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## SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) International Release – July 2010

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 July 2010 International Release content hierarchy includes more than 292,000 active concepts with formal logic-based definitions, organized into top-level hierarchies:

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

### Descriptions

Contains more than 760,000 active English-language descriptions for flexibility in expressing clinical concepts.

### Relationships

Provides more than 824,000 logically-defining relationships enable consistency of data retrieval and analysis.

### Attributes

|                                |  |                             |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Body Structure</b>          | <b>Events</b>                          | <b>Procedure</b>            | Revision Status                        |
| Laterality                     | Associated With                        | Access                      | Route of Administration                |
| <b>Clinical Finding</b>        | • After                                | Direct Substance            | Surgical Approach                      |
| Associated With                | • Causative Agent                      | Has Focus                   | Using Energy                           |
| • After                        | • Due To                               | Has Intent                  | Using Substance                        |
| • Causative Agent              | Occurrence                             | Method                      | <b>Situation with Explicit Context</b> |
| • Due To                       | <b>Evaluation Procedure</b>            | 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        | <b>Specimen</b>                        |
| Has Definitional Manifestation | <b>Pharmaceutical/Biologic Product</b> | • Direct Morphology         | Specimen Procedure                     |
| Has Interpretation             | Has Active Ingredient                  | • Indirect Morphology       | Specimen Source Identity               |
| Interprets                     | Has Dose Form                          | Procedure Site              | Specimen Source Morphology             |
| Occurrence                     | <b>Physical Object</b>                 | • Procedure Site – Direct   | Specimen Source Topography             |
| Pathological Process           | Has Active Ingredient                  | • Procedure Site – Indirect | Specimen Substance                     |
| Severity                       |  | Recipient Category          |  |

## Release Notes for the July 2010 International Release

### 1. New SNOMED CT Content

1,148 concept codes were added for the July 2010 International Release, along with 1,559 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 July 2010 International Release, the following documents have been generated using DITA:

- SNOMED CT User Guide
- SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide
- SNOMED CT Stated Relationships Guide
- SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide DRAFT (*see below*)

### 3. Alpha Release of Revised Technical Implementation Guide

The SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide (TIG) is currently undergoing a complete revision and update to ensure that it reflects current Best Practices in SNOMED CT implementation, and effectively meets the needs and expectations of the SNOMED CT community.

For the July 2010 International Release, a preview of the revised TIG is being distributed in HTML and Microsoft Help (.chm) formats. The final version of the revised TIG is planned for distribution as part of the January 2011 International Release.

### 4. Modeling of Evaluation Findings and Evaluation Procedures

The effort to review and sufficiently define content in these hierarchies (in particular Measurement findings and Measurement procedures) and align logic definitions with new policies continued for the July 2010 International Release.

An editorial policy decision was made to adopt IUPAC's definition of "assay" as synonymous with "measurement". In order to achieve consistent naming across the terminology, many concept codes with the Fully Specified Name (FSN) pattern "X antibody assay (procedure)" had their FSNs changed to "Measurement of X antibody (procedure)". Where possible, Measurement of X antibody (procedure) concept codes were sufficiently defined using METHOD: *Measurement - action (qualifier value)* and COMPONENT: "X" antibody (substance). Over 600 "X antibody assay (procedure)" type concept codes were reviewed. The project also included editing a number of "X" antibody (substance) type concept codes. The project of addressing existing "X antibody assay (procedure)" content is now largely completed.

### 5. "RF2" Preview Release and the Metadata Hierarchy

A preview release of the new "RF2" release format for SNOMED CT will be distributed at the end of July 2010 in parallel with the July 2010 International Release. This preview will reflect the final version of the technical specifications for the RF2 format.

The content included in the RF2 preview release will differ from the content of the official (RF1) July 2010 International Release in several important respects, and has not been subject to the same level of Quality Assurance review as is applied to the official International Release. Therefore, the preview release should not be used in production information systems, or for any use involving actual patient care or data

The RF2 preview will include a metadata hierarchy, descended from the *SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)* concept, which is required for implementation of the RF2 format. Per the final version of the RF2 specifications, metadata will no longer form a second, distinct hierarchy within the Concept table. Instead, *SNOMED CT Model Component* will be a sub-type of the root *SNOMED CT Concept*, and the metadata will form a top-level hierarchy under the SNOMED CT root concept. Two existing concepts, *Linkage concept (linkage concept)* and *Namespace concept (namespace concept)*, along with the hierarchies descended from them, will be moved from their current locations and become sub-types of *SNOMED CT Model Component*.