■ INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

SNOMED CT Content Development – A Country Perspective

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Audience

- Participants interested in how Canada has approached Content Development and supporting tooling.
- Participants interested in Canada's workflow model for extension and core content development.

Objectives

- To share Canada's experiences developing SNOMED CT Content and implementing a Request for Change tool.
- To describe a transparent and sustainable workflow model for content development.

Abstract

Over the past two years, Canada Health Infoway has addressed over 2000 requests for changes (RFCs) and additions to the SNOMED CT standard in domains including microbiology, digital imaging, and primary health care. The presentation will highlight Canada's approach to these changes by focusing on real life examples, challenges and lessons learned. The presentation will share Canada's experience with implementing a tool to manage the end to end RFC process; the tool includes a centralized database and automates communication and coordination allowing for different stakeholders to perform and track their tasks in a transparent manner.

Canada Health Infoway will share its experience adopting a workflow model to manage the complete lifecycle of a RFC with a specific emphasis on best practice interaction with stakeholders outside of the National Release Centre (NRC) such as the IHTSDO and other terminology experts. The described workflow model can facilitate the management of simple and complex RFCs by National Release Centres (NRC) and IHTSDO through the use of a transparent process that identifies interactions and key decisions.

Highlights of the described model include the following:

- RFC processing workflow at NRCs should include consultation with international experts and not be performed in isolation (e.g.: expertise from other countries, IHTSDO SIGs, Content experts and/or Chief Terminologist, etc.)
- Modelling and naming patterns should be consistently understood and internationally consistent
- Different approaches for adding content should be considered (e.g.: authoring directly in core; request submission to IHTSDO, or inclusion in a national extension)
- Decisions and context leading up to decisions should be transparent and accessible to NRCs working on Content Development
- Relevant content development projects at the IHTSDO should be reviewed

The workflow model will be presented for further discussion and potential next steps will be proposed.