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SNOMED International Glossary

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The SNOMED CT Glossary provides consistent definitions for terms in used in SNOMED CT documentation, E-Learning presentations and related materials. In addition to terms that have specific meanings in relation to SNOMED CT, the glossary also includes more general words and phrases used in the healthcare, informatics and other related domains.

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Introduction

The SNOMED CT Glossary is used to provide consistent definitions for terms in used in SNOMED CT documentation, E-Learning presentations and related materials.

In addition to terms that have specific meanings in relation to SNOMED CT, the glossary also includes more general words and phrases used in the healthcare, informatics and other related domains.

Version Notes

1. The glossary was published in this new format in August 2016, to as part of a planned process of document migration. At the time of publication, the material in the glossary has been carried forward from the previous publication limited changes to fit the new format.
2. Over the next few months the glossary will be reviewed and revised as other documents are migrated to the new platform.
3. Due to the current migration process some links in the document may not reach the appropriate target documents. If a link does not work correctly, please refer to the SNOMED CT Document Library to locate the relevant document.

Comments and Additions

The new format allows more frequent revisions and additions to keep the glossary up-to-date. It also enables you to provide feedback on existing glossary entries and to request additions to the glossary.

- To submit suggested revisions of existing definitions, please use the feedback link at the bottom of the page containing the existing definition.
- To propose additional terms and definitions that are required to understand other SNOMED CT documents and developments, please use the feedback link at the bottom of this page.

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.

Related Links

- 2.6. Meaning of the Active Field
- 2.8. Release Types

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 SNOMED International Affiliate Licensee in accordance with the SNOMED International Affiliate License Agreement.

Alternatives

- **Affiliate Licensee**
- **SNOMED International Affiliate**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

Affiliate Licence

This is a synonym for Affiliate Licence Agreement

The agreement between an SNOMED International Affiliate (the licensee) and the SNOMED International (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**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

Affiliate Licence Agreement

The agreement between an SNOMED International Affiliate (the licensee) and the SNOMED International (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.

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Affiliate Licensee

This is a synonym for Affiliate

An SNOMED International Affiliate Licensee in accordance with the SNOMED International Affiliate License Agreement.

Alternatives

- **Affiliate Licensee**

- **SNOMED International Affiliate**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

Alpha release package

Previously known as the “Technology Preview” Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent a proposed addition of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other items in the SNOMED International Service Catalog. The Alpha status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) is only releasing these additional components or derivatives for review and testing by implementers and other stakeholders. The objective of an Alpha release is to test the chosen approach and elicit feedback before committing to the content and/or release format for the additional material. It is likely that, prior to publication of a Beta release, significant changes may be made to address the feedback received, and issues identified by testing.

Notes

1. The Alpha release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Alpha releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.
3. The significance of Alpha releases is that the 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.

Alternatives

- **Alpha release**
- **Alpha package**

Related Links

- Beta release package
- Production release package

American National Standards Institute

This is the full name for 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

- **American National Standards Institute**

Related Links

- http://www.ansi.org

Ancestor

This is a synonym for 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).

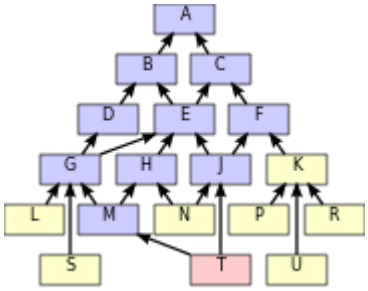

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype ancestors

Alternatives

- **Ancestor**

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

- **American National Standards Institute**

Related Links

- http://www.ansi.org

API

This is an abbreviation for 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**

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**

ATO

This is an abbreviation for Authorized Triage Organization

An organization approved by the SNOMED International 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

Members and their National Release Centers are likely to fulfill this role. In addition, SNOMED International Affiliates and Standards Development Organizations may be eligible for consideration as *Authorized Triage Organizations* .

Alternatives

- **ATO**

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 range of values depends on the rules specified in the concept model.

Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

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 a subtype of |Excision of common bile duct|.

Alternatives

- **AttributeGroup**

Attribute-group

This is a synonym for 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 a subtype of |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 *typeId* 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

- **AttributeName**

Attribute-name

This is a synonym for 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 *typeId* 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

- **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**

Attribute-value

This is a synonym for 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**

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 if 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 SNOMED International 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

Members and their National Release Centers are likely to fulfill this role. In addition, SNOMED International Affiliates and Standards Development Organizations may be eligible for consideration as *Authorized Triage Organizations* .

Alternatives

- **ATO**

Auto classify

This is a synonym for 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**

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**

B

Baseline

Superseded by - Production release package.

Production release package

This Release status applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the SNOMED International Service Catalog.
The Production status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) commits to maintain the release history of this release and all subsequent updates. Thus from the first Production release onwards, the historical audit trail will be maintained throughout the Product's lifetime.

Notes

- The significance of the Production status is that it represents the authoritative release of the product, and implementers can use the additional components and derivatives in operational clinical systems with confidence in the subsequent maintenance of the product.

Alternatives

- **Production release**
- **Production package**

Related Links

- Alpha release package
- Beta release package

Beta release package

Previously known as either "Beta" or "Candidate Baseline" Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the IHTSDO Service Catalog. The Beta status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) expects to subsequently confirm it as a Production release. However, if a significant issue is reported in its format or content during the feedback period, the releasing party reserves the right to withdraw a Beta release, or to replace it with another version of the Beta release, in order to address the issue. The releasing party need not commit to this being an actual Production release until shortly before the due date for the next release.

Notes

1. The Beta release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Beta releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.

3. The significance of the Beta 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 Beta release may be confirmed as a Production edition and, in that case all subsequent updates to the additional components and derivatives will be fully version tracked from the release of the Beta edition.

Alternatives

- **Beta release**
- **Beta package**

Related Links

- Alpha release package
- Production release package

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**

Related Links

- http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed_browsers.html

C

Candidate Baseline

Superseded by - Beta release package.

Beta release package

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Alternatives

- **Beta release**
- **Beta package**

Related Links

- Alpha release package
- Production release package

Canonical form

A 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

The actual or permitted number of elements in a set or other grouping. Modeling rules include constraints on the minimum and maximum *cardinality* of particular attributes or associations between classes.

CDS

An abbreviation for Clinical decision support.

Clinical decision support

A service that supports clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

Notes

1. A clinical decision support system is defined as a computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

Alternatives

- **CDS**

Related Links

- **Decision Support with SNOMED CT**

CDSS

This is an abbreviation for Clinical Decision Support System

Clinical Decision Support System

A computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

Notes

1. Typically a clinical decision support system responds to triggers, such as specific symptoms, signs, diagnoses, laboratory results, medication choices, or complex combinations of these. The system then provides information or recommendations directly relevant to the specific patient.
2. Clinical decision support (CDS) refers to services provided (or potentially provided) by clinical decision support systems.

Alternatives

- **CDSS**

Related Links

- **Decision Support with SNOMED CT**

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**
- **Europäiches Komitee für Normung**
- **European Committee for Standardization**

Related Links

- http://www.cen.eu

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.

Related Links

- 5.4. Check-digit
- 3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers
- 5.4.2. Check-digit Computation

Child

This is a synonym for Subtype child

A concept that has a direct 116680003 |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).

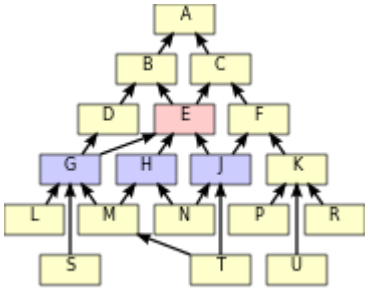

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

Children

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A concept that has a direct 116680003 |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).

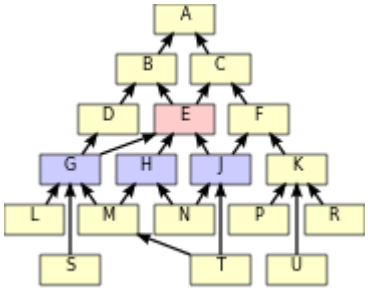

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

CIS

This is an abbreviation for 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**

Classifier

This is a synonym for 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**

Clinical Decision Support

A service that supports clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

Notes

1. A clinical decision support system is defined as a computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

Alternatives

- **CDS**

Related Links

- **Decision Support with SNOMED CT**

Clinical Decision Support System

A computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

Notes

1. Typically a clinical decision support system responds to triggers, such as specific symptoms, signs, diagnoses, laboratory results, medication choices, or complex combinations of these. The system then provides information or recommendations directly relevant to the specific patient.
2. Clinical decision support (CDS) refers to services provided (or potentially provided) by clinical decision support systems.

Alternatives

- **CDSS**

Related Links

- **Decision Support with SNOMED CT**

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 situation

This is a synonym for Situation with explicit context

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

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.

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.

Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

Related Links

- Safely representing the context of recorded codes

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

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

Related Links

- http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/

Collabnet

This is a synonym for 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 SNOMED International *Collaborative Space* supports the communication needs of SNOMED International governance and advisory bodies. SNOMED International 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

- **Confluence**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Confluence Space

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 SNOMED International *Collaborative Space* supports the communication needs of SNOMED International governance and advisory bodies. SNOMED International 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

- **Confluence**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Confluence Space

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.

Notes

- *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.
- *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.

Component

This is a synonym for SNOMED CT Component

A Concept, Description or Relationship that conforms with the SNOMED CT logical model.

Notes

1. The partition-identifier indicates the type of component referred to by that SCTID.
2. Components are released and distributed in file formats that conform to the Release File Specification.
3. A *component* may be part of the SNOMED CT International Edition or in an authorized Extension.

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.

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT compositional grammar**

Related Links

- Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide

Concept

A clinical idea to which a unique concept identifier has been assigned.

Notes

1. SNOMED CT concepts are distributed in the Concept File.
2. Concepts are associated with descriptions that contain human-readable terms describing the concept.
3. Concepts are related to one another by relationships that provide a formal logical definition of the concept.
4. Disambiguation:
   When working with SNOMED CT, it is recommended the default meaning of "concept" refers to a SNOMED CT concept defined as noted above. However, the word "concept" is sometimes used in other more specific or more general ways as noted below.
   - As an abbreviated name for the concept identifier. For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this is should be referred to as an "identifier", "id" or "code" (e.g. "concept id", "concept identifier" or "concept code");
   - In its more general dictionary defined usage referring to an idea or class of real-world entities that may be represented by a concept identifier. For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this is should be referred to as an "idea" or "meaning" (e.g. "a clinical idea" or "clinical meaning" or "code meaning").

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT concept

Related Links

- 3.2.1. Concept File Specification

- Logical Model of SNOMED CT Components
- Concept file

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)|

- 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name (core metadata concept)|
- 900000000000013009 |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 233604007 |Pneumonia (disorder)|, the *Concept Identifier* is 233604007.

Related Links

- Concepts
- Component features - Identifiers

Concept model

The set of rules that determines the permitted sets of relationships between particular types of concept.

Note

The *Concept Model* specifies the attributes that can be applied to concepts in particular domains 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.

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model
- Editorial Guide

Concept model attribute

This is a synonym for 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 range of values depends on the rules specified in the concept model.

Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

Concept model domain

This is a synonym for 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**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

Concept model range

This is a synonym for 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**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

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

This term is used when referring to concept model attributes applied to the Situation with explicit context domain.

Situation with explicit context

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

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.

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.

Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

Related Links

- Safely representing the context of recorded codes

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.

References

- Situation with explicit context
- 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

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

Core table

This is a synonym for 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

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

Cross mapping

This is a synonym for 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 Simple Map Reference Sets or Complex and Extended Map Reference Sets.

Alternatives

- **Cross Mapping**

CTS2

This is an abbreviation for 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.

Notes

- *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.
- *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**

CTV3

This is an abbreviation for 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**

D

DAG

This is an abbreviation for 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**

Related Links

- Wikipedia description of Directed Acyclic Graph

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.

Notes

1. *DITA* was used for creation, publication and maintenance of many SNOMED International guidance documents prior to migration of the documents to Confluence.
2. Since early 2016 DITA is no longer used by SNOMED International for any active work. This glossary entry is only included for backward compatibility.

Related Links

- http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/v1.1/CS01/overview/overview.html

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

SNOMED International charges fees for use of *Data Analysis Systems* and Data Creation Systems in Non-Member Territories.

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

Data Creation System

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

Note

SNOMED International charges fees for use of Data Analysis Systems and *Data Creation Systems* in Non-Member Territories.

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

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 characteristic

This is a synonym for 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 53442002 |gastrectomy| include 260686004 |method| = 129304002 |excision - action| and 405813007 |procedure site - Direct| = 69695003 |stomach structure|.

Alternatives

- **Defining characteristic**

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 53442002 |gastrectomy| include 260686004 |method| = 129304002 |excision - action| and 405813007 |procedure site - Direct| = 69695003 |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.

Derivative

This is a synonym for 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**

Descendant

This is a synonym for 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).

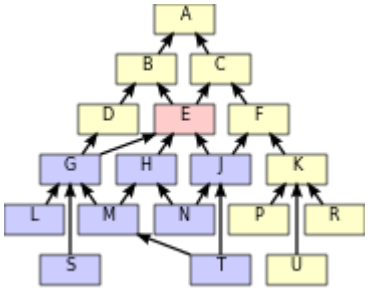

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype descendants

Alternatives

- **Descendant**

Description

An association between a human-readable phrase (term) and a particular SNOMED CT concept.

Notes

1. Each *description* is represented by a separate row in the Description File.
2. Each *description* has a unique identifier and connects a concept with a *term* of a specified description type.

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT description**

Related Links

- 3.1.2. Descriptions and Terms
- 3.2.2. Description File Specification

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

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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 1: Description types

typeId (with term)	Further information
900000000000003001 |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 (see fully specified name (FSN)).
900000000000013009 |Synonym|	A *term* that is an acceptable way to express a the meaning of a SNOMED CT concept (see synonym).

900000000000550004 |Definition|	An additional textual description applied to some SNOMED CT concepts that provides additional information about the intended meaning or usage of the concept (see textual definition).

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).

Related Links

- Description Format Reference Set

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**

Related Links

- Wikipedia description of Directed Acyclic Graph

DL

This is an abbreviation for 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

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Description_logic

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**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

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 SNOMED International, TermInfo, is an example of an HL7 DSTU.

Alternatives

- **DSTU**

DSTU

This is an abbreviation for 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 SNOMED International, 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 ".

E

Edition

This is a synonym for 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.

Notes

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**

EHR

This is an abbreviation for 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**

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. .

Related Links

-

Enabled application

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

Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled 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 CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

Entire

This is a synonym for 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 Table 0 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|

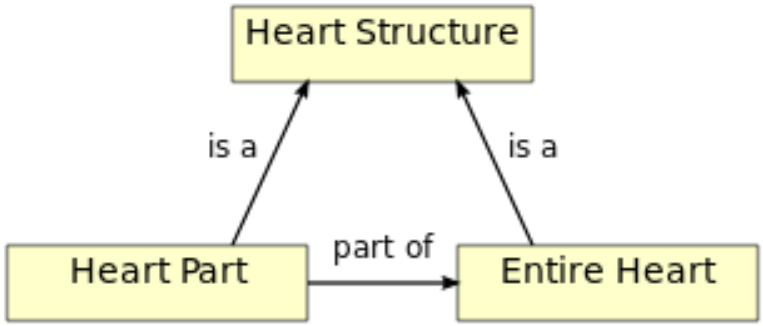

Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Stucture**

Related Links

- General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model

Equivalence

See Word Equivalents, Phrase equivalence and Concept equivalence .

European Committee for Standardization

This is the full name for 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**
- **Europäiches Komitee für Normung**
- **European Committee for Standardization**

Related Links

- http://www.cen.eu

Explicit context

This is a synonym for Situation with explicit context

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

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.

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.

Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**

- **Explicit context**

Related Links

- Safely representing the context of recorded codes

Expression

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

Notes

1. 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.
2. The concept identifiers in a postcoordinated expression are related to one another in accordance with rules expressed in the SNOMED CT Concept Model.
3. 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**

Related Links

- Expressions
- Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide
- Logical Model of SNOMED CT expressions

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" if made more specific by the addition of two refinements "laterality = left" and "associated morphology = spiral fracture".

Alternatives

- **Refinement**

Extension

This is a synonym for 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 Members and Affiliates. For further information about this process and for access to the current SNOMED CT Namespace Register please refer to the SNOMED International web page on Namespaces.
3. Members may create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to address specific national, regional and language requirements. SNOMED International 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**

Related Links

- 3.4.1 Content Inclusion - Problem Statement
- 3.4. Extensions
- Namespace Allocation Policy/Regulation
- Extensions Guide

Extension namespace identifier

This is a synonym for Namespace identifier

A seven digit number allocated by the SNOMED International 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**
- **NamespaceId**

Extensional subset definition

A subset definition in which the membership is represented by enumeration.

Notes

1. An extensional definition of a subset of SNOMED CT components can be represented as a list of the identifiers of all the components in the subset.
2. The standard format for distributing an extensionally defined subset of SNOMED CT components is a simple reference set.

Related Links

- Intensional subset definition
- Practical Guide to Reference Sets
- Wikipedia comparison of extensional and intensional definitions

F

Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

This is the full name for FHIR.

FHIR

A next generation standards framework created by HL7. FHIR combines the best features of HL7's v2, HL7 v3 and CDA product lines while leveraging the latest web standards and applying a tight focus on implementability.

Notes

1. The FHIR standard that defines a set of resources that represent granular clinical concepts.
2. The resources can be managed in isolation, or aggregated into complex documents.
3. Technically, FHIR is designed for the web; the resources are based on simple XML or JSON structures, with an http-based RESTful protocol where each resource has predictable URL. Where possible, open internet standards are used for data representation.

Alternatives

- **Full name - Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources**
- **Abbreviation - FHIR, which is pronounced "Fire".**

Related Links

- **FHIR Standard - Specification, Resources and Documentation http://hl7.org/fhir**

FHIR

A next generation standards framework created by HL7. FHIR combines the best features of HL7's v2, HL7 v3 and CDA product lines while leveraging the latest web standards and applying a tight focus on implementability.

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Alternatives

- **Full name - Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources**
- **Abbreviation - FHIR, which is pronounced "Fire".**

Related Links

- **FHIR Standard - Specification, Resources and Documentation http://hl7.org/fhir**

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".

FSN

This is an abbreviation for 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 typeId 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name| .
2. There may be more than one active description with the typeId 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**

Related Links

- Synonym
- Descriptions

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 defined concept

This is a synonym for Sufficiently defined concept

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

Notes

1. 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 any concepts or expressions that are equivalent to or a subtype of the the defined concept.
2. Contrast with primitive concept.

Examples

The concept 74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)| is *sufficiently defined* by the following definition because any concept for which these defining relationships are true are either the disorder "appendicitis" or a subtype of "appendicitis".

Table 1: Definition of: 74400008 | appendicitis (disorder) | - (sufficiently defined)

```
74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)|

===   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|
```

Alternatives

- **Fully defined concept**

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 typeId 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name| .
2. There may be more than one active description with the typeId 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**

Related Links

- Synonym
- Descriptions

G

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**

Related Links

- http://www.hl7.org

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 116680003 |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

This is an abbreviation for 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**

Related Links

- http://www.hl7.org

HL7 CTS2

This is an abbreviation for 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.

Notes

- *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.
- *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**

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**

Related Links

- Guide to use of SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3

HL7 V3

This is an abbreviation for 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**

HL7 V3 RIM

This is an abbreviation for Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model

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

Alternatives

- **HL7 V3 RIM**

I

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).

Related Links

- http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/icd9/abticd9.htm

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).

Related Links

- http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

Identifier

This is a synonym for SNOMED CT Identifier

A unique *integer* identifier applied to each SNOMED CT component (Concept, Description or Relationship). 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**

Related Links

- 3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers
- 5. Representing SNOMED CT identifiers

IFCC-IUPAC

The combination of these abbreviations sometimes refers to C-NPU.

C-NPU

C-NPU

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

Related Links

- http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/

IHTSDO

This is an abbreviation for 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**

Related Links

- www.snomed.org

IHTSDO Affiliate

This is a synonym for Affiliate

An SNOMED International Affiliate Licensee in accordance with the SNOMED International Affiliate License Agreement.

Alternatives

- **Affiliate Licensee**
- **SNOMED International Affiliate**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

IHTSDO member

This is a synonym for Member

A Member of SNOMED International (SNOMED International) in accordance with the SNOMED International Articles of Association.

Alternatives

- **Member**

IHTSDO Workbench

This is a synonym for Workbench

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

Related Links

-

Immutable

A negative assertion of mutability.

mutability

An indication of whether the value of an attribute can change between two released versions of the same component.

Notes

All released versions of the same component have the same identifier (id) but each version has a different effectiveTime. If a field is mutable (Mutable=YES), its value can differ from one version to the next without the identifier changing. If a field is Immutable (Mutable=NO), its value must be the same in every version of a specific identified component. If the value associated with an immutable field needs to be changed, the existing component must be inactivated and a new component must be created to replace it. The new component must have a previously unused identifier its field values must be set to replace the inactivated concept with the updated information.

The mutability for each field (or column) in each type of release file is indicated in the release file specification table for that component type or reference set (see SNOMED CT Release File Specifications).

Alternatives

- **Mutable**
- **Immutable (opposite of mutable)**

Related Links

- **Release File Specifications**

Inactive

This is a synonym for 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**

Related Links

- 2.6. Meaning of the Active Field
- 2.8. Release Types

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**

Related Links

- 2.6. Meaning of the Active Field
- 2.8. Release Types

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 (zero). 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 (zero). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

Intellectual Property

This is a synonym for Intellectual property rights

As defined in the SNOMED International 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 SNOMED International owns the *intellectual property rights* of SNOMED CT. The SNOMED International is responsible for ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution of SNOMED CT.

Alternatives

- **Intellectual Property**
- **IP**
- **IPR**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

Intellectual property rights

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Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

Intensional subset definition

A subset definition in which the membership is represented by a set of rules. These rules specify the necessary conditions that must be met for inclusion within the subset.

Notes

1. An extensional definition of the members of subset of SNOMED CT concepts can be represented as a set of rules (e.g. concepts that are types of respiratory disease characterized by edema).
2. The standard way to represent an intensional definition of a subset of SNOMED CT concepts is to use the SNOMED CT expression constraint language.
3. The standard way to distribute an intensional definition of a subset of SNOMED CT concepts is as a row in a query specification reference set containing the expression constraint.

Related Links

- Extensional subset definition
- Practical Guide to Reference Sets
- Wikipedia comparison of extensional and intensional definitions

International edition

This is a synonym for SNOMED CT International Edition

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

Notes

1. The *International edition*, provided by the SNOMED International, may be supplemented by Extensions maintained by 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**

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**

Related Links

- www.snomed.org

International Release

This is a synonym for 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 Members and Affiliates.

Notes

1. The *International release*, provided by the SNOMED International, may be supplemented by Extension releases provided by 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**

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.

IP

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Note

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Alternatives

- **Intellectual Property**
- **IP**
- **IPR**

Related Links

- SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement

IS A

The RelationshipType that defines a supertype - subtype Relationship between two Concepts. Usually expressed as subtype 116680003 |is a| supertype. For Example, Blister with infection 116680003 |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.

Related Links

- http://www.iso.org

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.

Related Links

- http://www.iso.org/tc215

J

K

KB

This is an abbreviation for Knowledge Base

Knowledge Base

The underlying set of facts, assumptions, and rules which a computer system has available to answer a question or solve a problem.

Alternatives

- **KB**

Related Links

- 3. Knowledge Base

Kind of value

The nature of a value that may be associated with a Concept. For example, the concept 271649006 |systolic blood pressure| can label a numeric value. The Kind-of-Value that it labels is a pressure.

Knowledge Base

The underlying set of facts, assumptions, and rules which a computer system has available to answer a question or solve a problem.

Alternatives

- **KB**

Related Links

- 3. Knowledge Base

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 .

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes

This is the full name for 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**

Related Links

- LOINC website (http://loinc.org)
- Guide to Using LOINC with SNOMED CT

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**

Related Links

- LOINC website (http://loinc.org)
- Guide to Using LOINC with SNOMED CT

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.

See also

The specification of the Machine Readable Concept Model.

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 Simple Map Reference Sets or Complex and Extended Map Reference Sets.

Alternatives

- **Cross Mapping**

MCA

This is an abbreviation for 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**

Member

A Member of SNOMED International (SNOMED International) in accordance with the SNOMED International Articles of Association.

Alternatives

- **Member**

Member Forum

The Member Forum is an SNOMED International advisory body whose role is to:

- facilitate collaboration and cooperation between Members;
- provide Member priorities for all new and proposed SNOMED International projects and products; and
- promote learning from shared experiences.

The Member Forum supports the objectives of SNOMED International by promoting consultation and communication at an operational level between SNOMED International and its Members.

Member territory

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

Related Links

- Membership is governed by the SNOMED International Articles of Association
- List of Current Members

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 represents 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 1: Top level of the SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT Metadata**

Related Links

- 3.3. Metadata Hierarchy

Migration

See Operational migration, Data migration and Predicate migration .

Modeler

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

Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

Modeling

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

Alternatives

- **Modelling**

- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

Modeller

This is a synonym for Modeler

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

Alternatives

- **Modeller**
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- **SNOMED CT modeler**

Modelling

This is a synonym for Modeling

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

Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

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.

Note

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

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.

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.

Note

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

Example

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

Module

This is a synonym for 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* are 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**

Monohierarchical classification

This is a synonym for 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**

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

The state of a component that has been moved to another Namespace.

Note

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.

MRCM

This is an abbreviation for 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.

See also

The specification of the Machine Readable Concept Model.

Alternatives

- **MRCM**

Mutability

An indication of whether the value of an attribute can change between two released versions of the same component.

Notes

All released versions of the same component have the same identifier (id) but each version has a different effectiveTime. If a field is mutable (Mutable=YES), its value can differ from one version to the next without the identifier changing. If a field is Immutable (Mutable=NO), its value must be the same in every version of a specific identified component. If the value associated with an immutable field needs to be changed, the existing component must be inactivated and a new component must be created to replace it. The new component must have a previously unused identifier its field values must be set to replace the inactivated concept with the updated information.

The mutability for each field (or column) in each type of release file is indicated in the release file specification table for that component type or reference set (see SNOMED CT Release File Specifications).

Alternatives

- **Mutable**
- **Immutable (opposite of mutable)**

Related Links

- **Release File Specifications**

Mutable

A positive assertion of mutability.

mutability

An indication of whether the value of an attribute can change between two released versions of the same component.

Notes

All released versions of the same component have the same identifier (id) but each version has a different effectiveTime. If a field is mutable (Mutable=YES), its value can differ from one version to the next without the identifier changing. If a field is Immutable (Mutable=NO), its value must be the same in every version of a specific identified component. If the value associated with an immutable field needs to be changed, the existing component must be inactivated and a new component must be created to replace it. The new component must have a previously unused identifier its field values must be set to replace the inactivated concept with the updated information.

The mutability for each field (or column) in each type of release file is indicated in the release file specification table for that component type or reference set (see SNOMED CT Release File Specifications).

Alternatives

- **Mutable**
- **Immutable (opposite of mutable)**

Related Links

- **Release File Specifications**

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 ".

NamespaceId

This is a synonym for Namespace identifier

A seven digit number allocated by the SNOMED International 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**
- **NamespaceId**

Namespace identifier

A seven digit number allocated by the SNOMED International 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**
- **NamespaceId**

National Edition

This is a synonym for 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**

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 SNOMED International that is now responsible for SNOMED CT .

Alternatives

- **NHS**
- **UK National Health Service**
- **UK NHS**

Related Links

- http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/

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 SNOMED International .

Alternatives

- **NLM**

National Release

This is a synonym for SNOMED CT National Release

A National Extension and/or National Edition as made available to licensees by an 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 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**

National Release Center

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

Natural language processing

A service in which a computer system converts between human-readable text (and/or spoken languages) and formal representations of information that can be readily generated, analyzed and processed by other software applications.

Notes

1. Natural language processing of human-readable text can generate formal representations that may include SNOMED CT expressions.
2. Natural language generation systems can 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 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.

Necessary condition

A characteristic that is always true of a concept.

Notes

- SNOMED CT represents necessary conditions as defining relationships.

Example

- The defining relationship
  116676008 |morphology| = 72704001 |fracture| is a necessary condition of 71620000 |fracture of femur| because you do not have a 71620000 |fracture of femur| unless the morphological abnormality 72704001 |fracture| is present.

Related Links

NHS

This is an abbreviation for 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 SNOMED International that is now responsible for SNOMED CT .

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- **UK NHS**

Related Links

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Alternatives

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NLP

This is an abbreviation for Natural language processing

A service in which a computer system converts between human-readable text (and/or spoken languages) and formal representations of information that can be readily generated, analyzed and processed by other software applications.

Notes

1. Natural language processing of human-readable text can generate formal representations that may include SNOMED CT expressions.
2. Natural language generation systems can convert information from formal representations into human-readable text.

Alternatives

- **NLP**

Nomenclature, Properties and Units

This is the full name for C-NPU

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

Related Links

- http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/

Non-member territory

A territory that is not an Member Territory

Note

In accordance with SNOMED International Affiliate License, fees are payable to the SNOMED International for use of SNOMED CT in non-Member Territories.

Related Links

- Membership is governed by the SNOMED International Articles of Association
- List of Current Members

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

- The normal form provides a way compare different expressions which have a similar meaning.

Alternatives

- **Transform**
- **Transformation**

Related Links

- 12.4 Transforming Expressions to Normal Forms

NPU

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The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

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Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

Related Links

- http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/

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 is develops specifications that are primarily based on and extend key aspects of the CEN Standard for Electronic Health Record Communication (EN 13606).

Related Links

- http://www.openehr.org

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 .

Other-code

A code or identifier in a code system, classification or terminology other than SNOMED CT.

Notes

The hyphenated form other-code (or other-codes) is used to avoid confusion with the more general reference to another code.

Alternatives

- **Target code**

OWL

This is the acronym for Web Ontology Language

Web Ontology Language

The **Web Ontology Language** (**OWL**) is a family of knowledge representation languages for authoring ontologies. Ontologies are a formal way to describe taxonomies and classification networks, essentially defining the structure of knowledge for various domains: the nouns representing classes of objects and the verbs representing relations between the objects.

Alternatives

- **OWL**

Related Links

- Web Ontology Language (Wikipedia page)
- Ontologies (Wikipedia page)

P

PartitionId

This is a synonym for 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**

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

The state of 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.

Note

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.

Phrase equivalence

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

POC

This is and abbreviation for Point of Care

Point of Care

The time and location at which clinicians or other health professionals deliver healthcare products and services to patients.

Note

The term *point of care* is most often used to indicate a particular activity is carried out at the location where the patient is being seen or treated. For example, point of care testing and point of care documentation.

Alternatives

- **POC**

Related Links

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_documentation
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_testing

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Alternatives

- **POC**

Related Links

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_documentation
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_testing

Polyhierarchical classification

This is a synonym for 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**

Polyhierarchy

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Alternatives

- **Polyhierarchical classification**

Postcoordinated

This is a synonym for 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**

Postcoordinated expression

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  - 125605004 |fracture of bone| : 363698007 |finding site| = 71341001 |bone structure of femur|

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- **Postcoordinated**
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    - 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

This is a synonym for 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**
- **precoordinated expression**
- **Precoordination**

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**
- **precoordinated expression**
- **Precoordination**

Precoordination

This is a synonym for Precoordinated expression

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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**
- **precoordinated expression**
- **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

The *Preferred Term* is indicated by the *acceptabilityId* field of the relevant 4.2.4. Language Reference Set.

Primitive concept

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

Note

1. The meaning of SNOMED CT concept is expressed in a human-readable form by its Fully Specified Name.
2. 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).
3. 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".

Table 1: Definition of 5596004 |atypical appendicitis (disorder)| - (primitive)

```
5596004 |atypical appendicitis (disorder)|

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

Production release package

This Release status applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the SNOMED International Service Catalog.

The Production status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) commits to maintain the release history of this release and all subsequent updates. Thus from the first Production release onwards, the historical audit trail will be maintained throughout the Product's lifetime.

Notes

- The significance of the Production status is that it represents the authoritative release of the product, and implementers can use the additional components and derivatives in operational clinical systems with confidence in the subsequent maintenance of the product.

Alternatives

- **Production release**
- **Production package**

Related Links

- Alpha release package
- Beta release package

Q

Qualifier

This is a synonym for 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.

Note

- Following the introduction of the RF2 in 2012 qualifying relationships are no longer part of the standard distributed release.
- The Machine Readable Concept Model provides a more comprehensive and flexible way to identify the full set of attributes and ranges that can be applied to refine concepts in particular domains.

Alternatives

- **Qualifier**

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.

Note

- Following the introduction of the RF2 in 2012 qualifying relationships are no longer part of the standard distributed release.
- The Machine Readable Concept Model provides a more comprehensive and flexible way to identify the full set of attributes and ranges that can be applied to refine concepts in particular domains.

Alternatives

- **Qualifier**

Quality characteristic

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

Note

The set of SNOMED International *quality characteristics* are a typology of attributes of an SNOMED International 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.

Related Links

- SNOMED International Quality Framework

Quality metric

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

Related Links

- SNOMED International Quality Framework

Quality target

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

Related Links

- SNOMED International Quality Framework

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.

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**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

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**

Read Codes 4-Byte Set

This is a synonym for 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.

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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 service

A function 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.

Related Links

- Record Services Guide
- Service architecture
- Terminology service

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 an example of a *reference information model* used in health care.

Reference set

A standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to SNOMED CT components and optionally associating referenced components with additional information.

Notes

1. A reference set can be used to represent a subset of components (concepts, descriptions or relationships).
2. A reference set that associates additional information with referenced components can be used to support various different purposes, such as representing:
    - An ordered lists of components;
    - Sets of associations between components;
    - Maps between SNOMED CT concepts and codes in other code systems, classifications or knowledge resources.

Alternatives

- **Refset**
- **SNOMED CT reference set**

Related Links

- Reference Sets
- Reference Set Types
- Subset
- Extensibility Mechanism
- Practical Guide to Reference Sets

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*

Refinement

This is a synonym for 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" if made more specific by the addition of two refinements "laterality = left" and "associated morphology = spiral fracture".

Alternatives

- **Refinement**

Refset

This is a synonym for Reference set

A standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to SNOMED CT components and optionally associating referenced components with additional information.

Notes

1. A reference set can be used to represent a subset of components (concepts, descriptions or relationships).
2. A reference set that associates additional information with referenced components can be used to support various different purposes, such as representing:
    - An ordered lists of components;
    - Sets of associations between components;
    - Maps between SNOMED CT concepts and codes in other code systems, classifications or knowledge resources.

Alternatives

- **Refset**
- **SNOMED CT reference set**

Related Links

- Reference Sets
- Reference Set Types
- Subset

- Extensibility Mechanism
- Practical Guide to Reference Sets

Relationship

An association between a source concept and a destination concept. The type of association is indicated by a reference to an attribute concept .

Notes

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

Example

The relationship in the table below states that part of the definition of the concept 74400008 |appendicitis| is that its 363698007 |finding site| is the 66754008 |appendix structure| .

Table 1: Example of a Relationship (for clarity the US English preferred term is shown for each concept)

sourceId	typeId	destinationId
74400008 |appendicitis|	363698007 |finding site|	66754008 |appendix structure|

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT relationship**

Related Links

- Relationships
- Defining Attributes by Hierarchy and Domain
- Individual Hierarchies
- Relationship file

Relationship Type

This is a synonym for 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 range of values depends on the rules specified in the concept model.

Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

Release file

A computer file used to distribute SNOMED CT content from the SNOMED International (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 distribution file**
- **SNOMED CT release file**

Related Links

- 3. Component Release Files Specification
- 2.2. Release Format 2 - Introduction

Release format

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

Note

The current *release format* is and Release Format 2, which superseded Release Format 1 in 2012.

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution format**
- **SNOMED CT release format**

Related Links

- Release File Specification

Release Format 1

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

Note

This format was replace by Release Format 2 in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the SNOMED CT International Release. 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

- **RF1**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1**

Release Format 2

The file structures specified by the SNOMED International for files used to distribute SNOMED CT content and derivatives.

Note

In 2012 Release Format 2 replaced the original SNOMED CT release format used between the first release on 2002 and 2012. During an overlap period until 2016, both formats were used for the International Release.

Alternatives

- **RF2**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2**

Related Links

- SNOMED CT Release File Specifications
- Release Format 1

Release Type

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

Table 2. SNOMED CT Release Types	
Release Type	**Description**
Full	The files representing each type of component contain **every** version of every component ever released.
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 delta release represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.

RF1

This is an abbreviation for Release Format 1

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

Note

This format was replace by Release Format 2 in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the SNOMED CT International Release. 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

- **RF1**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1**

RF2

This is an abbreviation for Release Format 2

The file structures specified by the SNOMED International for files used to distribute SNOMED CT content and derivatives.

Note

In 2012 Release Format 2 replaced the original SNOMED CT release format used between the first release on 2002 and 2012. During an overlap period until 2016, both formats were used for the International Release.

Alternatives

- **RF2**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2**

Related Links

- SNOMED CT Release File Specifications
- Release Format 1

Role

This is a synonym for 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 range of values depends on the rules specified in the concept model.

Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model

Root concept

The single concept that is at the top of the 138875005 |SNOMED CT Concept| hierarchy.

Related Links

- Root and top-level concepts

Root metadata code

This is a synonym for Root metadata concept.

Root metadata concept

The single concept that is at the top of the 900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)| hierarchy.

Alternatives

- **Root metadata code**

Related Links

- 3.3. Metadata Hierarchy

Root metadata concept

The single concept that is at the top of the 900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)| hierarchy.

Alternatives

- **Root metadata code**

Related Links

- 3.3. Metadata Hierarchy

S

SCT

This is an abbreviation for SNOMED Clinical Terms.

SNOMED Clinical Terms

A clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the SNOMED International. 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**

SCTID

This is an abbreviation for SNOMED CT Identifier

A unique *integer* identifier applied to each SNOMED CT component (Concept, Description or Relationship). 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**

Related Links

- 3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers
- 5. Representing SNOMED CT identifiers

SEP

This is an abbreviation for 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 Table 0 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|

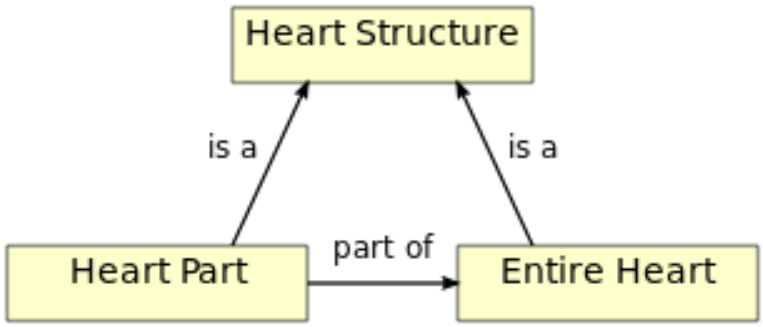

Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Stucture**

Related Links

- General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model

Situation with explicit context

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

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.

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.

Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

Related Links

- Safely representing the context of recorded codes

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 **No** menclature of **Med** icine originally developed by the College of American Pathologists and now owned and maintained by the SNOMED International. SNOMED Clinical Terms is the most recent version of this terminology. It was preceded by SNOMED RT and SNOMED International .

Alternatives

- **Med**
- **No**

SNOMED application

This is the full name for Enabled application

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

Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**

- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

SNOMED Clinical Terms

A clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the SNOMED International. 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

This is a synonym for SNOMED Clinical Terms

A clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the SNOMED International. 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 application

This is the full name for Enabled application

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

Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

SNOMED CT author

This is the full name for Modeler

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

Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

SNOMED CT authoring

This is the full name for Modeling

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

Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

SNOMED CT browser

This is the full name for 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**

Related Links

- http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed_browsers.html

SNOMED CT Component

A Concept, Description or Relationship that conforms with the SNOMED CT logical model.

Notes

1. The partition-identifier indicates the type of component referred to by that SCTID.
2. Components are released and distributed in file formats that conform to the Release File Specification.
3. A *component* may be part of the SNOMED CT International Edition or in an authorized Extension.

Alternatives

- **Component**

SNOMED CT compositional grammar

This is the full name for Compositional grammar

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

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT compositional grammar**

Related Links

- Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide

SNOMED CT concept

This is the full name for Concept

A clinical idea to which a unique concept identifier has been assigned.

Notes

1. SNOMED CT concepts are distributed in the Concept File.

2. Concepts are associated with descriptions that contain human-readable terms describing the concept.
3. Concepts are related to one another by relationships that provide a formal logical definition of the concept.
4. Disambiguation:
   When working with SNOMED CT, it is recommended the default meaning of "concept" refers to a SNOMED CT concept defined as noted above. However, the word "concept" is sometimes used in other more specific or more general ways as noted below.
   - As an abbreviated name for the concept identifier. For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this is should be referred to as an "identifier", "id" or "code" (e.g. "concept id", "concept identifier" or "concept code");
   - In its more general dictionary defined usage referring to an idea or class of real-world entities that may be represented by a concept identifier. For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this is should be referred to as an "idea" or "meaning" (e.g. "a clinical idea" or "clinical meaning" or "code meaning").

Alternatives

- SNOMED CT concept

Related Links

- 3.2.1. Concept File Specification
- Logical Model of SNOMED CT Components
- Concept file

SNOMED CT concept model

This is the full name for Concept model

The set of rules that determines the permitted sets of relationships between particular types of concept.

Note

The *Concept Model* specifies the attributes that can be applied to concepts in particular domains 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.

Related Links

- Concept Model Overview
- Machine Readable Concept Model
- Editorial Guide

SNOMED CT core

This is the full name for 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

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

SNOMED CT core file

This is the full name for 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

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

SNOMED CT core table

This is the full name for 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

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

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**

SNOMED CT description

This is the full name for Description

An association between a human-readable phrase (term) and a particular SNOMED CT concept.

Notes

1. Each *description* is represented by a separate row in the Description File.
2. Each *description* has a unique identifier and connects a concept with a *term* of a specified description type.

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT description**

Related Links

- 3.1.2. Descriptions and Terms
- 3.2.2. Description File Specification

SNOMED CT distribution file

This is the full name for Release file

A computer file used to distribute SNOMED CT content from the SNOMED International (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 distribution file**
- **SNOMED CT release file**

Related Links

- 3. Component Release Files Specification
- 2.2. Release Format 2 - Introduction

SNOMED CT distribution format

This is the full name for Release format

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

Note

The current *release format* is and Release Format 2, which superseded Release Format 1 in 2012.

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution format**
- **SNOMED CT release format**

Related Links

- Release File Specification

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.

Notes

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 enabled application

This is the full name for Enabled application

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

Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

SNOMED CT enabled implementation

This is the full name for 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 CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

SNOMED CT expression

This is the full name for Expression

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

Notes

1. 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.
2. The concept identifiers in a postcoordinated expression are related to one another in accordance with rules expressed in the SNOMED CT Concept Model.
3. 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**

Related Links

- Expressions
- Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide
- Logical Model of SNOMED CT expressions

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 Members and Affiliates. For further information about this process and for access to the current SNOMED CT Namespace Register please refer to the SNOMED International web page on Namespaces.
3. Members may create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to address specific national, regional and language requirements. SNOMED International 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**

Related Links

- 3.4.1 Content Inclusion - Problem Statement
- 3.4. Extensions
- Namespace Allocation Policy/Regulation
- Extensions Guide

SNOMED CT Identifier

A unique *integer* identifier applied to each SNOMED CT component (Concept, Description or Relationship). 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**

Related Links

- 3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers
- 5. Representing SNOMED CT identifiers

SNOMED CT implementation

This usually refers to 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 CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

SNOMED CT International Edition

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

Notes

1. The *International edition*, provided by the SNOMED International, may be supplemented by Extensions maintained by 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 Members and Affiliates.

Notes

1. The *International release*, provided by the SNOMED International, may be supplemented by Extension releases provided by 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 Metadata

This is the full name for 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 represents 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 1: Top level of the SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT Metadata**

Related Links

- 3.3. Metadata Hierarchy

SNOMED CT modeler

This is the full name for Modeler

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

Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

SNOMED CT modeling

This is the full name for Modeling

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

Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

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* are 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 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.

SNOMED CT National Release

A National Extension and/or National Edition as made available to licensees by an 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 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 CT reference set

This is the full name for Reference set

A standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to SNOMED CT components and optionally associating referenced components with additional information.

Notes

1. A reference set can be used to represent a subset of components (concepts, descriptions or relationships).
2. A reference set that associates additional information with referenced components can be used to support various different purposes, such as representing:
    - An ordered lists of components;
    - Sets of associations between components;

- Maps between SNOMED CT concepts and codes in other code systems, classifications or knowledge resources.

Alternatives

- **Refset**
- **SNOMED CT reference set**

Related Links

- Reference Sets
- Reference Set Types
- Subset
- Extensibility Mechanism
- Practical Guide to Reference Sets

SNOMED CT relationship

This is the full name for Relationship

An association between a source concept and a destination concept. The type of association is indicated by a reference to an attribute concept .

Notes

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

Example

The relationship in the table below states that part of the definition of the concept 74400008 |appendicitis| is that its 363698007 |finding site| is the 66754008 |appendix structure| .

Table 1: Example of a Relationship (for clarity the US English preferred term is shown for each concept)

sourceId	typeId	destinationId
74400008 |appendicitis|	363698007 |finding site|	66754008 |appendix structure|

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT relationship**

Related Links

- Relationships
- Defining Attributes by Hierarchy and Domain
- Individual Hierarchies
- Relationship file

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.

SNOMED CT release file

This is the full name for Release file

A computer file used to distribute SNOMED CT content from the SNOMED International (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 distribution file**
- **SNOMED CT release file**

Related Links

- 3. Component Release Files Specification
- 2.2. Release Format 2 - Introduction

SNOMED CT release format

This is the full name for Release format

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

Note

The current *release format* is and Release Format 2, which superseded Release Format 1 in 2012.

Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution format**
- **SNOMED CT release format**

Related Links

- Release File Specification

SNOMED CT Release Format 1

This is the full name for Release Format 1

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

Note

This format was replace by Release Format 2 in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the SNOMED CT International Release. 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

- **RF1**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1**

SNOMED CT Release Format 2

This is the full name for Release Format 2

The file structures specified by the SNOMED International for files used to distribute SNOMED CT content and derivatives.

Note

In 2012 Release Format 2 replaced the original SNOMED CT release format used between the first release on 2002 and 2012. During an overlap period until 2016, both formats were used for the International Release.

Alternatives

- **RF2**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2**

Related Links

- SNOMED CT Release File Specifications
- Release Format 1

SNOMED CT terminology server

This is the full name for 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**

SNOMED CT Version

A date specific SNOMED CT Edition. For example, the International Edition, 20170131 (dated January 31, 2017) or the US Edition, 20160901.

Note

A new version of the International Edition of SNOMED CT is released twice a year (in January and July). National extensions mostly follow this cycle (albeit typically with a three month delay). However, some extensions (notably those including medication related concepts) are released more frequently.

Alternatives

- **Version**

SNOMED enabled application

This is the full name for Enabled application

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

Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**

- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

SNOMED enabled implementation

This is the full name for 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 CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

SNOMED implementation

This is the full name for 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 CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

SNOMED International

This is the trading name for IHTSDO.

IHTSDO

This is an abbreviation for International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation

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**

Related Links

- www.snomed.org

Disambiguation

See also the glossary entry for the earlier version of SNOMED known as SNOMED International.

SNOMED International (version of SNOMED)

SNOMED International was the name of the version of the SNOMED terminology that was first released in 1993 and which, as version 3.5 released in 1998, was the immediate predecessor of SNOMED RT.

Disambiguation

See also the glossary reference for the current use of the name SNOMED International. Since 2017 SNOMED International has been the trading name of the organization responsible for maintaining and distributing SNOMED CT.

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**

SNOMED RT

This is a synonym for 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**

Source language

This is a synonym for 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**

Sponsored Territory

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

Note

SNOMED CT may be used free of charge by SNOMED International Affiliates and their sub-licensees in Sponsored Territories. Information about Sponsored Territories is published on the SNOMED International web site.

Related Links

- www.snomed.org

Stated form

This is a synonym for 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 Relationship File.

Alternatives

- **Stated form**

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 Relationship 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 be 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 Table 0 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|

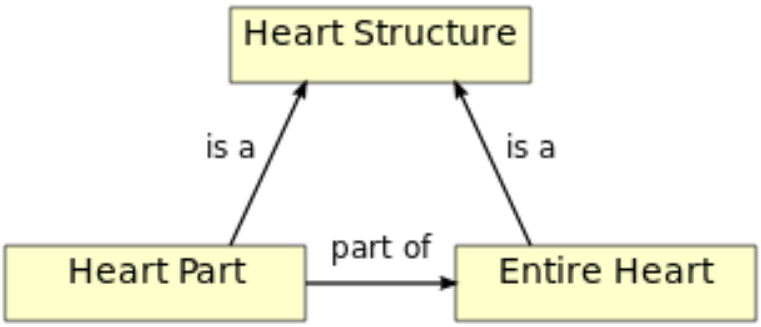

Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Stucture**

Related Links

- General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model

Stucture

This is a synonym for 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 Table 0 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|

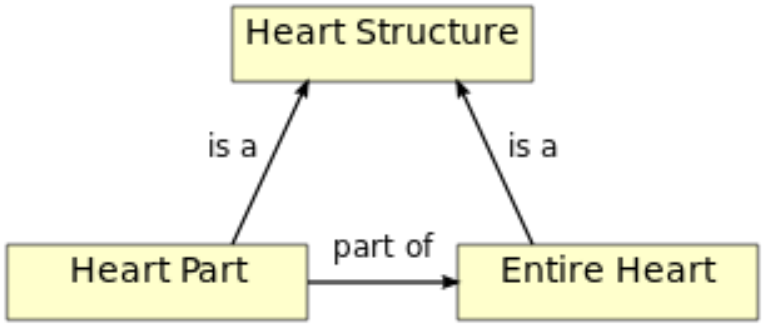

Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Stucture**

Related Links

- General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model

Subset

A set of members all of which are also members of another set.

Notes

The definition of subset stated above matches the general use of the word subset in set theory and mathematics. The notes below apply this definition to subsets of SNOMED CT components.

1. A subset of SNOMED CT concepts is a defined set of concepts taken from a wider set of concepts (e.g. all the concepts in a particular version of a specified SNOMED CT Edition).

2. Similarly, a subset of SNOMED CT descriptions is a set of descriptions taken from a wider set of descriptions (e.g. all the descriptions in a particular version of a specified SNOMED CT Edition).
3. The members of a subset can defined in one of two ways extensionally, by enumeration, or intensionally, using rules to determine inclusion.
4. The standard distribution format for extensionally defined subsets is a simple reference set, while the standard distribution format for intensionally defined subsets is query reference sets.

Related Links

- Information about subsets in the References Sets Practical Guide
- Wikipedia page about subsets
- Extensional subset definition
- Intensional subset definition
- Reference set

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 116680003 |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 116680003 |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).

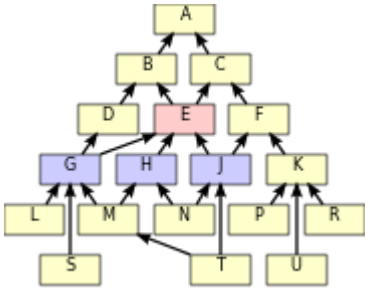

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

Subtype children

This is a synonym for Subtype child

A concept that has a direct 116680003 |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).

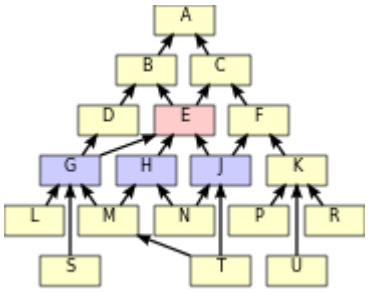

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype 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).

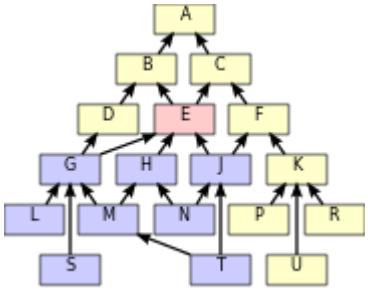

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype descendants

Alternatives

- **Descendant**

Subtype hierarchy

This is a synonym for 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 test

This is a synonym for 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**

Sufficiently defined concept

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

Notes

1. 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 any concepts or expressions that are equivalent to or a subtype of the the defined concept.
2. Contrast with primitive concept.

Examples

The concept 74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)| is *sufficiently defined* by the following definition because any concept for which these defining relationships are true are either the disorder "appendicitis" or a subtype of "appendicitis".

Table 1: Definition of: 74400008|appendicitis (disorder)| - (sufficiently defined)

```
74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)|

===   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|
```

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).

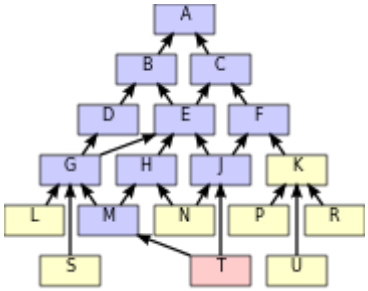

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype ancestors

Alternatives

- **Ancestor**

Supertype parent

A concept that is the target of a direct 116680003 |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).

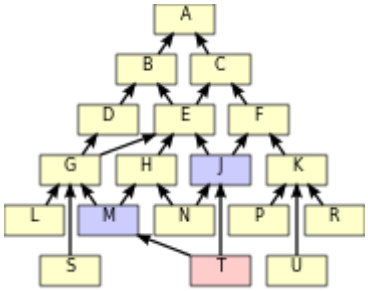

Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Supertype parents

Synonym

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

Notes

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 .

SNOMED International (version of SNOMED)

SNOMED International was the name of the version of the SNOMED terminology that was first released in 1993 and which, as version 3.5 released in 1998, was the immediate predecessor of SNOMED RT.

Disambiguation

See also the glossary reference for the current use of the name SNOMED International. Since 2017 SNOMED International has been the trading name of the organization responsible for maintaining and distributing SNOMED CT.

T

Target code

This is a synonym for Other-code.

Other-code

A code or identifier in a code system, classification or terminology other than SNOMED CT.

Notes

The hyphenated form other-code (or other-codes) is used to avoid confusion with the more general reference to another code.

Alternatives

- **Target code**

Target language

This is a synonym for 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**

Target scheme

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

Technology Preview

Superseded by - Alpha release package.

Alpha release package

Previously known as the “Technology Preview” Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent a proposed addition of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other items in the SNOMED International Service Catalog. The Alpha status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) is only releasing these additional components or derivatives for review and testing by implementers and other stakeholders. The objective of an Alpha release is to test the chosen approach and elicit feedback before committing to the content and/or release format for the additional material. It is likely that, prior to publication of a Beta release, significant changes may be made to address the feedback received, and issues identified by testing.

Notes

1. The Alpha release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Alpha releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.
3. The significance of Alpha releases is that the 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.

Alternatives

- **Alpha release**
- **Alpha package**

Related Links

- Beta release package
- Production release package

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.).

Term Info

This is a synonym for 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**

Related Links

- Guide to use of SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3

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 service

A function 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.

Related Links

- Terminology Services Guide
- Service architecture
- Record service

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.

Example

These descriptions go beyond the detail of the Fully Specified Name as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Textual Definition

Concept Id	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

A concept that is directly related to the Root Concept by a single relationship of the Relationship Type 116680003 |is a|.

Note

All concepts (except for metadata concepts) are descended from at least one Top-Level Concept via at least one series of relationships with relationship.*typeId* = 116680003 |Is a|.

Top level concept code

This may sometimes be used to refer to Top level concept.

Top level concept

A concept that is directly related to the Root Concept by a single relationship of the Relationship Type 116680003 |is a|.

Note

All concepts (except for metadata concepts) are descended from at least one Top-Level Concept via at least one series of relationships with relationship.*typeId* = 116680003 |Is a|.

Top level metadata code

This may sometimes be used to refer to Top level metadata concept.

Top level metadata concept

A concept that is directly related to the Root metadata concept (900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)|) by a single relationship of the relationship type 116680003 |is a|.

Note

All Metadata concepts are descended from at least one Top-Level Metadata concept via at least one series of relationships with Relationship.typeId= 116680003 |Is a|.

Top level metadata concept

A concept that is directly related to the Root metadata concept (900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)|) by a single relationship of the relationship type 116680003 |is a|.

Note

All Metadata concepts are descended from at least one Top-Level Metadata concept via at least one series of relationships with Relationship.typeId= 116680003 |Is a|.

Transform

This is a synonym for Normal form transformation

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

Notes

- The normal form provides a way compare different expressions which have a similar meaning.

Alternatives

- **Transform**
- **Transformation**

Related Links

- 12.4 Transforming Expressions to Normal Forms

Transformation

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

Notes

- The normal form provides a way compare different expressions which have a similar meaning.

Alternatives

- **Transform**
- **Transformation**

Related Links

- 12.4 Transforming Expressions to Normal Forms

Transitive closure

A comprehensive view of all the supertype ancestors of a concept derived by traversing all the 116680003 |is a| relationships between that concept and the root concept.

Note

A *transitive closuretable* represents the transitive closure of the 116680003 |is a| relationships of all active concepts.

Related Links

- 7.5.2 Transitive closure implementation

Translation

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

Translation Service Provider

Person or organization supplying a translation service.

Alternatives

- **TSP**

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**

TSP

This is an abbreviation for Translation Service Provider

Person or organization supplying a translation service.

Alternatives

- **TSP**

U

UI

This is an abbreviation for 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**

UK National Health Service

This is a synonym for 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 SNOMED International that is now responsible for SNOMED CT .

Alternatives

- **NHS**
- **UK National Health Service**
- **UK NHS**

Related Links

- http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/

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- **NHS**
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- http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/

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**

Related Links

- Examining SNOMED from the Perspective of Formal Ontological Principles

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.

URU

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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.
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- Useful: The concept has a practical value to users that is self-evident or can be readily explained.

Alternatives

- **URU**

Related Links

- Examining SNOMED from the Perspective of Formal Ontological Principles

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**

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 Committee documents and FHIR specifications.
2. The role of a value set is to constrain the permissible content for a particular use (e.g. data entry into a particular field).
3. In SNOMED CT a concept representation may be a concept identifier or a SNOMED CT expression.
4. 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.

Related Links

- Release File Specification section Reference Set Types.
- Full HL7 definition of *Value set* in Core Principles and Properties of HL7 Version 3 Models.

Version

This is a synonym for SNOMED CT Version

A date specific SNOMED CT Edition. For example, the International Edition, 20170131 (dated January 31, 2017) or the US Edition, 20160901.

Note

A new version of the International Edition of SNOMED CT is released twice a year (in January and July). National extensions mostly follow this cycle (albeit typically with a three month delay). However, some extensions (notably those including medication related concepts) are released more frequently.

Alternatives

- **Version**

Version 3 of the Read Codes

This is a synonym for 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**

W

Web Ontology Language

The **Web Ontology Language** (**OWL**) is a family of knowledge representation languages for authoring ontologies. Ontologies are a formal way to describe taxonomies and classification networks, essentially defining the structure of knowledge for various domains: the nouns representing classes of objects and the verbs representing relations between the objects.

Alternatives

- **OWL**

Related Links

- Web Ontology Language (Wikipedia page)
- Ontologies (Wikipedia page)

WHO

This is an abbreviation for 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**

Related Links

- http://www.who.int

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

Related Links

-

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**

Related Links

- http://www.who.int

X

Y

Z