

## 5.4.3.1 Add Description in an Extension

### Purpose

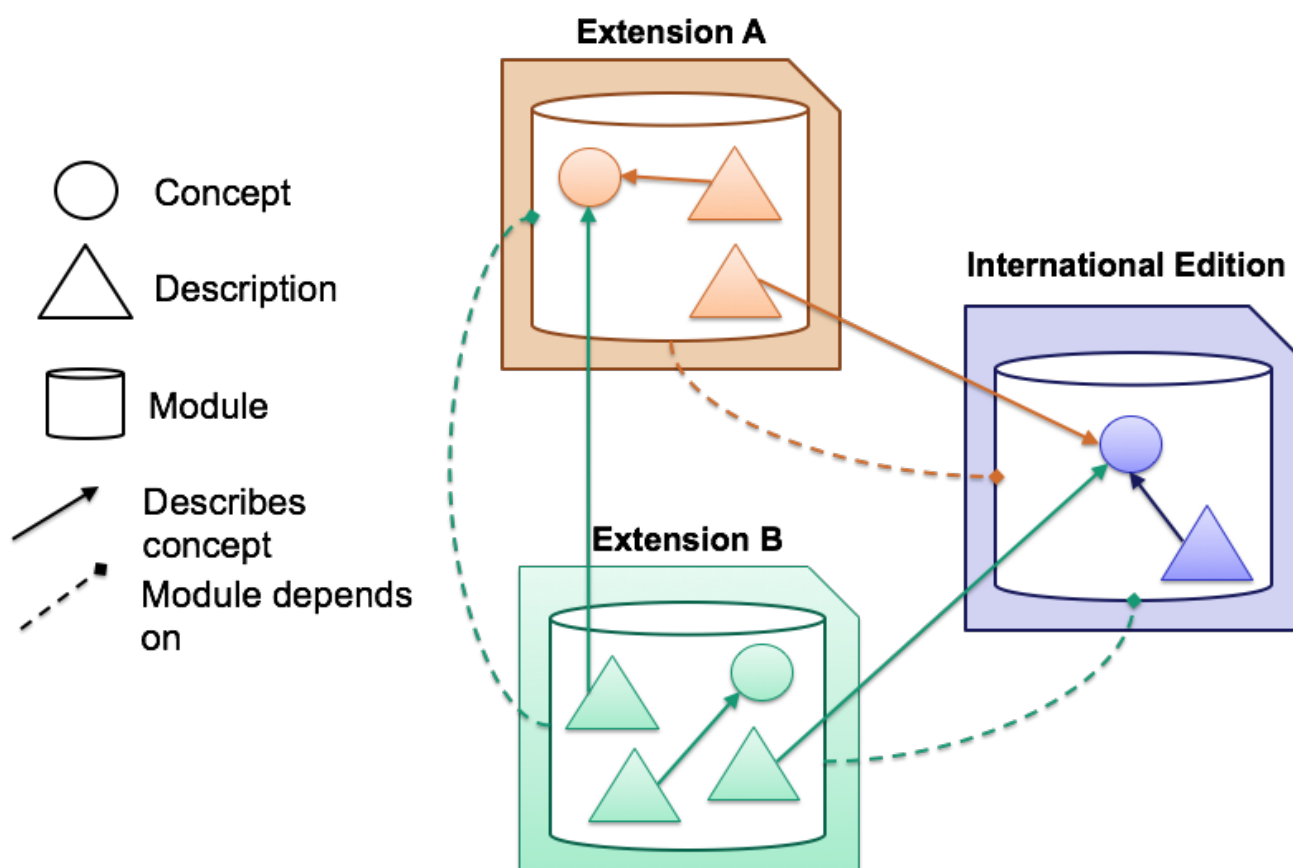
The main reasons for adding descriptions in an extension are:

- To translate SNOMED CT into another language
- To add terms that are preferred or accepted within a local setting, for example
  - Common clinical terms that facilitate searching for concepts
  - Patient friendly terms
- To support the creation of new concepts in the extension, which each require at least two descriptions

### Principles

#### Overview

As depicted in [Figure 5.4.3.1-1](#), a description in an extension may refer to any concept in the same extension (Extension B), any concept in a module upon which the extension modules depend (Extension A), or any concept in the International Edition.



**Figure 5.4.3.1-1: Descriptions can reference concepts in other modules on which the extension modules depend**

Note that the green and orange triangles pointing to the purple circle represent a situation in which a description is added to an extension that describes an international concept. These extension descriptions supplement the descriptions that are already part of the International Edition.

### Adding Descriptions for a New Concept

Descriptions in SNOMED CT are represented in a description file. At least two descriptions must be created for each new concept in an extension:

- A description of type | Fully specified name| (FSN)
  - Note that all extension producers should create an unambiguous FSN in US English for each new concept. Additional FSNs may also be created to support other languages and dialects.
- A description of type | Synonym|, in either English or an alternative language

The acceptability of new descriptions must be specified in a language reference set.

## Adding Fully Specified Names

The following principles apply to adding FSNs in an extension.

- There may be more than one active description with a *typeId* of [Fully specified name](#) (FSN).
  - However, only one FSN should be marked as preferred for use in a given language or dialect by a specific Language Reference Set.
- Every extension concept must have an unambiguous FSN in US English.
  - The US English FSN is the point of reference for the meaning of all concepts in the SNOMED CT International Edition.
  - The US English FSN is used to facilitate sharing and to resolve potential issues related to the interpretation of the meaning.
- Extensions producers are permitted to create a FSN in each of their native languages.
  - This means that a non-English FSN may be marked as the preferred FSN in a specific language reference set in the extension.
  - Consequently, a concept may have more than one FSN. However, only one may be preferred in a specific language reference set.
  - Where a concept has only one active description with a *typeId* of [Fully specified name](#) across all language codes within a release, then that description can be assumed to be the FSN for all languages and dialects, and need not be explicitly included in every language reference set.

## Adding Synonyms

- Unlike FSNs, *synonyms* are not necessarily unique between concepts, as the same *term* can be used to describe more than one concept.
- The preferred term is the synonym marked as preferred for use in the Language Reference Set for a given language or dialect.
  - There must be at least one description with a *typeId* of [Synonym](#) and an *acceptabilityId* value of [Preferred](#) for each concept associated with a description in a given language reference set.

## Adding Descriptions to an Existing Concept

When a description is created in an extension, as part of a translation or to provide a localized synonym for an existing concept, a new row should be added in the relevant language reference set to indicate whether the description is [Preferred](#) or [Acceptable](#) in the given language or dialect.

## Process

The table below provides a summary of the process to follow when adding new descriptions to an extension.

File Type	Process
Description	A new row which represents the new description is added to the description file.
	<p>The attributes of the new description are set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>id</i> is set to a new descriptionId allocated within the extension namespace</li><li>• <i>effectiveTime</i> is set to the date the extension will be published</li><li>• <i>active</i> is set to 1 to indicate that the new description will be active at the time of publication</li><li>• <i>moduleId</i> is set to the conceptId of a module that is managed by the extension producer</li><li>• <i>conceptId</i> is set to the <i>id</i> of the concept to which this description applies</li><li>• <i>languageCode</i> is set to the two character code of the language in which this term was authored</li><li>• <i>typeId</i> is set to indicate the type of the description<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Values include <a href="#">Fully specified name</a> or <a href="#">Synonym</a></li></ul></li><li>• <i>term</i> is set to the string of characters used to describe the given concept</li><li>• <i>caseSignificanceId</i> is set to indicate the case significance of the term</li></ul>
Language Reference Set	A new row (or member) is added to each relevant language reference set.
	<p>The attributes of the new language reference set member are set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>id</i> is set to a unique automatically-generated UUID</li><li>• <i>effectiveTime</i> is set to the date the extension will be published</li><li>• <i>active</i> is set to 1 to indicate that the new member will be active at the time of publication</li><li>• <i>moduleId</i> is set to the conceptId of a module that is managed by the extension producer</li><li>• <i>refsetId</i> is set to the conceptId of the language reference set to which the member is added</li><li>• <i>referencedComponentId</i> is set to the descriptionId of the new description</li><li>• <i>acceptability</i> is set to indicate the acceptability of the new description in the relevant language or dialect<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Value is either <a href="#">Preferred</a> or <a href="#">Acceptable</a></li><li>◦ Each concept may have only one preferred FSN and one preferred synonym in each language reference set</li></ul></li></ul>