinationId*.

Authoritative concept

A *concept* with a specific meaning defined by an authoritative source such as a national or international professional body or standards organization.



Authorized Triage Organization

An organization approved by the *IHTSDO* to manage and triage change requests to for inclusion of content in the *SNOMED CT International Release* and/or one or more *National Extensions*.



- 👉 **Note:** *IHTSDO Members* and their *National Release Centers* are likely to fulfill this role. In addition, *IHTSDO affiliates* and *Standards Development Organizations* may be eligible for consideration as *Authorized Triage Organizations*.

Alternatives

ATO

Automatic classification

A process that generated a logically consistent *subtype classification* by applying *description logic* rules to the stated definitions of a set of *concepts*.



Alternatives

Auto classify

Chapter 5

B



Baseline



A release status applied to a collection of *SNOMED CT release files* that represent the first formally endorsed release of additions of *components* and/or *derivatives* to the *SNOMED CT International Release* or to a *SNOMED CT Extension*. The *Baseline* status indicates the releasing party (*IHTSDO* or the owner of the *Extension*) commits to maintain the release history of this release and all subsequent updates. Once confirmed as a *Baseline*, additional *components* and *derivatives* will be maintained and versioned in accordance with the Release Format 2 specification (i.e. by adding rows to the *Full Release* with the *effectiveTime* appropriate to the update).

👉 **Note:** The significance the *Baseline* status is that implementers can use the additional *components* and *derivatives* in operational systems, with confidence in the subsequent maintenance of these additions.

Browser



A computer application or software tool used for exploring and searching terminology content. A typical *SNOMED CT browser* can locate *concepts* and *descriptions* by *Identifiers* and by searching the text of *description terms*. Various views of located *concepts* may be displayed including the set of related *descriptions*, the hierarchical *relationships* and other defining *relationships*.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT browser

Chapter

6


C



Candidate Baseline



A provisional status applied to a collection of *SNOMED CT release files* that represent a proposed additions of *components* and/or *derivatives* to the *SNOMED CT International Release* or to a *SNOMED CT Extension*. The *Candidate Baseline* status indicates the releasing party (*IHTSDO* or the owner of the *Extension*) expects to subsequently confirm the release as the *Baseline*. However, if a significant issue is reported in its format or content, the releasing party reserves the right to withdraw a *Candidate Baseline* release, or to replace it with another *Candidate Baseline*, to address the issue. The releasing party need not commit to this being an actual *Baseline* release until shortly before the due date for the next release.

 **Note:** The significance the *Candidate Baseline* status is that anyone implementing this data must be prepared for withdrawal or significant changes that may occur to the additional *components* or *derivatives*. Therefore, this data should not be used in an operational environment in ways that create a dependency on continued maintenance of the additional *components* or *derivatives*. However, a *Candidate Baseline* may be confirmed as the *Baseline* and, in that case all subsequent updates to the additional *components* and *derivatives* will be fully version tracked from the release of the *Candidate Baseline*.

Canonical form



An serialized representation of a *SNOMED CT expression* which follows the *normal form* and in which the *refinements*, *attributes* and *attribute groups* are arranged in a standard order.

Cardinality



? A measure of the number of elements in a set. Modeling rules include constraints on the *cardinality* of particular attributes or associations between classes.

CEN



The European Committee for Standardization is a major provider of European Standards and technical specifications. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment. Through its services it provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical specifications.

Alternatives

Comité Européen de Normalisation
European Committee for Standardization
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

CEN TC251



CEN/TC 251 (*CEN* Technical Committee 251) is a committee within the European Committee for Standardization (*CEN*) working on standardization in the field of Health Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the *European Union*. Its goal is to achieve compatibility and interoperability between independent systems and to enable modularity in *Electronic Health Record* systems.

Check digit



The *check-digit* is the final (rightmost) digit of the *SNOMED CT Identifier (SCTID)*. It can be used to check the validity of *SCTIDs*. *Clinical Information Systems* can use the *check-digit* to identify *SNOMED CT* codes that have been entered incorrectly (typo errors, etc). It is calculated using the Verhoeff algorithm.

Clinical Information System



A computer-based system that is designed for collecting, storing, manipulating and making available clinical information to support the delivery of healthcare services to individual people and populations.

Alternatives

CIS

Clinical Terms Version 3



One of the source terminologies, along with *SNOMED RT*, that were used to develop *SNOMED CT*. *CTV3* is UK Crown Copyright, distributed by the United Kingdom *National Health Service (NHS)*, and is integrated into *SNOMED CT*.

Alternatives

CTV3

Version 3 of the Read Codes

C-NPU



Nomenclature, Properties and Units (*C-NPU* in collaboration with International *Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)*) The *IFCC-IUPAC* coding system Provides a terminology for Properties and Units in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Alternatives

Nomenclature, Properties and Units

NPU

IFCC IUPAC

Note: The name of the organization responsible for C-NPU sometimes used as a synonym

Collaborative Space



A web resource with software to help people involved in a common task achieve goals by enabling effective communication within an project or organization.

Note: The *IHTSDO Collaborative Space* supports the communication needs of *IHTSDO* governance and advisory bodies. *IHTSDO* Standing Committees, Affiliate Forum, Member Forum and Working Groups all have *Collaborative Space* Projects each of which contain meeting announcements, discussions, shared documents and issue trackers.

Alternatives

Collabnet

Common Terminology Services 2



An *Application Programming Interface (API)* specification that is intended to describe the basic functionality that needed by healthcare software implementations to query and access terminological content. *CTS2* defines the functional requirements of a set of service interfaces to allow the representation, access, and maintenance of terminology content either locally, or across a federation of *terminology service* nodes.

Note: *CTS2* is specified as an *API* rather than a set of data structures to enable a wide variety of terminological content to be integrated within a common framework without the need for significant migration or rewrite.

Note: *CTS2* was developed from the original the [see [HL7 CTS specification](#)] and is now a joint initiative between HL7 and the [see [Object Management Group \(OMG\)](#)].

Alternatives


CTS2

HL7 CTS2

Complement



In set theory the *complement* of set A relative to the universal set U is the set of all members of U that are not members of A.

 **Note:** Set theory is applied when describing the intended result of combinations of Reference Sets or Constraints.

SNOMED CT Component



Refers to any item identified by an *SCTID* in the main body of *SNOMED CT*, or in an authorized *Extension*. The *partition-identifier* indicates the type of component referred to by that *SCTID*. Each *component* is a uniquely identifiable instance of one of the following:

- *Concept*
- *Description*
- *Relationship*

Alternatives

Component

Component history



A record of an addition or change in the *status* of a *SNOMED CT Component* in a particular *Release Version*.

Compositional grammar



The set of rules that govern the way in which *SNOMED CT expressions* are represented as a plain text string.

 **Note:** The specification of the [see [SNOMED CT Compositional Grammar](#)] is available as part of the Technical Implementation Guide.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT compositional grammar

Concept



A clinical idea to which a unique *Concept Identifier* has been assigned.

The *term concept* may also be used informally with the following meanings:

- The *concept Identifier*, which is the key of the *Concept file* (in this case it is less ambiguous to use the *term* "conceptId" or "concept code");
- The real-world referent(s) of the *Concept Identifier*, that is, the class of entities in reality that the *Concept Identifier* represents (in this case it is less ambiguous to use the *term* "meaning" or "code meaning").


Alternatives

SNOMED CT concept

Concept enumeration



Use of *SNOMED CT concept Identifiers* to represent of a set of values for a property of a particular type of *SNOMED CT component*.

 **Note:** The *SNOMED CT concepts* used to represent *concept enumerations* are usually *subtype children* (or *descendants*) of a relevant general *concept* in the *SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy*. Each possible value is

represented by a single child *concept*, and the set of values can be used to enable selection from a pick-list of one or more *concepts*.

👉 Example:

- 900000000000446008 | Description type (core metadata concept) |
 - 90000000000003001 | Fully specified name (core metadata concept) |
 - 90000000000013009 | Synonym (core metadata concept) |
 - 900000000000550004 | Definition (core metadata concept) |

Figure 1: Concept enumeration for: Description.typeId

Concept equivalence



Equivalence is the state of two *SNOMED CT concept codes* or *postcoordinated expressions* having the same meaning. *Concept equivalence* can occur when a *postcoordinated expression* has the same meaning as a *precoordinated concept code*; or when two different *postcoordinated expressions* have the same meaning.

Concept Identifier



A *SNOMED CT Identifier* that uniquely identifies a *Concept* (meaning).

👉 **Example:** For the meaning named | Pneumonia (disorder) |, the *Concept Identifier* is 233604007.

Concept model



A set of rules that determines the permitted sets of *Relationships* between particular types of *concept*. The *Concept Model* specifies the attributes that can be applied to particular *concepts* and the ranges of permitted values for each of these attributes. There are also additional rules on the *cardinality* and grouping of particular types of *Relationships*.

👉 **Note:** The [see [Concept Model Guide](#)] (which is part of the Technical Implementation Guide) summarizes the current set of rules applied to modeling *SNOMED CT concepts*. More detailed information, aimed at those involved creating and modeling content, is available in the *SNOMED CT Editorial Guide*.

Constraint



A rule that specifies limits on the attributes, values and associations that may be applied to a particular component.

👉 Examples:

1. A modeling constraint may limit the permissible defining *Relationships* applied to a particular type of *concept*.
2. An instance data constraint may limit the permissible refinements that may be applied to particular *concept*

Context domain



A context domain is a set of values that are, or may be, used in an identifiable logical setting in an application, protocol, *query* or communication specification. A context domain may be very broad (e.g. procedures or diagnoses) or very narrow (e.g. procedures performed by a specialty or possible values for a field in specific message).

Context specific characteristic



A *Relationship* to a target *Concept* that provides information about the source *Concept* that is true at a particular time or within a particular country or organization . Contrast with *Defining characteristic* and *Qualifying characteristic*. Referred to in *CTV3* as a 'Fact'.

Context wrapper



The part of a *SNOMED CT expression* that specifies the context that applies to the *focus concept* that it contains.

👉 **Example:** "Family history of asthma" can be represented by an *expression* in which the *concept* "asthma" is nested within an *context wrapper* that indicates that this is "family history" - rather than a current condition affecting the patient. For further details see [see [Modeling semantic context](#)].

Core file



A distribution file used to represent the main *SNOMED CT components* (*concepts, descriptions and relationships*).

👉 **Note:** In the past the term "core" has also been used to refer to the content of the *SNOMED CT International Release* but this usage is deprecated.

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT core
- Core table
- SNOMED CT core table
- SNOMED CT core file
- Core table

Chapter 7

D



Darwin Information Typing Architecture



The Darwin Information Typing Architecture (*DITA*) is an XML-based architecture for authoring, producing, and delivering information. Although its main applications have so far been in technical publications, *DITA* is also used for other types of documents such as policies and procedures.

Note: *DITA* is used for creation, publication and maintenance of many *IHTSDO* guidance documents.

Alternatives

DITA

Data Analysis System



A computer system that is used to analyze records or other data that is encoded using *SNOMED CT*, but not if that system is also a *Data Creation System*;

Note: *IHTSDO* charges fees for use of *Data Analysis Systems* and *Data Creation Systems* in Non-Member Territories.

Data Creation System



A computer system that is used to create records or other data that is encoded using *SNOMED CT*.

Note: *IHTSDO* charges fees for use of *Data Analysis Systems* and *Data Creation Systems* in Non-Member Territories.

Data migration



Steps taken to enable legacy data to be accessible as part of a system that uses *SNOMED CT*.

Note: The objective of *data migration* is to enable data recorded prior to introduction of *SNOMED CT* can be retrieved and reused within a *SNOMED CT enabled application*. Options for *data migration* include actual conversion of the data or provision of methods for accessing the data in its original form.

Defining relationship



A *relationship* to a target *concept* that is always necessarily true from any instance of the source *concept*.

Example: The *defining relationships* of the concept | gastrectomy | include |method|=|excision - action| and |procedure site - Direct|=|stomach structure|.

Alternatives

Defining characteristic

Delta release



A *Release Type* in which the *release files* contain only component versions created since the previous release. Each component version in a *delta release* represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.

SNOMED CT Derivative



A document, subset, set of maps, or other resource that consists of, includes, references or is derived from one or more *SNOMED CT components*. The standard computer processable representation for most types of *SNOMED CT derivatives* is a *Reference set*.

Alternatives

Derivative

Description



An association between a human-readable phrase (*term*) and a particular *SNOMED CT concept* code. Each *description* is represented by a separate row in the *Description file*.

Note: Each *description* has a unique *identifier* and connects *concept* with a *term* of a specified *description type*.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT description

Description Identifier



A *SNOMED CT Identifier* that uniquely identifies a *Description*.

Description logic



A representation of semantic knowledge that allows formal reasoning to be applied based on axioms that state *relationships* between *concepts*.

Note: *Description logic* definitions of *SNOMED CT concepts* are represented by *defining relationships*. The formal rules of *description logic* can be applied to *defining relationships* by software tools (*description logic classifiers*) to interpret the meaning of *concepts*. This enables confirmation of the logical integrity of the terminology, and can also be used to support meaning-based retrieval from *SNOMED CT enabled* record systems.

Alternatives

DL

Related Links

[Wikipedia entry on Description logic](#)

Description logic classifier



A software tool that applies the rules of a *description logic* to a set of data to make inferences about the *relationships* between sets of *concepts*.

Note: *SNOMED CT concepts* and *relationships* are processed by a *description logic classifier* to generate the *subtype hierarchy*. *SNOMED CT expressions* can also be processed by a classifier to make inferences that support selective retrieval.

Alternatives

Classifier

Description Type



An indication of the intended usage of the *term* of a *SNOMED CT description* when applied to the associated *concept*.

Notes:

1. The *description type* is represented by the value of the *description.typeId* attribute.
2. Permitted values include the following (other types may be defined in future):

Table 5: Description types

typeId (with term)	Further information
900000000000003001 Fully specified name	A <i>term</i> unique among <i>active descriptions</i> in <i>SNOMED CT</i> that names the meaning of a <i>concept</i> code in a manner that is intended to be unambiguous and stable across multiple contexts (see <i>fully specified name (FSN)</i>).
900000000000013009 Synonym	A <i>term</i> that is an acceptable way to express a the meaning of a <i>SNOMED CT concept</i> (see <i>synonym</i>).
900000000000550004 Definition	An additional textual <i>description</i> applied to some <i>SNOMED CT concepts</i> that provides additional information about the intended meaning or usage of the <i>concept</i> (see <i>textual definition</i>).

3. The *preferred term* is the *synonym* marked as preferred for use in the [Language reference set](#) for a given *language* or *dialect* (it is not a distinct *description type*).

Dialect

A *language* modified by the vocabulary and grammatical conventions applied to the *language* of a particular geographical or cultural environment.



Directed Acyclic Graph

A set of nodes connected to one another by lines (edges) in which each connection has a specified direction such that no route that follows the direction of the connections enters a loop (cycle).



- Example:** The *SNOMED CT subtype hierarchy* is an example of a *Directed Acyclic Graph*. *SNOMED CT concepts* are nodes and "*is a*" *Relationships* are the directed lines that connect them. All "*is a*" *Relationships* lead from a more specific *concept* to a more general *concept*, so a cycle would be a logical error (e.g. if "rubella virus" is a type of "virus" and "virus" is a type of "microorganism", then "microorganism" cannot be a type of "rubella virus").

Alternatives DAG

Domain

A set of *concepts* which the *Concept Model* permits to be defined or refined using a particular set of *attributes* and *ranges*.



- Note:** A *domain* to which an *attribute* can be applied is typically defined to include concepts in one or more branches of the subtype hierarchy.
- Example:** The *domain* of the *attribute* 116676008 | Associated morphology | is defined as subtype of 404684003 | Clinical finding | hierarchy. Similarly, the *range* for values of 116676008 | Associated morphology | is subtypes of 49755003 | Morphologically abnormal structure |.


Alternatives

Concept model domain

Draft Standard for Trial Use



A *Draft Standard for Trial Use* is a specification and process to allow implementers to test a standard. At the end of the trial period the standard may be balloted, revised or withdrawn.

 **Example:** The joint project between HL7 International and the *IHTSDO*, *TermInfo*, is an example of an HL7 DSTU.

Alternatives DSTU

Duplicate term



A *Term* that occurs in several *Active Descriptions*. *Duplicate Terms* are valid in *SNOMED CT* since the intention is to provide natural *terms* used by clinicians rather than to apply formalized phraseology. The formalized form is provided by the *Fully Specified Name* and these are not permitted to be duplicated.

Dynamic snapshot view



A "*snapshot view*" for a specified date that is generated by filtering a "*full view*".

Chapter

8

E



Electronic health record



A systematic collection of health information about individual patients or populations that is stored in a digital form. An *Electronic health record* may contain a complete and detailed record of a patient's health or may consist of a summary of information of particular relevance to continuing delivery of care.

Alternatives

EHR

EN13606



Electronic Health Record Communication (EN 13606) European Standard developed by CEN TC251 to define a rigorous and stable information architecture for communicating part or all of the *Electronic Health Record (EHR)* of a single subject of care (patient). This is to support the interoperability of systems and components that need to communicate (access, transfer, add or modify) *EHR* data via electronic messages or as distributed objects:

- preserving the original clinical meaning intended by the author;
- reflecting the confidentiality of that data as intended by the author and patient. .

Enabled application



A software application designed to support the use of *SNOMED CT*.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT enabled application

SNOMED enabled application

SNOMED CT application

SNOMED application

Enabled implementation



Implementation of information systems that are able to make effective use of *SNOMED CT* in an organization or region.

- 👉 **Note:** *SNOMED CT enabled implementation* has a broader meaning than *SNOMED CT enabled application*. An implementation involves practical deployment of one or more applications but extends beyond the software itself to address personnel and organizational issues that allow the potential benefits to be realized.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT enabled implementation

SNOMED enabled implementation

SNOMED CT implementation

SNOMED implementation

Equivalence



See *Word Equivalents*, *Phrase equivalence* and *Concept equivalence*.

Expression



A structured combination of one or more *concept identifiers* used to express a clinical idea.

Note:

An *expression* containing a single *concept identifier* is referred to as a *precoordinated expression*. An *expression* that contains two or more *concept identifiers* is a *postcoordinated expression*.

The *concept identifiers* in a *postcoordinated expression* are related to one another in accordance with rules expressed in the *SNOMED CT Concept Model*.

These rules allow an *expression* to *refine* the meaning of a *concept* by applying more specific values to particular attributes of a more general *concept*.

Example:

284196006 | burn of skin | : 363698007 | finding site | = 33712006 | skin of hand |


Alternatives

SNOMED CT expression

Expression refinement



The part of a *SNOMED CT expression* that applies qualifying details to a *focus concept*.

 **Example:** A "spiral fracture of the left humerus" can be represented by an *expression* in which the *concept* "fracture of humerus" is made more specific by the addition of two refinements "laterality: left" and "associated morphology: spiral fracture".

Alternatives

Refinement

Extension namespace identifier



See *namespace identifier*.

Chapter

9

F



Focus concept



The part of a *SNOMED CT expression* that represents a clinical finding, observation, event or procedure. This *focus concept* may be given context by a surrounding content wrapped and may be made more specific by a refinement.

👉 **Example:** A past history of replacement of the left hip may be represented by a *SNOMED CT expression* in which the *focus concept* "hip replacement" is refined by "laterality: left" and enclosed in a *context wrapper* representing "past history".

Full release



A *Release Type* in which the *release files* contain every version of every component ever released.

Full view



A view of *SNOMED CT* that includes all the components in a *Full release*. This includes the full history or all components ever released. A *Full view* can be filtered to provide a *Dynamic snapshot view* of the components as they were at any point in the past.

Fully Specified Name



A *term* unique among *active descriptions* in *SNOMED CT* that names the meaning of a *concept* code in a manner that is intended to be unambiguous and stable across multiple contexts.

👉 Notes:

1. *Fully specified names* are indicated with the `typedId 900000000000003001 | Fully specified name |`.
2. There may be more than one *active description* with the `typedId 900000000000003001 | Fully specified name |`. However, only one *fully specified name* should be marked as preferred for use in a given *language* or *dialect* in the relevant [Language reference set](#).
3. The US English *fully specified name* is the point of reference for the meaning of all *concepts* in the *SNOMED CT International Edition*. However, where a *concept* is part of an *extension* the *fully specified name* specified in the original language of that *extension* applies.

Alternatives

FSN

Chapter 10

H



Health Level 7



A not-for-profit, *ANSI*-accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

Alternatives

HL7

Health Level 7 Version 3



A standard for communication of health care information developed by *HL7*. Version 3 is based on a formal development framework and its communication structures a derived as refinements from a *Reference Information Model (HL7 V3 RIM)*.

Alternatives

HL7 V3

Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model



The *reference information model* on which *HL7 Version 3* is based.

Alternatives

HL7 V3 RIM

Hierarchy



An ordered organization of *concept* codes linked together through | is a | *relationships*. *Concept* codes linked to their more general parent *concept* codes directly above them in a *hierarchy* *Concept* codes with more general meanings are usually presented as being at the top of the *hierarchy* and then at each level down the *hierarchy* code meanings become increasingly more specific or specialized . Formally, a *hierarchy* is represented as a *Directed Acyclic Graph*.

HL7 TermInfo



An *HL7* project that developed the ' *HL7* Version 3 Implementation Guide: Using *SNOMED CT* as a *Draft Standard for Trial Use (DSTU)*. The purpose of this guide is to ensure that *HL7* Version 3 standards achieve their stated goal of semantic interoperability when used to communicate clinical information that is represented using *concepts* from *SNOMED CT*

Alternatives

Term Info

Chapter 11



ICD-10



The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10) is a coding of diseases and signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases, as classified by the *World Health Organization*. (WHO).

ICD-9



The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 9th Revision (ICD-9) is a coding of diseases and signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases, as classified by the *World Health Organization*. (WHO).

👉 **Note:** Replaced by *ICD-10*.

ICD-9-CM



The International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification" (ICD-9-CM), Sixth Edition, issued for use beginning October 1, 2008 for federal fiscal year 2009 (FY09). The ICD-9-CM is maintained jointly by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

IFCC IUPAC



Nomenclature, Properties and Units (*C-NPU*) in collaboration with International *Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry* (IUPAC) The *IFCC-IUPAC* coding system Provides a terminology for Properties and Units in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Inactive component



A *SNOMED CT component* that is not intended for use. *Active* and *Inactive components* are included in *release files* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology different points in time.

👉 **Note:** A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the *Full Release* of the relevant *Release File* has the value Component.*active*=0 (zero). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

Alternatives

Inactive

Inactive concept



A *Concept* that is not intended for use. *Release files* contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

👉 **Note:** A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the *Full Release* of the relevant *Release File* has the value Component.*active*=0 (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

Inactive description



A *Description* that is not intended for use. *Release files* contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

- 👉 **Note:** A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the *Full Release* of the relevant *Release File* has the value Component.*active*=0 (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

Intellectual property rights



As defined in the *IHTSDO affiliate License Agreement*: patents, trade marks, service marks, copyright (including rights in computer software), moral rights, database rights, rights in designs, trade secrets, know-how and other *intellectual property rights*, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including applications for registration, and all rights or forms of protection having equivalent or similar effect in any jurisdiction.

- 👉 **Note:** The *IHTSDO* owns the *intellectual property rights* of *SNOMED CT*. The *IHTSDO* is responsible for ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution of *SNOMED CT*.

Alternatives

IPR
Intellectual Property
IP

International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation



The *International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)* is a not-for-profit association that develops and promotes use of *SNOMED CT* to support safe and effective health information exchange.

Alternatives

IHTSDO

Intersection



In set theory the *intersection* of the sets A and B, is the set of all objects that are members of both A and B.

- 👉 **Note:** Set theory is applied when describing the intended result of combinations of Reference Sets or Constraints.

IS A



The RelationshipType that defines a supertype - *subtype*. *Relationship* between two *Concepts*. Usually expressed as *subtype* | is a | supertype. For Example, Blister with infection | is a | Infection of skin.

ISO



ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is the world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards. *ISO* is a network of the national standards institutes from over 160 countries, one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system.

ISO TC215



ISO TC215 is the *ISO* Technical Committee for Standardization in the field of information for health, and Health Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Its objectives are to enable compatibility and interoperability between independent systems, to ensure compatibility of data for comparative statistical purposes (e.g. classifications), and to reduce duplication of effort and redundancies.

Chapter 12

K



Kind of value



The nature of a value that may be associated with a *Concept*. For example, the *concept* | systolic blood pressure | can label a numeric value. The Kind-of-Value that it labels is a pressure.

Chapter 13

L



Language

For purposes of *SNOMED CT* translations, a *language* is a vocabulary and grammatical form that has been allocated an ISO639-1 *language* code. See also *dialect*.



LOINC

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes, a dataset of universal identifiers for identifying medical laboratory observations and other clinical observations to facilitate exchange and storage of clinical results or vital signs.



Alternatives

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes

Chapter 14

M



Machine readable concept model



A representation of the rules that comprise the *SNOMED CT Concept Model* in a form that can be processed by computer software and applied to validate content.

Note: The *Machine readable concept model* can be applied to support consistent authoring of *SNOMED CT* content and can also support the creation of valid *postcoordinated expressions* in instance data.

Alternatives
MRCM

Managed content addition



An implementation strategy that involves creating additional *concepts*, *Descriptions* and *Relationships* in an extension so that data can be recorded to the required level of detail using only *precoordinated expressions*.

Note: A *description logic classifier* can be used to obtain an updated inferred view of the whole terminology in order to support data retrieval.

Alternatives
MCA

Mapping



The process of converting data from a representation in one code system, classification or terminology so that it is represented in another code system, classification or terminology.

Note:

The process as a whole includes the preparation and maintenance of resources used to enable this conversion and the application of such resources to convert instance data.

In *SNOMED CT Mapping* resources are distributed as [see [Simple](#)] and [see [Complex and Extended Map Reference Sets](#)]

Alternatives
Cross Mapping

Member



A Member of the *International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)* in accordance with the *IHTSDO* Articles of Association.

Alternatives
IHTSDO member

Member territory



A territory that is represented by an *IHTSDO Member* (as published by the Licensor from time to time)

Metadata



SNOMED CT content (including *concepts*, *Descriptions* and *Relationships*) that is used to describe or provide additional information about *SNOMED* content and derivatives (including *reference sets*).

Note:

All *SNOMED CT* metadata *concepts* are *subtypes* of 900000000000441003 | SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata) |. The top level of the metadata hierarchy represent broad groups of metadata as shown below.

- 900000000000441003 | SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata) |
 - 106237007 | Linkage concept (linkage concept) | ...
 - 370136006 | Namespace concept (namespace concept) | ...
 - 900000000000442005 | Core metadata concept (core metadata concept) | ...
 - 900000000000454005 | Foundation metadata concept (foundation metadata concept) | ...

Figure 2: Top level of the SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy

Alternatives

SNOMED CT Metadata

Migration



See *Operational migration*, *Data migration* and *Predicate migration*.

Model of meaning



An information model that is structured in a way that is designed to provide a common representation of particular types of information which is reusable between different use cases. A model of a meaning combines structural and terminological component in ways that avoid ambiguity and minimize alternative representations of similar meanings.

Example: A model that specifies a how *SNOMED CT expressions* are used to represent in a particular *reference information model* to represent clinical findings and procedures in an *electronic health record*.

Note: In contrast, a *model of use* represents the underlying meaning in a way that is determined by a limited set use cases.

Model of use



An information model that is structured in a way suggested by a particular intended use of the information that will be represented by that model.

Example: A database that is structured with tables and fields that match specific *user interface* forms and the data entry box on those forms.

Note: In contrast, a *model of meaning* represents the underlying meaning in a way that is common to and reusable between different use cases.

Modeler



A person who directly edits the logic definitions and other structures of the terminology. Also sometimes called Clinical Editor or Terminology Manager.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT modeler

Modeller

SNOMED CT author**Modeling**

The process of editing logic definitions to reflect the meaning intended by the *Fully Specified Name*.

**Alternatives**

SNOMED CT modeling
Modelling
SNOMED CT authoring

Monohierarchy

A *Monohierarchy* is a hierarchy in which each node is linked to one and only one parent node.

This type of hierarchy can be represented as a tree with a single root to which each node is attached.

**Alternatives**

Monohierarchical classification

Moved elsewhere

A *Status* value applicable to a *component* that has been moved to another *Namespace*. *Concepts* or *Descriptions* may be moved from an *Extension* to the *International Release*, from the *International Release* to an *Extension* or between one *Extension* and another. Moves occur if responsibility for supporting the *Concepts* changes to another organization .



👉 **Note:** Component status value

Chapter 15

N



Namespace concept




A *Concept* that exists to represent a *SNOMED CT Namespace-Identifier*. All *Namespace Concepts* are direct *subtypes* of the *Concept "Namespace Concept"* which is a *subtype* of the *Top-Level Concept "Special Concept"*.

Namespace identifier



A seven digit number allocated by the *IHTSDO* to an organization that is permitted to maintain a *SNOMED CT Extension*. The *namespace identifier* forms part of the *SCTID* allocated every *component* that originated as part of an *Extension*. Therefore, it prevents collision between *SCTIDs* issued by different organizations. The *namespace-identifier* indicates the provenance of each *SNOMED CT component*.

 **Note:** Short format *SCTIDs*, which are used for *components* that originate in the *International Release*, do not include a *namespace-identifier*. In this case the *partition identifier* provides sufficient information about the origin of the component.

Alternatives

Extension namespace identifiers
Namespaceld

National Health Service



Located in the United Kingdom, the *National Health Service (NHS)* worked with the College of American Pathologists in the development of *SNOMED CT*. The *NHS* is was one of the founder Members of the *IHTSDO* that is now responsible for *SNOMED CT*.

Alternatives

UK National Health Service
UK NHS
NHS

National Library of Medicine



The *National Library of Medicine (NLM)*, in Bethesda, Maryland, is a part of the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). *NLM* is the world's largest medical library. The *NLM* represents the US, as a founder Member of the *IHTSDO*.

Alternatives

NLM

National Release Center



The organization within an *IHTSDO Member* country that is responsible for maintaining and releasing *SNOMED CT* content including any *National Extensions* of *SNOMED CT*.

Natural language processing



Natural *Language* processing (*NLP*) is concerned with the interactions between computers and human-readable *languages*. *NLP* includes understanding and generation of human-readable representations.

NLP understanding systems convert human-readable text into formal representations, which may for example include *SNOMED CT expressions*, to enable more effective processing by other software. NLP generation systems convert information from formal representations into human-readable text.

Alternatives

NLP

Navigation



The process of locating a *Concept* by traversing *Relationships* or *Navigation links*. For example, moving from a supertype *Concept* to more refined *Concepts*, from a specific *Concept* to a more general *Concept* or from a *Concept* to its *Defining characteristics*. *Navigation Links* allow *navigation* to follow intuitive routes through *SNOMED CT* even where there are no direct supertype or *subtype Relationships*.

Navigation concept



A *Concept* that exists only to support *Navigation*. A *Navigation Concept* is not suitable for recording or aggregating information. All *Navigation Concepts*:

- Are direct *subtypes* of the concept "Navigational Concept";
- Have not other supertype or *subtype Relationships*
- Are linked to other *Concepts* only by Navigational Links.

Navigation Hierarchy



A hierarchical view of a set of *SNOMED CT concepts* that is intended to assist navigation at the *user interface*.

👉 **Note:** There are several differences between *navigation hierarchies* and the formal *subtype hierarchy*:

1. Links between *concepts* in a *navigation hierarchy* are represented by an [see [Ordered Reference Set](#)]
2. *Navigation links* do not contribute to the semantic definitions of *concepts*. Therefore, the criteria for creating a *navigation hierarchy* can be based on arbitrary criteria relating to usability;
3. A *navigation hierarchy* may specify the order in which a set of *concepts* are to be displayed when nested under another specified *concept*.

Non-member territory



A territory that is not an *IHTSDO Member Territory*

👉 **Note:** In accordance with *IHTSDO affiliate License*, fees are payable to the *IHTSDO* for use of *SNOMED CT* in non-Member Territories.

Normal form



A representation of a *SNOMED CT expression* in which none of the referenced *concepts* are *fully defined* and where there is no redundancy or duplication of meaning.

👉 **Notes:**

1. *Normal forms* can be used to determine *equivalence* and subsumption between *expressions* and thus assist with selective retrieval.
2. Any *SNOMED CT expression* can be transformed to its *normal form* by replacing each reference to a *fully defined concept* with a nested *expression* representing the definition of that *concept*. Transformation rules then resolve redundancies, which may arise from expanding *fully defined concepts*, by removing less specific *attribute values*.

Normal form transformation



The process of converting a *SNOMED CT expression* into its *normal form*.

 **Notes:**

1. The *normal form* provides a way compare different *expressions* which have a similar meaning.
2. The transformation rules are described in [see [Transforming expressions to normal forms](#)].

Alternatives

Transform

Transformation

Chapter 16

O



openEHR



openEHR is an international not-for-profit Foundation working toward making the interoperable, life-long *electronic health record* a reality and improving health care in the information society. It develops specifications that are primarily based on and extend key aspects of the *CEN* Standard for *Electronic Health Record Communication* (EN 13606).

Operational migration



Steps taken to enable an organization that either used a previous coding scheme (or no clinical coding scheme) to make use of *SNOMED CT*.

Chapter 17

P



Partition-identifier



The second and third digits from the right of the string rendering of the *SCTID*. The value of the *partition-identifier* indicates the type of component that the *SCTID* identifies (e.g. *Concept*, *Description*, *Relationship*, etc) and also indicates whether the *SCTID* contains a *namespace identifier*.

Alternatives

PartitionId

Pending move



A *Status* value applicable to a *component* that is thought to belong in a different *Namespace* but which is maintained with its current *SCTID* while awaiting addition to the new *Namespace*. A new *Concept* and associated *Descriptions* may be added with this *Status* where a missing *SNOMED CT Concept* is urgently required to support the needs of a particular *Extension*. Existing *Concepts* are also given this *status* when it is recognized that they should be moved to a different *Extension* or to the *International Release*. See also *Moved elsewhere*.

Note: Component status value.

Phrase equivalence



Two words or phrases with a similar meaning. For example, "renal calculus" and "kidney stone". See *Word Equivalents*.

Polyhierarchy



A *Polyhierarchy* is a hierarchy in which each node has one or more parents.

This type of hierarchy can be represented as a graph in which each node has a one or more directed links to or from other nodes. Since a node in a hierarchy cannot be a *descendant* of itself the resulting graph must not contain cyclic *Relationships*. This type of graphs is referred to as a "*Directed Acyclic Graph*".

Alternatives

Polyhierarchical classification

Postcoordinated expression



Representation of a clinical meaning using a combination of two or more *concept identifiers* is referred to as *postcoordination*.

Note: Some clinical meanings may be represented in several different ways. *SNOMED CT* technical specifications include guidance for transforming logical *expressions* to a common *canonical form*.

Example: *SNOMED CT* includes the following *concepts*:

125605004 | fracture of bone |
363698007 | finding site |
71341001 | bone structure of femur |

SNOMED CT also includes a *precoordinated concept* for 71620000 | fracture of femur |. Therefore It is possible to represent the clinical meaning "fracture of femur" in different ways:

- as a *precoordinated expression*:
 - 71620000 | fracture of femur |
- or as a *postcoordinated expression*:
 - 125605004 | fracture of bone | : 363698007 | finding site | = 71341001 | bone structure of femur |

Alternatives

Postcoordinated
Postcoordination

Precoordinated expression



Representation of a clinical meaning using a single *concept identifier* is referred to as a *precoordinated expression*.

Note: In contrast, *expressions* that contain two or more *concepts Identifier* are referred to as *postcoordinated expressions*. For more information and examples see the glossary entry for *postcoordinated expression*.

Alternatives

precoordinated expression
Precoordinated
Precoordination

Predicate migration



Steps taken to enable pre-existing data retrieval predicates (including queries, standard reports and decision support protocols) to be converted or utilized in a system using *SNOMED CT*.

Preferred term



The *term* that is deemed to be the most clinically appropriate way of expressing a *Concept* in a clinical record. The *Preferred Term* varies according to language and *dialect*.

- Note:** In *Release Format 2* the *Preferred Term* is indicated by the *acceptabilityId* field of a [Language Refset](#).
- Note:** In *Release Format 1* the *Preferred Term* is indicated by a *Language Subset* and/or the *DescriptionType* field of the *Description file*.

Primitive concept




A *concept* with a formal logic definition that is not sufficient to distinguish its meaning from other similar *concepts*.

- Note:**

The meaning of *SNOMED CT concept* is expressed in a human-readable form by its *Fully Specified Name*. Each *concept* also has a formal logic definition represented by a set of defining *relationships* to other *concepts*. This logic definition is computer processable. A *primitive concept* does not have sufficient defining *relationships* to computably distinguish them from more general *concepts* (supertypes).

See also *sufficiently defined concept*.

 **Example:** The *concept* 5596004|atypical appendicitis (disorder)| is *primitive* because the following definition is not sufficient to distinguish "atypical appendicitis" from any other type of "appendicitis".

- 116680003 | is a | = 74400008 | appendicitis |
- 116676008 | associated morphology | = 23583003 | inflammation |
- 363698007 | finding site | = 66754008 | appendix structure |

Figure 3: Definition of: |atypical appendicitis (disorder)| (primitive)

Chapter 18

Q



Qualifying characteristic




An *attribute-value relationship* associated with a *concept* code to indicate to users that it may be applied to refine the meaning of the code. The set of qualifying *relationships* provide syntactically correct values that can be presented to a user for *postcoordination*. Example: 'Revision *status*' = 'First revision' is a possible *qualifying characteristic* of 'Hip replacement'. A *qualifying characteristic* is contrasted with a *defining characteristic*. It is referred to in *CTV3* as a '*Qualifier*'.

Alternatives
Qualifier

Quality characteristic



A type of attribute of a component by which its quality is assessed or measured.

 **Note:** The set of *IHTSDO quality characteristics* are a typology of attributes of an *IHTSDO Component* by which its quality is assessed or measured. A typology is the study or systematic classification of types that have attributes or traits in common.

Quality metric



An agreed method and means for measuring levels of achievement, performance or conformance of a component or its *Quality characteristic(s)*.

Quality target




An agreed level of achievement, performance or conformance of a component for any given *Quality characteristic*.

Query predicate



A statement of a condition that determines whether candidate instance data should be included in or excluded from a selection.

 **Note:** *Query predicates* applied to a set of *SNOMED CT expressions* may test for subsumption of the overall meaning and/or may test the values applied to particular *attributes* in the *expression*.

Chapter 19

R



Range



A constrained set of values that the *Concept Model* permits to be applied to a specific *attribute* when that *attribute* is applied to a *concept* in a particular *domain*.

- 👉 **Note:** The *range* of permitted values that can be applied to an *attribute* is typically defined to include concepts in one or more branches of the subtype hierarchy.
- 👉 **Example:** The *range* for values of 116676008 | Associated morphology | is subtypes of 49755003 | Morphologically abnormal structure |.

Alternatives

Concept model range

Read Code



A five-character code allocated to a *concept* or *term* in *CTV3*. Note that codes allocated in *Read Codes Version 2* and the *Read Codes 4-Byte Set* are also included in *CTV3*. The original 4-byte codes are distinguished from 5-byte codes in the general representation by prefixing them with a full stop.

Alternatives

Read Codes 4-Byte Set

Read Codes Version 2

Realm



A sphere of authority, expertise, or preference that influences the range of *components* required, or the frequency with which they are used. A *Realm* may be a nation, an organization, a professional discipline, a specialty, or an individual user.

Record services



Functions performed by software that interacts with a record system used to capture information which may include references to information in a terminology.

- 👉 **Note:** *Record services* are intimately related to ways in which information is entered, stored and retrieved by a particular application. These services interact with *Terminology services* but, unlike *Terminology services* they are usually specific to a particular application.

Reference information model



A high-level generalized model that allows information to be represented and related consistently within a particular field of human endeavor.

- 👉 **Note:** The *Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model* is the most widely used *reference information model* in health care.

Reference set



A work consisting of a set of references to *SNOMED CT components* that may associate additional properties with *components* that are members of the set and/or which may indicate associations between members of the set or between members of the set and content of another nomenclature, classification or knowledge structure. The uses of *Reference sets* include identification of subsets of *SNOMED CT* content, representation of alternative hierarchical structures and *maps* to classifications.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT reference set
Refset

Reference set member



A uniquely identified row within the *snapshot view* of a *reference set*.

Note:

1. Different versions of a *reference set member* may share the same identifier (*id*) but have different *effectiveTimes*. This allows a *reference set member* to be modified or made *inactive* (i.e. removed from the active set) at a specified time.
2. Each *reference set* has an identifier (*refsetId*) and contains one or more *reference set members*. Each *reference set member* has its own unique identifier (*id*) which allows it to be versioned using the *effectiveTime* and *active* fields. All *reference set members* also contain a *referencedComponentId* (which refers to a component that is part of the set) and other fields that depend on the type of *reference set*.

Reference terminology



A terminology in which each *term* has a formal computer processable definition that supports meaning based retrieval and aggregation. *SNOMED CT* is a *reference terminology*

Relationship



An association between a source *concept* and a destination *concept*. The nature of the association is indicated by a reference to another *concept* referred to as the *relationship type*.

Notes:

1. Each *relationship* provides information about the source *concept*. In the example below
2. *Relationships* are represented by rows in the *Relationship File*

Example:

Table 6: Illustrative example of a *Relationship*

source	type	destination
74400008 appendicitis	363698007 finding site	66754008 appendix structure

Alternatives

SNOMED CT relationship

SNOMED CT Release



The content of a version of a *SNOMED CT Edition* that has been made available to licensees at a particular point in time.

Release file



A computer file used to distribute *SNOMED CT* content from the *IHTSDO* (or from the originator of an *Extension*) in a form that can be readily imported by a software application.

SNOMED CT release files follow one of the *release format* specifications *RF1* or *RF2*.

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT release file
- SNOMED CT distribution file

Release format



A file structure specified by the *IHTSDO* for files used to distribute *SNOMED CT* content.

Note: There are currently two *release formats*: *Release Format 1* and *Release Format 2*.

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT release format
- SNOMED CT distribution format

Release Format 1



The file structure specified by the *IHTSDO* for the files used to distribute *SNOMED CT* content in 2002.

Note: This format was replaced by *Release Format 2* in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the *SNOMED CT International Release*. However, for backward compatibility *Release Format 1* files can be generated using a conversion utility and continue to be distributed available during an interim transitional period.

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT Release Format 1
- RF1

Release Format 2



The file structure specified by the *IHTSDO* for files used to distribute *SNOMED CT* content from 2011.

Note: See also: *Release Format 1*.

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT Release Format 2
- RF2

Release Type



The temporal scope and completeness of a *Release Format 2* file or set of files.

Table 7: SNOMED CT Release Types

<i>Release Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Full	The files representing each type of component contain every version of every component ever released.

<i>Release Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
Snapshot	The files representing each type of component contain one version of every component released up to the time of the snapshot. The version of each component contained in a snapshot is the most recent version of that component at the time of the snapshot.
Delta	The files representing each type of component contain only component versions created since the previous release. Each component version in a <i>delta release</i> represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.

Root concept


The single *concept* that is at the top of the | SNOMED CT Concept | hierarchy.



Root metadata concept

The single *concept* that is at the top of the | SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata) | hierarchy.



 **Note:** Most of the data in the metadata hierarchy is only relevant to *Release Format 2*. Therefore, this *concept* may not be present in some *Release Format 1* files.

Alternatives

Root metadata code

Chapter 20

S



Situation with explicit context



A *concept* that specifically includes a definition the context of use of a clinical finding or procedure.

Example: "Family history of diabetes mellitus" is a situation with explicit *concept* because it defines the context as "family history". In contrast, "diabetes mellitus" is not a *situation with explicit context* because it can be used in many different situations including "family history", "past medical history", "current diagnosis", etc.

Note: A *situation with explicit context* is defined as a *subtype* of the situation to which it applies with an attribute associating it with the relevant clinical finding or procedure.

Alternatives

Explicit context
Clinical situation

Snapshot release



A *Release Type* in which the *release files* contain one version of every component released up to the time of the snapshot. The version of each component contained in a snapshot is the most recent version of that component at the time of the snapshot.

Snapshot view



A view of *SNOMED CT* that includes all the components in the state there were in at a specified point in time. A *Snapshot view* be provided by a fixed representation that matches the content of a *Snapshot release* or may be generated as a *Dynamic snapshot view* by filtering a *Full view*.

SNOMED



An acronym for the **S**ystematized**N**omenclature of **M**edicine originally developed by the College of American Pathologists and now owned and maintained by the *IHTSDO*. *SNOMED Clinical Terms* is the most recent version of this terminology. It was preceded by *SNOMED RT* and *SNOMED International*.

SNOMED Clinical Terms



SNOMED CT is a clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the *IHTSDO*. It is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual healthcare terminology in the world. It was created as a result of the merger of *SNOMED RT* and *NHS Clinical Terms Version 3*.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT

SNOMED CT Edition



The combination of a *SNOMED CT Extension* with the *SNOMED CT International Edition* and, where relevant, any module from other *Extensions* on which the *SNOMED CT Extension* depends.

- 👉 **Note:** A *SNOMED CT Edition* may be released by the provider of the *SNOMED CT Extension*. However, in general a *SNOMED CT Edition* is derived by combining the *SNOMED CT Extension* release files with relevant release data from the *SNOMED CT International Edition* and any other *Extensions* on which it depends.

Alternatives Edition

SNOMED CT Extension



A set of terminology *components* and *derivatives* that add to and are dependent on the *SNOMED CT International Edition*, and are created, structured, maintained and distributed in accordance with *SNOMED CT* specifications and guidelines.

👉 **Notes:**

1. *Components* that are created in an *extension* are identified using *extension SCTIDs*. These identifiers include an *extension namespace* which ensures that they do not collide with other *SCTIDs*, and can be traced to an authorized originator.
2. *Namespace identifiers* are allocated in response to requests from *IHTSDO Members* and *Affiliates*. For further information about this process and for access to the current *SNOMED CT Namespace Register* please refer to the [IHTSDO web page on Namespaces](#).
3. *IHTSDO Members* may create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to address specific national, regional and language requirements. *IHTSDO Affiliates* may also create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to meet the needs of particular software solutions and customers.
4. See also *Edition* which refers to the combination of an *extension* with the *International Release* and, where relevant, any modules from other *extensions* on which it depends.

Alternatives Extension

SNOMED CT Identifier



A unique *integer* identifier applied to each *SNOMED CT component* (*Concept, Description, Relationship, Subset, etc.*). Each *SCTID* includes an item identifier, a *check-digit*, a *partition identifier* and, depending on the *partition identifier*, may also include a *namespace identifier*.

Alternatives Identifier SCTID

SNOMED CT International Edition



The part of *SNOMED CT* that is maintained and distributed by the *IHTSDO* and available to all *IHTSDO Members* and *Affiliates* as the shared foundation of the terminology.

👉 **Notes:**

1. The *International edition*, provided by the *IHTSDO*, may be supplemented by *Extensions* maintained by *IHTSDO Members* and *Affiliates* to meet additional national, local and organizational requirements.
2. The combination of the *International edition* with a *National Extension* is referred to as a *National Edition*.
3. The *International release* refers to a release of content from the *International edition* at a particular release date.

Alternatives International edition

SNOMED CT International Release



The set of *release files* provided on a specified release date, to represent the part of the content of *SNOMED CT* that forms the common foundation to the terminology available to all *IHTSDO Members* and *Affiliates*.

Notes:

1. The *International release*, provided by the *IHTSDO*, may be supplemented by *Extension* releases provided by *IHTSDO Members* and *Affiliates* to meet additional national, local and organizational requirements.
2. See also *International Edition* which refers to the same general content, without specifying a particular release date.

Alternatives

International Release

SNOMED CT Module



A group of *SNOMED CT components* and/or *reference set members* that are at a given point in time managed, maintained and distributed as a unit.

Notes:

1. *Components* and *reference set members* that are part of the same *module* share the same *moduleId* value.
2. Each *component* and *reference set member* is a part of one and only one *module* as at a given point in time.
3. The organization responsible for a *module* can move a *component* and *reference set member* from that *module* to another *module* that the same organization is responsible for, by creating a revised version of the *component* or *reference set member* with a different *moduleId* that applies from the *effectiveTime* of the revised version.
4. Subject to rules related to movement of components between two extensions or between an extension and the International Edition, it is possible for a *component* and *reference set member* to be moved between *modules* maintained by different organizations.


Alternatives

Module

SNOMED CT National Edition



The combination of a *National Extension* with the *SNOMED CT International Edition* and, where relevant, any module from other *Extensions* on which the *National Extension* depends.

-  **Note:** The *National Edition* may be made available to licensees at a particular release date as part of a *National Release*. However a *National Edition* can also be derived by combining the *National Extension* release files with relevant release data from the *SNOMED CT International Edition* and any other *Extensions* on which it depends.


Alternatives

National Edition

SNOMED CT National Extension



A *SNOMED CT Extension* that is maintained by an *IHTSDO Member* for use in a particular country.

-  **Note:** See also *National Edition* which refers to the combination of a *National Extension* with the *International Release* and, where relevant, any modules from other *Extensions* on which it depends.

Alternatives

National Edition

SNOMED CT National Release



A National Extension and/or *National Edition* as made available to licensees by an *IHTSDO Member* at a particular release date.

Notes:

1. The *National Release* is made available as a set of *release files* which contain components and derivatives from a National Extension maintained and distributed by an *IHTSDO Member*.
2. A *National release* may also include the *SNOMED CT International Release* on which it depends, in which case it is a release of the *National Edition*.
3. Alternatively, a *National Release* may consist only of the *National Extension release files* for the specified release date. In this case, the *National Edition* is generated by combining these files with the *International Release* on which it depends.

Alternatives

National Release

SNOMED International



SNOMED International is the version of *SNOMED*® that was first released in 1993 and which, as version 3.5 released in 1998, It was the immediate predecessor of *SNOMED RT*.

SNOMED Reference terminology



The version of *SNOMED*® prior to the collaborative effort to develop *SNOMED Clinical Terms*. It was one of the source terminologies, along with *CTV3*, from which *SNOMED CT* was developed.

Alternatives

SNOMED RT

Sponsored Territory



A Non-Member Territory that has been recognized and designated by the Licensor (*IHTSDO*) as a sponsored territory

- 👉 **Note:** *SNOMED CT* may be used free of charge by *IHTSDO affiliates* and their sub-licensees in Sponsored Territories. Information about Sponsored Territories is published on the *IHTSDO* web site.

Stated view



The *stated view* of a *Concept* definition consists of the *Relationships* directly edited by terminology authors. It consists of the stated *subtype Relationships* plus the defining *Relationships* that exist prior to running a *Description Logic classifier*.

- 👉 **Note:** The *Relationships* distributed in the main *Relationships* files are inferred from the stated *Relationships* using a *Description Logic classifier* to ensure consistency and completeness. The *stated view* is distributed in the [Stated Relationships File](#).

Alternatives

Stated form

Statistical classification



A hierarchical organization of *terms* or ideas that allows aggregation into categories that can be counted and compared without double counting. A *statistical classification* is monohierarchical which means that each node in the *hierarchy* is part of one node is the level above. This avoids double counting but means that arbitrary decisions must be made where a node is naturally related to more than one parent. For example,

in a *statistical classification* such as *ICD-10*, 'bacterial pneumonia' is related to 'lung disorder' or 'infection disorder' but not to both.

Structure-Entire-Part



A modeling approach used in SNOMED CT to represent anatomical entities such as body organs, body systems, body regions, etc.

- **Structure** is the most general way to refer to an organ, body system or region.
- **Entire** refers to a complete organ, body system or region.
- **Part** refers to a part of an organ, body system or region. It explicitly does not refer to the entire organ, body system or region.

👉 **Example:** The figure below illustrates the relationships between the structure, entire and part concepts applied to a the heart.

- 80891009| heart structure |
- 302509004| entire heart |
- 119202000| heart part |

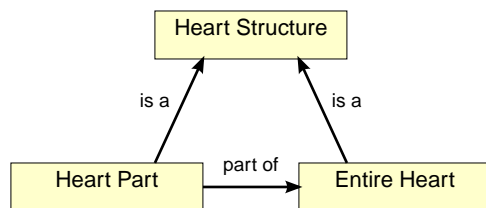


Figure 4: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

Alternatives SEP

Subset



A set of *components* which part of and fully included with a larger set (e.g. a specified set of *Concepts* or *Descriptions*)

👉 Notes:

1. In Release Format 2 the standard way to represent a *subset* of *components* is by using a [Simple Reference Set](#)
2. In Release Format 1 the term *subset* has the following special meaning:
 - A group of *components* (e.g. *Concepts*, *Descriptions* or *Relationships*) that share a specified common characteristic or common type of characteristic. *Subsets* represent information that affects the way the *components* are displayed or otherwise accessible within a particular *realm*, speciality, application or context.

This special meaning arose from the "Subset Mechanism" which has now been replaced by *Reference Sets*. Therefore, except when referring to RF1 files the term *subset* should should now be used for its more correct general meaning.

Subsumption test



A test to determine whether a specified candidate *concept* or *expression* is a *subtype descendant* of another specified *concept* or *expression*.

Alternatives

Subtype test

Subtype



A specialization of a *concept*, sharing all the definitional attributes of the parent *concept*, with additional *defining characteristics*. For example, bacterial infectious disease is a *subtype* of infectious disease. Bacterial septicemia, bacteremia, bacterial peritonitis, etc. are *subtypes* of bacterial infectious disease (and infectious disease as well). *Subtype* is sometimes used to refer to the *concepts* in a *hierarchy* that are directly related to a parent *concept* via the | is a | *relationship*. In this usage, it is distinguished from *descendants* which explicitly includes *subtypes of subtypes*

Subtype child



A *concept* that has a direct | is a | *subtype Relationship* to a specified *concept*. See also *subtype* and *subtype descendant*.

Example:

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which *concept* "E" has three *subtype children* (G, H and J).

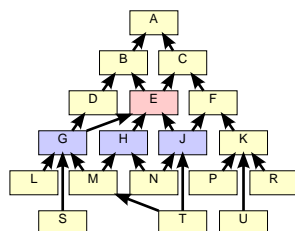


Figure 5: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

Alternatives

Subtype children
Child
Children

Subtype classification



A classification hierarchy in which each node is connected to its supertypes. This allows aggregation of information based on a hierarchy of types.

Alternatives

Subtype hierarchy

Subtype descendant



All *subtypes* of a *concept*, including *subtypes of subtypes*. For example, if a *concept* has four *children*, then *descendants* are those *children* plus all the *concepts* that are descended from those four *children*. See also *subtype* and *subtype child*.

Example:

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which *concept* "E" has eight *subtype descendants* (G, H, J, L, M, N, S and T).

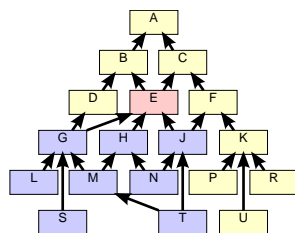


Figure 6: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype descendants

Alternatives

Descendant

Sufficiently defined concept



A *concept* with a formal logic definition that is sufficient to distinguish its meaning from other similar *concepts*.

Note:

The meaning of *SNOMED CT concept* is expressed in a human-readable form by its *Fully Specified Name* (FSN) and has a formal logic definition represented by a set of defining *relationships* to other *concepts*. A *Sufficiently defined concept* has sufficient defining *relationships* to computably distinguish it from other *concepts*.

See also *primitive concept*.

Example: The *concept* 74400008|appendicitis (disorder)| is *sufficiently defined* by the following definition because any *concept* for which this definition was true would be the disorder "appendicitis".

- 116680003 | is a | = 18526009 | disorder of appendix |
- 116680003 | is a | = 302168000 | inflammation of large intestine |
- 116676008 | associated morphology | = 23583003 | inflammation |
- 363698007 | finding site | = 66754008 | appendix structure |

Figure 7: Definition of: |appendicitis (disorder)| (sufficiently defined)

Alternatives

Fully defined concept

Supertype ancestor



Any *concepts* of which the specified *concept* is a *subtype*. Includes the *supertype parents* and the *supertype parents* of each *supertype parent* and so on recursively until the *root concept* is reached.

Example:

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which *concept* "T" has ten *supertype ancestors* A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, and M).

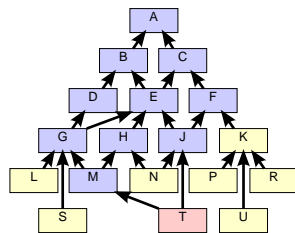


Figure 8: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype ancestors

Alternatives

Ancestor

Supertype parent



A *concept* that is the target of a direct | is a | *subtype Relationship* from a specified *concept* (see also *supertype ancestor*).

Example:

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which *concept* "T" has two *supertype parents* (J and M).

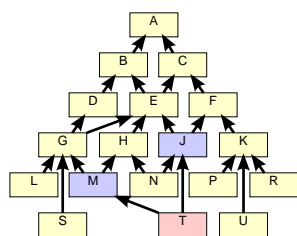


Figure 9: Hierarchy Illustration - Supertype parents

Synonym

A *term* that is an acceptable way to express the meaning of a *SNOMED CT concept* in a particular *language*.



👉 Note:

1. *Synonyms* are represented as *SNOMED CT descriptions* with the *typeId* value 900000000000013009 | *Synonym* |.
2. *Synonyms* allow representations of the various ways a *concept* may be described.
3. *Synonyms* (unlike *fully specified names*) are not necessarily unique because the same *term* can be used to describe more than one *concept*.
4. The *preferred term* is the *synonym* marked as preferred for use in the [Language reference set](#) for a given *language* or *dialect*.

Chapter 21

T



Target code

A code or other *Identifier* within a *Target Scheme*.



Target scheme

A terminology, coding scheme or classification to which some or all *SNOMED CT Concepts* are mapped.



Technology Preview

An experimental status applied to a collection of *SNOMED CT release files* that represent a proposed additions of *components* and/or *derivatives* to the *SNOMED CT International Release* or to a *SNOMED CT Extension*. The *Technology Preview* status indicates the releasing party (*IHTSDO* or the owner of the *Extension*) is only releasing these additional *components* or *derivatives* for review and testing by implementers and other stakeholder. The objective of a *Technology Preview* is to test the chosen approach and elicit comments before committing to the content and/or release format for the additional material. It is likely that, prior to release of a *Candidate Baseline*, significant changes may be made to address comments made and issues identified by testing.



- 👉 **Note:** The significance a *Technology Preview* release is that this data should not be used in an operational environment that may incorporate the data into a record or create a dependency on continued maintenance of the additional *components* or *derivatives*.

Term

A human-readable phrase that names or describes a *concept*. A *term* is one of the properties of a *description*. Other properties of a *description* link the *term* to an identified *concept* and indicate the type of *description* (e.g. *Fully Specified Name*, *Synonym*, etc.).



Terminology binding

A link between a terminology component and an information model artifact, such as class or attribute in a *electronic health record* or message.



👉 Notes:

1. Terminology components include *SNOMED CT expressions*, *reference sets* and constraints.
2. Information model artifacts include classes and attributes in reference models for *electronic health records* and communication specifications.
3. *Terminology binding* can also be used to refer to the process of creating and persisting links between terminology components and information model artifacts.

👉 Examples:

1. A set of coded values that may be applied to a particular attribute in an information model. The set may be expressed either explicitly (extensionally) or as a definitional constraint (intensionally).

2. The association between a named attribute value in the information model and a specific coded value or *expression*.
3. A rule that determines the way that a coded *expression* is constructed based on multiple attribute values in the information model.

Terminology server



Software that provides access to *SNOMED CT* (and/or to other terminologies). A *terminology server* typically supports searches and *Navigation through Concepts*. A server may provide a *user interface* (e.g. a *browser* or set of screen controls) or may provide low-level software services to support access to the terminology by other applications. See the *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide*.

Alternatives

SNOMED CT terminology server

Terminology services



Functions performed by software that interacts with one or more representations of the terminology and provide access to information derived from the terminology.

Note: *Terminology services* can be generalized, so that they are independent of the way the terminology is used in a particular application. *Terminology services* may be used by *record services* that enter, store and retrieve information that includes *SNOMED CT expressions*. In contrast to *terminology services*, *record services* are usually specific to the design of a particular application.

Textual definition



An additional textual *description* applied to some *SNOMED CT concepts* that provides additional information about the intended meaning or usage of the *concept*.

Note:

Textual definitions are distributed in a file that follows the same structure as the *Description file* (RF2) but the terms permitted by the "textual definition" are much longer the 255 character limited applied to *synonyms* and *fully specified names*. Textual definitions are not essential for *SNOMED CT implementations* but they are useful as they provide narrative *Descriptions of concepts* that may be easier to understand than the shorter terms.

These *Descriptions* go beyond the detail of the *Fully Specified Name* as shown in the example below.

Example:

Table 8: Textual Definition

conceptId	Fully Specified Name	Textual Definition
11530004	Brittle diabetes mellitus (finding)	Diabetes mellitus in which there are frequent, clinically significant fluctuations in blood glucose levels both above and below levels expected to be achieved by available therapies.

Top level concept code



A *Concept Code* that is directly related to the *Root Concept Code* by a single *Relationship* of the *Relationship Type* | is a |. All *Concept Codes* (except for metadata *concepts*) are descended from at least one Top-Level *Concept Code* via at least one series of *Relationships* of the *Relationship Type* | Is a |".

Top level metadata code



A *Concept Code* that is directly related to the *Root Metadata Code* by a single *Relationship* of the *Relationship Type* | is a |. All Metadata *Concept Codes* are descended from at least one Top-Level Metadata *Concept Code* via at least one series of *Relationships* of the *Relationship Type*"| Is a |".

👉 **Note:** Most of the data in the metadata hierarchy is only relevant to Release Format 2. Therefore, this concept may not be present in Release Format 1 files.

Transitive closure



A comprehensive view of all the *supertype ancestors* of a *concept* derived by traversing all the | is a | *relationships* between that *concept* and the *root concept*.

👉 **Note:** A *transitive closure* table represents the *transitive closure* of all *active concepts*.

Translation



The process of rendering text originally written in one language (source language) into another language (target language).

Translation source language



The language in which the original text is written.

👉 **Example:** English is the source language for the *International edition* of *SNOMED CT*.

Alternatives

Source language

Translation target language



A language into which the original text is being translated or rendered.

👉 **Example:** For the Spanish language edition, Spanish is the target language.

Alternatives

Target language

Translation Service Provider



Person or organization supplying a translation service.

Alternatives

TSP

Chapter 22

U



Understandability, Reproducibility and Usefulness



Criteria applied to test the validity of new *concepts* and design features of *SNOMED CT*.

- Understandable: The meaning of a *concept* can be understood by an average health care provider, without reference to private or inaccessible information.
- Reproducible: Multiple users apply the *concept* to the same situations.
- Useful: The *concept* has a practical value to users that is self-evident or can be readily explained.

Alternatives

URU

Union



In set theory *union* of the sets A and B, is the set of all objects that are a member of A, or B, or both.

👉 **Note:** Set theory is applied when describing the intended result of combinations of Reference Sets or Constraints.

User interface



The way a software application presents itself to a user including, its on screen appearance, the commands it puts at a users disposal, and the manner in which the user can access and update information by using the application.

Alternatives

UI

Chapter 23

V



Value Set



A uniquely identifiable set of valid concept representations, where any concept representation can be tested to determine whether or not it is a member of the *value set*.

 **Notes:**

1. This definition is used in *HL7* Vocabulary Working Group documents. In *SNOMED CT* a concept representation may be a *concept identifier* or a *SNOMED CT Expression*.
2. A *Reference set* can be used to represent a value set of *SNOMED CT concepts* each of which is represented by a *concept identifier* in the *referencedComponentId* field.

Chapter 24

W



Word equivalent



A word or abbreviation that is stated to be equivalent to one or more other words, phrases or abbreviations for the purposes of textual searches of *SNOMED CT*. *Word Equivalents* and *Phrase equivalents* are represented as rows in the *Word Equivalents Table*.

Workbench



A set of *IHTSDO* sponsored software tools designed to support the development, maintenance, and use of *SNOMED CT* in health systems around the world.

Alternatives

IHTSDO Workbench

World Health Organization



the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. The *World Health Organization* (*WHO*) maintains the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems* (ICD).

Alternatives

WHO