

# SNOMED CT expression

A structured combination of one or more [concept identifiers](#) that represents an idea.

## Notes

- An *expression* containing a single [concept identifier](#) is referred to as a [precoordinated expression](#). An *expression* that contains two or more [concept identifiers](#) is a [postcoordinated expression](#).
- The syntax used to represent *SNOMED CT expressions* is called the [SNOMED CT compositional grammar](#) and is formally defined in the [Compositional Grammar - Specification and Guide](#).
- The [concept identifiers](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#) are related to one another in accordance with rules expressed in the [SNOMED CT Concept Model](#). These rules allow an *expression* to [refine](#) the meaning of a [concept](#) by applying more specific values to particular attributes of a more general [concept](#).

## Example

- The *expression* 284196006:363698007=770850006 represents a burn to the skin of the left index finger.
- An *expression* can also include the terms related to each of the identified concepts as shown below:

284196006 |burn of skin| : 363698007 |finding site| = 770850006 |Skin structure of left index finger|

## Alternatives

- **Expression**

## Related Links

- **Glossary**
  - [precoordinated expression](#)
  - [postcoordinated expression](#)
  - [focus concept](#)
  - [refinement](#)
  - [context wrapper](#)
- **SNOMED computable languages**
  - [SNOMED CT compositional grammar](#)
  - [SNOMED CT expression constraint](#)
  - [SNOMED CT template](#)
- **Specification**
  - [Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide](#)