



Briefing Note for the Member Forum March 2022

Primary and metastatic malignancy disorder concepts

Purpose

To update the Member Forum on the planned Quality Improvement for the hierarchies of 372087000 Primary malignant neoplasm (disorder) and 128462008 Secondary malignant neoplastic disease (disorder). Lymphoid and hematopoietic neoplasms are excluded at this stage.

Background

An internal working group established principles to address difficulties with defining primary malignant neoplasm disorders and metastatic disorders. Following Editorial Advisory Group (EAG) discussions, the current mechanism for defining primary malignancy and metastatic disorders in SNOMED CT using the 116676008 Associated morphology (attribute) relationship with values from the 86049000 Malignant neoplasm, primary (morphologic abnormality) hierarchy and 14799000 Neoplasm, metastatic (morphologic abnormality) hierarchy will be discontinued. Instead, the 370135005 Pathological process (attribute) relationship will be employed, using target values selected from subtypes of 11495041000004108 Proliferation of neoplasm (qualifier value). For Observable entity concepts, the 704321009 Characterizes (attribute) relationship will be employed, using the same selection of subtypes as target values.

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Plan

Commencing with the July 2022 International edition of SNOMED CT, existing subtypes of 372087000 Primary malignant neoplasm (disorder) will be remodeled with the 370135005 Pathological process (attribute) and qualifier value relationship to new Malignant proliferation of primary neoplasm (qualifier value) if they state primary in their FSN. If the FSN is agnostic as to whether primary or metastatic (approx. 1020 concepts), the concept will be retained and will have 2 new subtype concepts added as necessary, one for primary malignancy and one for metastatic. These new concepts will be modeled with the pathological process attribute relationship. It is unclear how current subtypes of 372087000 Primary malignant neoplasm (disorder) without 'primary' in their FSN have been interpreted by users, therefore, all three concepts 'primary x', 'metastatic x', and their parent of existing (agnostic) 'x malignancy' are required.

Similarly, metastatic disorder concepts will be remodeled with the Pathological process (attribute) and value 1505291000004103 |Discontinuous metastatic spread (qualifier value). For consistency, the FSN and PT will be termed 'metastatic' with 'secondary' retained as a synonym, if present.

The proposal is for the inactivation of 86049000 Malignant neoplasm, primary (morphologic abnormality) and 367651003 |Malignant neoplasm of primary, secondary, or uncertain origin (morphologic abnormality)| and replacement with a new morphology concept for 'Malignant neoplasm (morphologic abnormality)'. Twelve other morphologies with a 'primary' designation in their FSN will be inactivated pointing to a replacement target without 'primary'. Also, similarly proposed is the inactivation of 14799000 |Neoplasm, metastatic (morphologic abnormality)| and its 29 subtypes.

This briefing note will be distributed to selected Advisory and Project Groups.

Please contact info@snomed.org with any inquiries

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