



## Role of SNOMED CT in Public Health Surveillance

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### Audience

The presentation is of interest to health care practitioners, providers, as well as system integrators.

### Objectives

The objective of the presentation is to give the audience a perspective of how SNOMED CT and information standardization help detect, report, and contain disease outbreaks.

### Abstract

Public Health professionals require an operational support system to help manage day-to-day public health responsibilities as well as a method to effectively detect and manage health problems such as SARS, Tuberculosis, Influenza, and other communicable diseases, all of which may pose an outbreak threat. Panorama has been designed by health professionals to meet these specific needs.

Panorama is a new Communicable Disease Surveillance and Management system. It was designed and developed for implementation and use by provincial and territorial jurisdictions across Canada and worldwide. The system provides public health professionals with integrated tools that assist in monitoring, managing, and reporting on public health. Panorama provides both front-line service providers and public health decision makers with critical information and reuses centralized data where possible. It improves client health outcomes and results in cost-savings.

The system collects the information for both clients and non-human subjects that is critical for the effective management of health problems, which could potentially pose an outbreak threat. Early outbreak detection and intervention are critical and Panorama will help to manage outbreaks through early detection, rapid verification, and appropriate response to epidemic-prone and emerging diseases.

SNOMED CT is the basis of Panorama Terminology Services and is used throughout the entire system. Panorama implements the complete version of SNOMED CT, including all the hierarchies and all the relationships. The presentation will demonstrate examples of how Panorama uses SNOMED CT, in different contexts. Interactive users of Panorama have the ability to select SNOMED CT concepts from drop down lists, navigate specific SNOMED CT hierarchies, or display related concepts based on existing relationships. Although SNOMED CT includes more than 300,000 active concepts, jurisdictions have the possibility to create SNOMED extensions that will be included in the standard at a later date. The presentation will demonstrate the mechanism Panorama provides to customize application drop down lists using SNOMED CT and the procedure for creating SNOMED CT extensions.

### References

1. Panorama – Communicable Disease Surveillance and Management [http://www-03.ibm.com/industries/ca/en/healthcare/files/panorama\\_application\\_overview\\_final.pdf](http://www-03.ibm.com/industries/ca/en/healthcare/files/panorama_application_overview_final.pdf).