

Briefing Note for the Member Forum, Content Managers Advisory Group, Editorial Advisory Group and Clinical Leads

28 February 2023

Inactivation of Clinical finding and Procedure concepts which include the context of subject or patient in the FSN

Purpose

To request input from the Content Managers Advisory Group (CMAG), Editorial Advisory Group (EAG), Clinical Leads and the ICN Editorial Board on the potential impact of inactivating Clinical Finding and Procedure hierarchy concepts which include the context of patient or subject in the description of the concept.

Background

Currently in the International Edition of SNOMED CT there are concepts in the Clinical Finding and Procedure hierarchies which explicitly include the context of patient or subject in the meaning.

- Clinical Finding
 - Finding tag: 340
 - Disorder tag: 14
- Procedure: 328

Please note this excludes concepts such as |Demonstrates knowledge of patient controlled analgesia (finding)|.

The Situation with Explicit Context hierarchy is intended for [concepts that explicitly include contextual information](#); which includes the inclusion of whom the finding is about or procedure is performed on. These concepts can be used to represent different meanings e.g. past history, family history, planned care, excluded diagnosis etc.

A concept in the Clinical Finding or Procedure hierarchy has a default context of the subject of the record. This context can be overridden by the information model. For example, the concept |Asthma (disorder)|, could be used in a family history field to represent a family history of asthma. Including the term subject or patient in the meaning of a concept prevents a Clinical

finding or Procedure concept being used in that way. For example, the concept |Patient immunocompromised (finding)| could not be used in a family history field to represent that a family member is immunocompromised. See the [Default Context](#) section in the Editorial Guide for further information.

Content Analysis

An initial analysis shows that a significant portion of the concepts, particularly in the Clinical finding hierarchy, are either out of scope for the International Edition or do not meet current editorial guidelines. This content would be inactivated.

Examples:

- Administrative - out of scope
 - |Questionable if patient postal code correct (finding)|
 - |Patient transfer, to another health care facility, temporary (procedure)|
- Groupers
 - |Patient participation status (finding)|
- Classification construct
 - |Shock therapy as the cause of abnormal reaction of patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of procedure (disorder)|
- Doesn't align with editorial guidance
 - |First encounter by subject (finding)|
 - |Evaluation AND/OR management - established patient (procedure)|
- Ambiguous in meaning
 - |Patient breast aware (finding)|
 - |Patient says leaving list (finding)|
- UK specific
 - |Patient registered - FP13 (finding)|
 - |Patient transfer to skilled nursing facility for level 1 care (procedure)|

This content could be reactivated in the national extension where required.

Content in Scope

The remainder of the content is considered in scope. Examples of this content include:

- Patient unable to chew with denture (finding)
- Patient forgets to take medication (finding)
- Giving patient an enema (procedure)
- Clipping nails of patient (procedure)

The proposed action for this content includes:

- Creation of a contextless base concept.
 - Analysis so far has shown that very few concepts representing the base meaning currently exist in the terminology.
- Inactivation of the concepts in the Clinical Finding or Procedure hierarchies that explicitly include the context of patient or subject.
 - The inactivation reason used would be ‘Nonconformance to editorial policy’.
 - The historical association would be ‘Alternative’ with the value being the new base concept.

The creation and inactivation processes for each meaning would be undertaken together.

Content change example 1

- Patient unable to chew with denture (finding) - inactivated
- Unable to chew with denture (finding) - created

Content change example 2

- Positioning subject in supine position (procedure) -inactivated
- Positioning in supine position (procedure) - created

Next Steps

SNOMED International is looking to determine the impact of this change on extension managers and users. It would be appreciated if the following information was provided:

- Usage data of Clinical finding or Procedure concepts that include the term patient or subject in the FSN.
- Is there a need for concepts that explicitly include the meaning ‘subject’ or would the creation of a base concept meet requirements?
- Impact of the inactivation of out of scope content.

Feedback should be provided via info@snomed.org by no later than 31st March 2023.

| Approvals | Date | Name |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Chief Terminologist | 2023-02-27 | James T. Case |
| Director of Content and Mapping | 2023-02-28 | Monica Harry |



Cathy Richardson, 2023-02-24