



Briefing Note for the Member Forum March 2021

Attribute Changes in Physical Object Hierarchy

Purpose

To update the Member Forum on the replacement of the existing Has device characteristic attribute used in the Physical object hierarchy

Background

The SNOMED CT Editorial Advisory Group (EAG) has recommended replacement of the existing Has device characteristic attribute used in the Physical object hierarchy with more explicit attributes. The existing use of this attribute has been reviewed and upcoming changes are summarized in the following section of this document.

The Device project organizing principles can be viewed on Confluence:

- <https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/IAP/Reference+Documentation+-+Devices>

Plan

For the July 2021 International edition of SNOMED CT, we will make the following changes:

- Add the following new attributes and transition existing instances of 840562008 |Has

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device characteristic (attribute)| to new attributes as appropriate:

- 1148969005 |Has absorbability quality (attribute)| to model qualities such as bioabsorbable, nonbioabsorbable, etc.
 - 1148968002 |Has surface quality (attribute)| to model qualities such as smooth, textured, coated, not coated.
 - 1148965004 |Is sterile (attribute)| with attribute values of true or false to indicate objects specifically described as sterile or nonsterile.
- Add new attribute 1148967007 |Has coating material (attribute)| to model specific coating material and populate as appropriate.
 - Inactivate attribute 246196007 |Has surface characteristic (attribute)| and transition existing instances to new 1148968002 |Has surface quality (attribute)| to model qualities such as smooth, textured, coated, or uncoated.
 - Inactivate 840562008 |Has device characteristic (attribute)| and remaining existing instances used to model Physical object concepts not addressed by introduction of new attributes.
 - For example, attribute values such as 263911000 |Tricuspid (qualifier value)| associated with 736893007 |Aortic tri-leaflet mechanical valve prosthesis (physical object)| or 863923000 |Balloon expanding (qualifier value)| associated with 257365005 |Balloon expanded biliary stent (physical object)| will be removed until such time a use case to support the attribute values are identified.

This briefing note will be distributed to selected Advisory and Project Groups. Please contact info@snomed.org with any inquiries.

Approved by Jim Case, Head of Terminology

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