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SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) International Release – January 2009

The SNOMED CT core terminology provides a common language that enables a consistent way of indexing, storing, retrieving, and aggregating clinical data across specialties and sites of care. The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO®) maintains the SNOMED CT technical design, the core content architecture, the SNOMED CT core content (includes the concepts table, the descriptions table, the relationships table, a history table, and ICD mappings), and related technical documentation.

Concepts

The January 2009 International Release includes more than 310,000 active concepts with formal logic-based definitions, organized into top-level hierarchies:

Body structure (<i>Structure of thyroid</i>)	Linkage concept	Procedure (<i>Biopsy of lung</i>)
• Morphologically abnormal structure (<i>Granuloma</i>)	• Link assertion (<i>Has etiology</i>)	Qualifier value (<i>Right</i>)
Clinical finding	• Attributes (<i>Finding site</i>)	Record artifact (<i>Death certificate</i>)
• Finding (<i>Swelling of arm</i>)	Observable entity (<i>Tumor stage</i>)	Situation with explicit content (<i>No nausea</i>)
• Disease (<i>Pneumonia</i>)	Organism (<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>)	Social context (<i>Organ donor</i>)
Environments/geographical locations	Pharmaceutical/biologic product (<i>Tamoxifen</i>)	Special concept (<i>Inactive concept</i>)
(<i>Intensive care unit</i>)	Physical force (<i>Friction</i>)	Specimen (<i>Urine specimen</i>)
Event (<i>Flash flood</i>)	Physical object (<i>Suture needle</i>)	Staging and scales (<i>Barthel index</i>)
		Substance (<i>Gastric acid</i>)

Descriptions

Contains more than 794,000 active English-language descriptions for flexibility in expressing clinical concepts.

Relationships

Provides more than 947,000 logically-defining relationships enable consistency of data retrieval and analysis.

Attributes

Body Structure	Events	Procedure	Revision Status
Laterality	Associated With	Access	Route of Administration
Clinical Finding	• After	Direct Substance	Surgical Approach
Associated With	• Causative Agent	Has Focus	Using Energy
• After	• Due To	Has Intent	Using Substance
• Causative Agent	Occurrence	Method	Situation with Explicit Context
• Due To	Measurement Procedure	Priority	Associated Finding
Associated Morphology	Component	Procedure Device	Associated Procedure
Clinical Course	Has Specimen	• Direct Device	Finding Context
Episodicity	Measurement Method	• Indirect Device	Procedure Context
Finding Informer	Property	• Using Access Device	Subject Relationship Context
Finding Method	Scale Type	• Using Device	Temporal Context
Finding Site	Time Aspect	Procedure Morphology	Specimen
Has Definitional Manifestation	Pharmaceutical/Biologic Product	• Direct Morphology	Specimen Procedure
Has Interpretation	Has Active Ingredient	• Indirect Morphology	Specimen Source Identity
Interprets	Has Dose Form	Procedure Site	Specimen Source Morphology
Occurrence	Physical Object	• Procedure Site – Direct	Specimen Source Topography
Pathological Process	Has Active Ingredient	• Procedure Site – Indirect	Specimen Substance
Severity		Recipient Category	

Realm-Specific Content Retired

For January 2009, approximately 9,500 Limited Concepts (ConceptStatus=6) have been retired from the International Release and moved to the UK national extension. These Concepts now have a status of “Moved elsewhere” (ConceptStatus=10) in the International Release.

New Release File – Stated Relationships Table

A new file has been included with the January 2009 International Release: the Stated Relationships Table.

Overview

The Stated Relationships Table contains the stated form of SNOMED CT Concepts. The stated form is the logical definition of a Concept that is directly edited by authors or editors. It consists of the stated IS A relationships plus the defining relationships that exist prior to running a classifier on the definitions. Therefore, the stated form of a concept is represented by a collection of relationships: one or more IS A relationships and one or more defining relationships.

The Stated Relationships Table is in the same format as the Relationships Table.

The stated form enables implementers to test a classifier for consistency, by comparing the results of classification with the distributed Relationships Table, which is the inferred form.

Key Fields	
RelationshipId	Currently empty for the Stated Relationships Table
Data Fields	
ConceptId1	The unique SNOMED CT Identifier of the Concept which is the source of this Relationship.
RelationshipType	The unique SNOMED CT Identifier of the Concept which represents the type of relationship between the related Concepts.
ConceptId2	The unique SNOMED CT Identifier of the Concept which is the target of this Relationship.
CharacteristicType	Always indicates that the Relationship specifies a defining characteristic of the source Concept. No non-defining relationships are allowed in the Stated Relationships Table.
Refinability	An indication of whether it is possible to refine the target Concept when this relationship is used as a template for clinical data entry.
RelationshipGroup	An integer value that links together Relationships which are part of a logically associated Relationship group.

Stated Relationships Table Documentation

The January 2009 SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide, which is included in this release, includes documentation for the Stated Relationships Table in Section 7. Please refer to this document for a full description of the Stated Relationships Table.