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SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) International Release – January 2011

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 2011 International Release content hierarchy includes more than 293,000 active concepts with formal logic-based definitions, organized into top-level hierarchies:

Body structure	Observable entity	Situation with explicit content
• Morphologically abnormal structure	Organism	Social context
Clinical finding	Pharmaceutical / biologic product	Special concept
• Finding	Physical force	Specimen
• Disease	Physical object	Staging and scales
Environment or geographical location	Procedure	Substance
Event	Qualifier Value	
Linkage concept	Record artifact	

Descriptions

Contains more than 765,000 active English-language descriptions for flexibility in expressing clinical concepts.

Relationships

Provides more than 830,000 logically-defining relationships enable consistency of data retrieval and analysis.

Attributes

Body Structure

Laterality

Clinical Finding

Associated With

- After
- Causative Agent
- Due To

Associated Morphology

Clinical Course

Episodicity

Finding Informer

Finding Method

Finding Site

Has Definitional Manifestation

Has Interpretation

Interprets

Occurrence

Pathological Process

Severity

Events

Associated With

- After
 - Causative Agent
 - Due To
- Occurrence

Evaluation Procedure

Component

Has Specimen

Measurement Method

Property

Scale Type

Time Aspect

Pharmaceutical/Biologic

Product

Has Active Ingredient

Has Dose Form

Physical Object

Has Active Ingredient

Procedure

Access

Direct Substance

Has Focus

Has Intent

Method

Priority

Procedure Device

• Direct Device

• Indirect Device

• Using Access Device

• Using Device

Procedure Morphology

• Direct Morphology

• Indirect Morphology

Procedure Site

• Procedure Site – Direct

• Procedure Site – Indirect

Recipient Category

Revision Status

Route of Administration

Surgical Approach

Using Energy

Using Substance

Situation with Explicit Context

Associated Finding

Associated Procedure

Finding Context

Procedure Context

Subject Relationship Context

Temporal Context

Specimen

Specimen Procedure

Specimen Source Identity

Specimen Source Morphology

Specimen Source Topography

Specimen Substance

Release Notes for the January 2011 International Release

1. New SNOMED CT Content

1,902 concept codes were added for the January 2011 International Release, along with 402 new descriptions for previously released, active concepts.

2. Ongoing Implementation of DITA-based Documentation

The IHTSDO is continuing to convert documentation for the SNOMED CT International Release into the DITA (Darwin Information Typing Architecture) standard. For the January 2011 International Release, the following documents have been generated using DITA:

- SNOMED CT User Guide
- SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide
- SNOMED CT Editorial Guide (*see below*)
- SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide (*see below*)

3. New Documentation Formats

Beginning with this January 2011 International Release, three documents from the International Release are being distributed in multiple formats: HTML, Microsoft Help (.chm), as well as the customary Adobe PDF document format. These documents are the SNOMED CT User Guide, the SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide, and the newly revised SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide (see below).

These additional document formats have been made possible by the IHTSDO's adoption of the DITA standard for maintaining the International Release documentation.

4. Full Release of the Revised Technical Implementation Guide

The SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide (TIG) has been completely revised and updated to reflect current Best Practices in SNOMED CT implementation, and to more effectively meet the needs and expectations of the SNOMED CT community.

The January 2011 International Release includes the first full release of the new TIG, which is being distributed in HTML and Microsoft Help (.chm) formats, in addition to the customary PDF.

5. First Release of the SNOMED CT Editorial Guide

The January 2011 International Release marks the first distribution of the SNOMED CT Editorial Guide, which provides expanded information regarding editorial policies and guidelines for the development of SNOMED CT content. Please note that many of the policies and guidelines currently described in this document remain in "draft" form and are continue to undergo review and revision by the IHTSDO's Content Committee.

6. SNOMED CT Stated Relationships Guide Discontinued

The SNOMED CT Stated Relationships Guide will no longer be distributed as a separate document. The information previously found in this document has been incorporated into the SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide.