

The road towards implementing SNOMED CT

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Audience

Healthcare organizations that are in the planning phase of implementing SNOMED CT

Objectives

The presentation explains the decisions made and the strategies adopted to achieve an acceptable level of infrastructure and knowledge to sustain the planning phase to implement SNOMED CT.

Abstract

A few years ago, Uruguay has defined the use of SNOMED CT as a national strategy towards implementing clinical interoperability. In order to support this decision, our country became an ITHSDO member in 2013.

SUAT is a private organization that provides pre-hospital medical care within the National Health System (SNIS). Our patients generally continue their medical care in many other different providers. Sharing clinical records on time is essential to guarantee continuous care; semantic interoperability is the only suitable tool to achieve this goal.

We use Electronic Health Records (EHR), since 2004 and in 2012 we have developed a mobile EHR that is being used since February 2014. All the software applications we use are made in house. We provide 200.000 assistances per year, and our clinical staff is composed of 250 doctors and 350 paramedics

SUAT decided to implement SNOMED CT in order to support semantic interoperability, improve the information quality and support continuous care.

Once this decision was made, we design a two years plan to prepare the organization to use the standard. As a first step, in 2013, we applied for a SNOMED CT license and as a second step, a group of doctors and IT members were chosen to learn about it. In the other hand, as we are redesigning our Information System, we included the standard specifications in the project.

At this time, we are one of the members of the adoption pilot for National EHR, the first step proposed is to be able to share clinical information with a level 1 CDA in 2018. The second step is to be able to share clinical information with a level 3 CDA.

We are already prepared to achieve the first step in time, and we are working hard to be able to share level 3 CDA as soon as possible. This can only be possible if we are able to successfully implement SNOMED CT in our EHR system