



# SNOMED CT

## International Medical Devices – Technology Preview January 2013

Release Notes

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## Amendment History

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1.00	20130131	Chief Quality Officer	Approved for Publication

## Review Timetable

This date indicates proposed revision date once a document has been approved

Review date	Responsible owner	Comments
YYYYMMDD	Person/group responsible	Summary of action
		(remove or add rows if necessary)

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# 1 Introduction

The SNOMED Clinical Terms<sup>®</sup> (SNOMED CT) International Release provides a common language that enables a consistent way of indexing, storing, retrieving and aggregating clinical data across specialties and healthcare environments. The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO<sup>®</sup>) maintains the SNOMED CT technical design, the content architecture, the SNOMED CT content (including the concepts table, the descriptions table, the relationships table, a history table and ICD mapping files) and related technical documentation.

This document is intended to give a brief description, background context and explanatory notes on the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview – January 2013.

This document covers the background of medical devices in SNOMED CT and the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature (GMDN) and goes on to cover the new SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview. It is not a detailed technical document of SNOMED CT, GMDN or the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices release. Nor does it seek to provide an editorial policy for medical devices.

## 2 Audience for this Document

This document should be read by all those (National Release Centers, WHO-FIC Collaborating Centers, vendors of electronic health records, terminology developers and managers) with an interest in medical device development in SNOMED CT and by any intending to examine the content of the Technology Preview data.

## 3 Background

The decision of the joint IHTSDO Management Board and General Assembly in October 2010 was to work towards a harmonization agreement with the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature Agency (GMDNA), owners of the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature (GMDN), with the intention that the content of GMDN be integrated with the basic terminological content of the medical devices component of the International Release of SNOMED CT. In April 2012 the culmination of discussions between the IHTSDO and GMDNA was the signing of a harmonization agreement which now permits the IHTSDO to use the content of GMDN as the future basis of the medical device component of SNOMED CT and conversely for the GMDN Agency to use any SNOMED CT medical device content to inform GMDN development.

The collaboration is consistent with the aims of both organizations to minimize duplication of effort and support international harmonization.

## 4 Release Content

### 4.1 Technology Preview Content Overview

- The content is released with identifiers that are within the main IHTSDO (International Release) namespace i.e. not an extension namespace.
- The content links into the main International Release by a single is-a relationship into the Physical Object hierarchy (concept Id – 49062001).
- The SNOMED CT FSN for preview concepts is the GMDN Preferred Term name plus semantic tag
- The semantic tag is (physical object)
- All terms in the content are primitive i.e. no modelling beyond basic hierarchy build.
- The content is released as ‘Technology Preview’ status (see definition below – Section 4.2).
- The content is made available in Release Format 2 (RF2) only.
- Crude hierarchy development was based on existing GMDN groupings (‘collective terms’).
- There are three Language Reference Sets – en-GB, en-US and GMDN.

### 4.2 Status of Content

The SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview is released as ‘Technology Preview’. The initial releases will have ‘Technology Preview’ status and will be clearly labeled as such using the standard file naming conventions.

The SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview does not yet represent a set of data ready for clinical use within a clinical system. It has been made available at this time for review and evaluation purposes only.

**USE WITHIN A CLINICAL SYSTEM CANNOT BE SUPPORTED AT THIS TIME.**

Technology Preview suggests that:

- The release format specification of the product is public but not fixed.
- The method of product content preparation *may* be public (but is not required to be) but is not fixed.
- Quality or safety assurance of the product may be ill-defined and/or incomplete.
- So far as is possible within internal resourcing constraints, IHTSDO undertakes to support the product and maintain it in synchronization with the primary release data as required.
- Trial implementation is encouraged to evaluate utility and safety.
- Trial implementation is at the user’s own risk, where such risk is permitted by other governance processes.
- Trial implementations may have to change if and when the product design changes in the light of experience and release of the baseline.
- Feedback is requested on the technology preview release to inform future development and determine fitness for purpose. The provision of feedback will of course require some degree of analysis of the release through trial implementation or other methods.

## 4.3 Content Detail

Under the terms of the Harmonization agreement between the IHTSDO and the GMDNA only active, GMDN Preferred Terms were under consideration for inclusion in the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview (approximately 19, 500 terms)Of these approximately 11, 000 are In Vitro Diagnostic medical device (IVD) terms. These terms are authored to a different level of granularity than the rest of the GMDN content and set themselves apart in this difference. The level of detail they hold was discussed and the IHTSDO made the decision to not include them in SNOMED CT until a compelling use case for the IVD terms is identified, from the perspective of SNOMED CT users.

Further to exclusion of the IVD terms, the number of concepts added to the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview for the July 2012 is a total of 8,563 new SNOMED CT medical device concepts. Each SNOMED CT concept created has 2 descriptions (Fully Specified Name and Synonym), hence a total of 17,126 descriptions.

Numbers (and types) of GMDN terms used:

- 8, 444 GMDN Preferred Terms imported into new SNOMED CT concepts

- 119 GMDN Collective Terms to group and order the Preferred Terms imported.

## 5 Technology Preview Development

### 5.1 Summary of Development Activity

For the January 2013 Technology Preview, the content development activity has focused on bringing the format in line with the rest of the SNOMED CT International Release through the addition of language reference sets (via a lexical expansion that mainly takes account of US-GB spelling differences) and setting the effectiveTime for this release.

### 5.2 Lexical Expansion

#### **Improvement in content quality and coverage**

To conform to basic International Release standards, a technical lexical expansion has been applied to the January 2013 SNOMED CT International Medical Device Technology Preview. This has resulted in three language refsets for the January 2013 International Medical Device Technology: en-GB, en-US and GMDN.

The native language of GMDN is 'European English' and therefore spellings conform to US derivative in some instances and GB in others. The result is therefore three distinct, unique language refsets.

It is important to preserve the GMDN description as this is the name applied in the regulatory realm and therefore has a very clear separate use case from the en-GB and en-US reference sets.

### 5.3 Effective Date

#### **Improvement in release technical quality**

All component states on the January 2013 International Medical Device Technology Preview have the value of effectiveTime field set to 20130131, because the August 2012 Preview is not considered an official release for RF2 history tracking purposes.

## 6 The SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Project

### 6.1 Overview of Phases

The scope of the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Project is the delivery of a concept model to support medical devices within SNOMED CT, and the continuous alignment of SNOMED CT with GMDN. Given the major scale of this scope, work has been broken down into 4 major Project Phases.

- Project Phase 1: to deliver the first GMDN International Release in SNOMED CT and Proposals for the Medical Devices Concept Model. The medical devices technology preview content will to be updated (provided through the agreement with GMDN) in the six monthly SNOMED CT International Release. This will continue whilst the concept modelling developments are underway (phase 2) prior to the modelled data becoming fully available.
- Project Phase 2 Aim: to design and implement a robust SNOMED CT Medical Devices Concept Model, populated with SNOMED CT compliant and up to date GMDN preferred terms to levels of granularity similar to the drug product “Virtual Therapeutic Moiety” or VTM level, ready for implementation and development by domain experts and the broader IHTDSO member community at the end of this period. The data will be equivalent in granularity to the level of VTM within the pharmacy domain.
- Project Phase 3 Aim: to refine the SNOMED CT Medical Devices Concept Model to greater levels of granularity using prioritized use cases and categories, with development following collaborative authoring best practice to target eight categories per year.
- Project Phase 4 Aim: To most cost-effectively maintain the SNOMED CT model in an established business as usual model.



## 6.2 Work to Date

### 6.2.1 Release

Phase 1 completed at the end of August 2012 with the release of the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Technology Preview- August 2012.

(SnomedCT\_MedicalDevicesTechnologyPreview\_INT\_20120810)

### 6.2.2 Concept Model Design

The concept model is going through the Content Management Process and the first iteration of the Inception document has been released and feedback is requested at this time.

<https://csfe.aceworkspace.net/sf/go/doc6911?nav=1>

Feedback using feedback form <https://csfe.aceworkspace.net/sf/go/doc7200?nav=1> should be sent by 1st<sup>st</sup> March 2013. See Contact details below.

In parallel consultation work on the elaboration document detailing the concept model design options is underway, with the first full draft being targeted for external review at the end of March 2013.

### 6.2.3 External Beta Testing Volunteers

In addition at this stage IHTSDO are actively seeking volunteer organizations (e.g. NRCs, Regulatory bodies, Clinical bodies, suppliers) to assist with future testing stages of the model. This testing is liable to commence from May/June 2013 onwards. Please see contact details below if you would be interested in engaging in Beta testing of the model.

## 7 Contact

All interested parties are encouraged to feedback on this Technology Preview.

Feedback can be sent directly to the IHTSDO via [support@ihtsdo.org](mailto:support@ihtsdo.org) using 'SNOMED CT International Medical Devices Project' as the subject line.