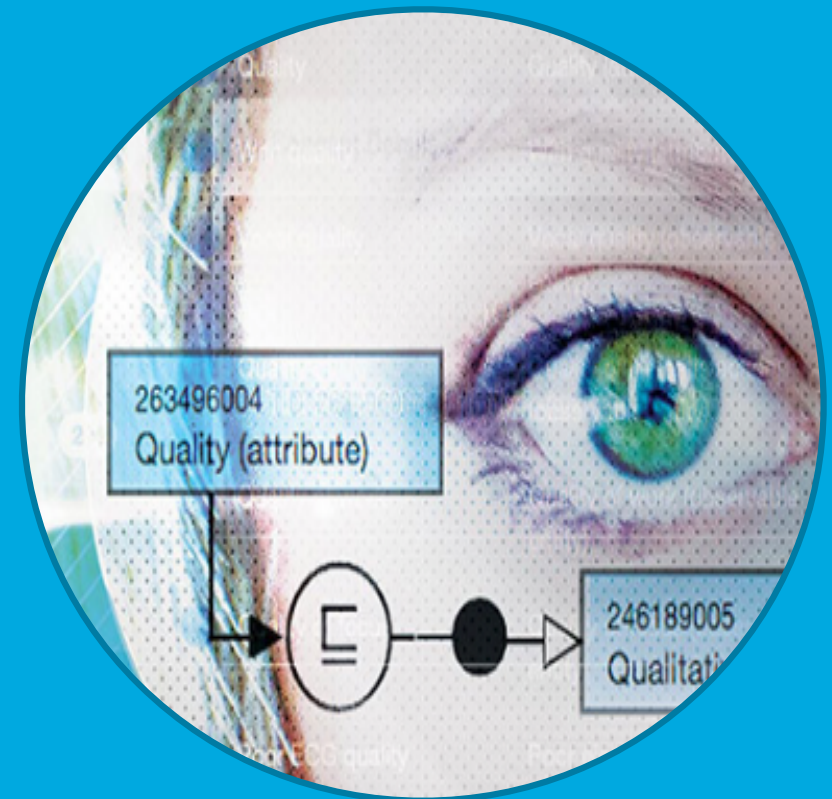


# Ensuring the Quality of SNOMED CT

*Joint MB/GA Closed Session  
SNOMED International Business Meeting  
April 2018*



# Ensuring the Quality of SNOMED CT

Maintaining the quality of SNOMED CT is of core importance and rigorously undertaken by the organization on an ongoing basis.

Quality through expert personnel

*Experienced Authors, Clinical backgrounds, Varied Domains*

Quality through guidance and training

*Editorial & Mapping Guidelines, Customer Guidance*

Quality through process

*Automated Rules Validation, Pattern evaluation*

Quality through collaboration

*Alignment with Standards, SME groups, Stakeholders*

# The Quality Initiative

***SNOMED International is initiating a project to undertake a broader examination across all hierarchies***

Through the Quality Initiative project we will provide a greater focus on correcting structural anomalies as well as modification of content, resulting in a higher value of clinical accuracy.



## What is the Scope of the Quality Initiative?

- Initial QI work will start with the clinical findings hierarchy, identifying problems associated with *cardinality*, *defining attributes and relationship grouping*, as well as associated quality issues in the foundation hierarchies, such as *anatomy* and *substance*.
- Work will also target template creation within the process for immediate use to safeguard these changes and increase our QA standard.

*The impact of this maintenance will first be reflected in the **July 2018 release**, with continued improvements in subsequent releases.*



## What is the Impact of QI to our Existing Processes?

The strategy of correction will encompass best efforts to balance the work required by the QI Initiative with requested content changes:

- In order to apply best practice and methodologies of correction, maintenance activities most likely will defer some content updates to later releases.
- The organization's capacity to add new content will be contingent on available resources, clinical urgency of received content change requests, and timing of ongoing QI changes in consideration of potential impact.

*In all cases where there is a known impact to patient care, new content can continue to be submitted in line with Content Request Service Guidelines and Criteria for Content Acceptance.*

# Notification to the Community

- Early visibility of the Quality Initiative and its known impacts to Members and other stakeholders was communicated on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 via [snomed.org](http://snomed.org), [Confluence](#), and [Member Forum](#) specific communication channels.
- Scope updates regarding the Quality Initiative will be posted on Confluence on the [Early Visibility](#) page communicating planned changes to upcoming Snomed CT International releases



**SNOMED International** Leading healthcare terminology, worldwide

February 22, 2018

**Notice: Early Visibility of Changes to January 2019 CRS Service Level Agreement**

Valued Stakeholders,

Maintaining the quality of SNOMED CT is of core importance and rigorously undertaken by the organization on an ongoing basis. With this in mind, SNOMED International is initiating a process to undertake a broader examination across all hierarchies. Through the Quality Initiative (QI), we will adopt a greater focus on correcting structural anomalies as well as modification of content, resulting in a higher level of clinical accuracy.

To progress this work, SNOMED International must engage in maintenance activities that will result in the need to defer some content updates so that quality best practice and methodologies of correction may be applied. The organization's capacity to add new content will be contingent upon available resources and clinical urgency outside the scope of our QI Initiative. The impact of this maintenance will first be reflected in the January 2019 release, with continued improvements in subsequent releases. As a result, reallocation of our internal resources to support this work may impact 'business as usual' areas.

A strategy is in place to balance the work required by the QI Initiative with requested content changes. The initial QI work will focus on the Clinical findings hierarchy, identifying problems associated with cardinality, defining attributes and relationship grouping, as well as associated quality issues in the foundation hierarchies, such as anatomy and substance. The organisation will address these areas and create templates for future quality assurance.

For content change requests, priority will be given to urgent requests that have the potential to pose clinical risk. In all cases where there is a known impact to patient care, new content can continue to be submitted in line with SNOMED International's Content Request Service Guidelines and Criteria for Content Acceptance.

Please consult the below resources to stay informed of planned changes regarding this initiative, upcoming SNOMED International Releases, as well as applicable guidelines and criteria:

- [Early Visibility](#) - Planned improvements to upcoming SNOMED International Release packages



# SNOMED International

*Leading healthcare terminology,  
worldwide*

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SNOMED International is the trading name of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)