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# SNOMED International Glossary

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The SNOMED CT Glossary provides consistent definitions for terms in used in [SNOMED CT documentation](#), [E-Learning presentations](#) and related materials. In addition to terms that have specific meanings in relation to [SNOMED CT](#), the glossary also includes more general words and phrases used in the healthcare, informatics and other related domains.

Web browsable version: <http://snomed.org/eg>

SNOMED CT Document Library: <http://snomed.org/doc>

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## Introduction

The SNOMED CT Glossary is used to provide consistent definitions for terms in used in [SNOMED CT documentation](#), [E-Learning presentations](#) and related materials.

In addition to terms that have specific meanings in relation to [SNOMED CT](#), the glossary also includes more general words and phrases used in the healthcare, informatics and other related domains.

## Version Notes 2017-12-21

1. To align with glossary practice in formal standard such as those published by [ISO](#) and [CEN](#), the glossary has been updated to use lowercase text for all terms, except where there is a specific reason to use upper case. Upper case characters continue to be used in product names, acronyms and terms that have a specific roles in the [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licence Agreement](#) and the [Articles of Association](#).

 As a result of this style change, the representation of the terms used in the glossary now matches expected usage of these terms in text. Therefore, if the glossary term appears in lower case, it should be used in lowercase. The only exceptions to this should be where the term is at the start of a sentence or in another situation (e.g. within a document or section title) where capitalization rules apply. During the first half of 2018 documents in the online SNOMED CT Document Library will be updated to follow this revised style convention.

## Version Notes 2016-08-01

1. The glossary was published in this new format in August 2016, to as part of a planned process of document migration. At the time of publication, the material in the glossary has been carried forward from the previous publication limited changes to fit the new format.
2. Over the next few months the glossary will be reviewed and revised as other documents are migrated to the new platform.
3. Due to the current migration process some links in the document may not reach the appropriate target documents. If a link does not work correctly, please refer to the SNOMED CT Document Library to locate the relevant document.

## Comments and Additions

The new format allows more frequent revisions and additions to keep the glossary up-to-date. It also enables you to provide feedback on existing glossary entries and to request additions to the glossary.

- To submit suggested revisions of existing definitions, please use the feedback link at the bottom of the page containing the existing definition.
- To propose additional terms and definitions that are required to understand other SNOMED CT documents and developments, please use the feedback link at the bottom of this page.

## A

### active component

A [SNOMED CT component](#) that is intended for use. [Release files](#) contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

#### Note

A component is active when the most recent row with the relevant *Component.id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value *Component.active*=1 (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the *Component.effectiveTime* value.

#### Related Links

- [2.6. Meaning of the Active Field](#)
- [2.8. Release Types](#)

### active concept

A [Concept](#) that is intended for use. [Release files](#) contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

#### Note

A component is active when the most recent row with the relevant *Component.id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value *Component.active*=1 (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the *Component.effectiveTime* value.

### active description

A [Description](#) that is intended for use. [Release files](#) contain *Active* and *Inactive components* to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

#### Note

A component is active when the most recent row with the relevant *Component.id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value *Component.active*=1 (one). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the *Component.effectiveTime* value.

## Affiliate

This is an abbreviation for [Affiliate Licensee](#).

#### Affiliate Licensee

An organization or individual who has been issued a license to use SNOMED CT by [SNOMED International](#).

#### Note

Usage must be in accordance with the [SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement](#).

### Alternatives

- **Affiliate**
- **SNOMED International Affiliate**
- **IHTSDO Affiliate**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## Affiliate Licence

This is a synonym for [Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

The agreement between an [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licensee](#) and [SNOMED International](#) (the licensor) under which developers and implementers are permitted to use the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) and distribute the terminology to their sub-licensees as part of a software system.

### Alternatives

- **Affiliate Licence**
- **SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## Affiliate Licence Agreement

The agreement between an [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licensee](#) and [SNOMED International](#) (the licensor) under which developers and implementers are permitted to use the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) and distribute the terminology to their sub-licensees as part of a software system.

### Alternatives

- **Affiliate Licence**
- **SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## Affiliate Licensee

An organization or individual who has been issued a license to use SNOMED CT by [SNOMED International](#).

### Note

Usage must be in accordance with the [SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement](#).

### Alternatives

- **Affiliate**
- **SNOMED International Affiliate**

- **IHTSDO Affiliate**

#### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## alpha release package

Previously known as the “Technology Preview” Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent a proposed addition of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other items in the SNOMED International Service Catalog. The Alpha status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) is only releasing these additional components or derivatives for review and testing by implementers and other stakeholders. The objective of an Alpha release is to test the chosen approach and elicit feedback before committing to the content and/or release format for the additional material. It is likely that, prior to publication of a Beta release, significant changes may be made to address the feedback received, and issues identified by testing.

#### Notes

1. The Alpha release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Alpha releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.
3. The significance of Alpha releases is that the data should not be used in an operational environment that may incorporate the data into a record or create a dependency on continued maintenance of the additional components or derivatives.

## Alternatives

- **Alpha release**
- **Alpha package**

#### Related Links

- [Beta release package](#)
- [Production release package](#)

## American National Standards Institute

This is the full name for [ANSI](#)

*American National Standards Institute (ANSI)* is a private non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the United States. The organization also coordinates U.S. standards with international standards.

#### Alternatives

- **American National Standards Institute**

#### Related Links

- <http://www.ansi.org>



## ancestor

This is a synonym for [Supertype ancestor](#)

Any [concepts](#) of which the specified [concept](#) is a [subtype](#). Includes the [supertype parents](#) and the [supertype parents](#) of each [supertype parent](#) and so on recursively until the [root concept](#) is reached.

### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept](#) "T" has ten [supertype ancestors](#) A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, and M).

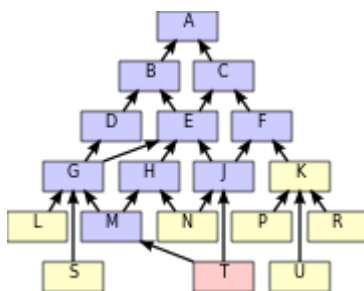


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype ancestors

### Alternatives

- **Ancestor**

## ANSI

*American National Standards Institute (ANSI)* is a private non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products, services, processes, systems, and personnel in the United States. The organization also coordinates U.S. standards with international standards.

### Alternatives

- **American National Standards Institute**

### Related Links

- <http://www.ansi.org>

## API

This is an abbreviation for [Application Programming Interface](#).

### Application Programming Interface

A set of rules and specifications that enable communication between software programs. *Application Programming Interfaces* enables interaction between separate software programs, in much the same way that a [user interface](#) facilitates interaction between humans and computers.

#### Alternatives

- **API**

## application programming interface

A set of rules and specifications that enable communication between software programs. *Application Programming Interfaces* enables interaction between separate software programs, in much the same way that a [user interface](#) facilitates interaction between humans and computers.

#### Alternatives

- **API**

## ATO

This is an abbreviation for [Authorized Triage Organization](#)

An organization approved by the [SNOMED International](#) to manage and triage change requests to for inclusion of content in the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) and/or one or more National [Extensions](#).

#### Note

[Members](#) and their [National Release Centers](#) are likely to fulfill this role. In addition, [SNOMED International Affiliates](#) and Standards Development Organizations may be eligible for consideration as *Authorized Triage Organizations*.

#### Alternatives

- **ATO**

## attribute

An *attribute* represents a characteristic of the meaning of a [concept](#) or the nature of a refinement.

#### Note

An *attribute* has a name which is represented by a [concept](#). All the [concepts](#) that can be used to name *attributes* are [subtypes](#) of the [concept | concept model attribute](#). An *attribute* is assigned a value ( [attribute value pair](#)) when

used in the definition of a [concept](#) or in a [postcoordinated expression](#). The permitted [range](#) of values depends on the rules specified in the [concept model](#).

### Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

### Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## attribute group

An association between a set of [attribute value](#) pairs which causes them to be treated separately from other [attribute value](#) pairs in the same definition or [postcoordinated expression refinement](#).

### Example

- The definition of the [concept](#) |Cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct| has two |Method| attributes with different values ( |Excision - action| and |Exploration - action|) and two |Procedure site - Direct| attributes with different values ( |Common bile duct structure| and |Gallbladder structure|). The attributes are grouped so that procedure is not incorrectly classified as a subtype of |Excision of common bile duct|.

### Alternatives

- **AttributeGroup**

## attribute-group

This is a synonym for [Attribute group](#)

An association between a set of [attribute value](#) pairs which causes them to be treated separately from other [attribute value](#) pairs in the same definition or [postcoordinated expression refinement](#).

### Example

- The definition of the [concept](#) |Cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct| has two |Method| attributes with different values ( |Excision - action| and |Exploration - action|) and two |Procedure site - Direct| attributes with different values ( |Common bile duct structure| and |Gallbladder structure|). The attributes are grouped so that procedure is not incorrectly classified as a subtype of |Excision of common bile duct|.

### Alternatives

- **AttributeGroup**

## attribute name

A [concept](#) that represents the type of a [relationship](#) or the type of a [refinement](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#).

### Notes

1. The type of a [relationship](#) is indicated by the *typed* attribute in the *Relationship file*
2. The [concepts](#) that can be used to name attributes are:
  - [116680003](#) |Is a (attribute)| and
  - [subtypes](#) of [410662002](#) |Concept model attribute|

### Alternatives

- **AttributeName**

## attribute-name

This is a synonym for [Attribute name](#)

A [concept](#) that represents the type of a [relationship](#) or the type of a [refinement](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#).

### Notes

1. The type of a [relationship](#) is indicated by the *typed* attribute in the *Relationship file*
2. The [concepts](#) that can be used to name attributes are:
  - [116680003](#) |Is a (attribute)| and
  - [subtypes](#) of [410662002](#) |Concept model attribute|

### Alternatives

- **AttributeName**

## attribute value

A [concept](#) that represents the target of a [relationship](#) or the value of an [expression refinement](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#) .

### Alternatives

- **Attribute-value**

## attribute-value

This is a synonym for [Attribute value](#)

A [concept](#) that represents the target of a [relationship](#) or the value of an [expression refinement](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#) .

## Alternatives

- **Attribute-value**

## attribute value pair

A combination of an [attribute name](#) and an [attribute value](#) used to represent a specific type of information in a generic way without altering the underlying structure of an information model. The [attribute name](#) identifies the type of information and the [attribute value](#) provides a value.

### Note

*Attribute value pairs* are used by [SNOMED CT](#) in [relationships](#) and [postcoordinated expressions](#). In both cases, the [attribute name](#) and [attribute value](#) are expressed using [SNOMED CT concept identifiers](#). In the *Relationship file*, the [attribute name](#) is represented by the *Relationship.typeId* and the [attribute value](#) by the *Relationship.destinationId*.

## authoritative concept

A [concept](#) with a specific meaning defined by an authoritative source such as a national or international professional body or standards organization .

## authorized triage organization

An organization approved by the [SNOMED International](#) to manage and triage change requests to for inclusion of content in the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) and/or one or more National [Extensions](#).

### Note

[Members](#) and their [National Release Centers](#) are likely to fulfill this role. In addition, [SNOMED International Affiliates](#) and Standards Development Organizations may be eligible for consideration as *Authorized Triage Organizations* .

## Alternatives

- **ATO**

## auto classify

This is a synonym for [Automatic classification](#)

A process that generated a logically consistent [subtype classification](#) by applying [description logic](#) rules to the stated definitions of a set of [concepts](#) .

## Alternatives

- **Auto classify**

## automatic classification

A process that generated a logically consistent [subtype classification](#) by applying [description logic](#) rules to the stated definitions of a set of [concepts](#) .

## Alternatives

- **Auto classify**

## B

### baseline

Superseded by - [Production release package](#).

#### Production release package

This Release status applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the SNOMED International Service Catalog.

The Production status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) commits to maintain the release history of this release and all subsequent updates. Thus from the first Production release onwards, the historical audit trail will be maintained throughout the Product's lifetime.

#### Notes

- The significance of the Production status is that it represents the authoritative release of the product, and implementers can use the additional components and derivatives in operational clinical systems with confidence in the subsequent maintenance of the product.

#### Alternatives

- **Production release**
- **Production package**

#### Related Links

- [Alpha release package](#)
- [Beta release package](#)

### beta release package

Previously known as either “Beta” or “Candidate Baseline” Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the IHTSDO Service Catalog. The Beta status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) expects to subsequently confirm it as a Production release. However, if a significant issue is reported in its format or content during the feedback period, the releasing party reserves the right to withdraw a Beta release, or to replace it with another version of the Beta release, in order to address the issue. The releasing party need not commit to this being an actual Production release until shortly before the due date for the next release.

#### Notes

1. The Beta release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Beta releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.
3. The significance of the Beta status is that anyone implementing this data must be prepared for withdrawal or significant changes that may occur to the additional components or derivatives. Therefore, this data should not be used in an operational environment in ways that create a dependency on continued maintenance of the additional components or derivatives. However, a Beta release may be confirmed as a

Production edition and, in that case all subsequent updates to the additional components and derivatives will be fully version tracked from the release of the Beta edition.

### Alternatives

- **Beta release**
- **Beta package**

### Related Links

- [Alpha release package](#)
- [Production release package](#)

## browser

A computer application or software tool used for exploring and searching terminology content. A typical *SNOMED CT browser* can locate [concepts](#) and [descriptions](#) by [Identifiers](#) and by searching the text of [description terms](#). Various views of located [concepts](#) may be displayed including the set of related [descriptions](#), the hierarchical [relationships](#) and other defining [relationships](#) .

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT browser**

### Related Links

- [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed\\_browsers.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed_browsers.html)



## C

### candidate baseline

Superseded by - [Beta release package](#).

#### Beta release package

Previously known as either “Beta” or “Candidate Baseline” Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the IHTSDO Service Catalog. The Beta status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) expects to subsequently confirm it as a Production release. However, if a significant issue is reported in its format or content during the feedback period, the releasing party reserves the right to withdraw a Beta release, or to replace it with another version of the Beta release, in order to address the issue. The releasing party need not commit to this being an actual Production release until shortly before the due date for the next release.

#### Notes

1. The Beta release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Beta releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.
3. The significance of the Beta status is that anyone implementing this data must be prepared for withdrawal or significant changes that may occur to the additional components or derivatives. Therefore, this data should not be used in an operational environment in ways that create a dependency on continued maintenance of the additional components or derivatives. However, a Beta release may be confirmed as a Production edition and, in that case all subsequent updates to the additional components and derivatives will be fully version tracked from the release of the Beta edition.

#### Alternatives

- **Beta release**
- **Beta package**

#### Related Links

- [Alpha release package](#)
- [Production release package](#)

### canonical form

A serialized representation of a [SNOMED CT expression](#) which follows the [normal form](#) and in which the [refinements](#), [attributes](#) and [attribute groups](#) are arranged in a standard order.

### cardinality

The actual or permitted number of elements in a set or other grouping. Modeling rules include constraints on the minimum and maximum *cardinality* of particular attributes or associations between classes.

## CDS

An abbreviation for [Clinical decision support](#).

### Clinical decision support

A service that supports clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

#### Notes

1. A [clinical decision support system](#) is defined as a computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

#### Alternatives

- **CDS**

#### Related Links

- [Decision Support with SNOMED CT](#)

## CDSS

This is an abbreviation for [Clinical Decision Support System](#)

### Clinical Decision Support System

A computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

#### Notes

1. Typically a clinical decision support system responds to triggers, such as specific symptoms, signs, diagnoses, laboratory results, medication choices, or complex combinations of these. The system then provides information or recommendations directly relevant to the specific patient.
2. [Clinical decision support](#) (CDS) refers to services provided (or potentially provided) by clinical decision support systems.

#### Alternatives

- **CDSS**

#### Related Links

- [Decision Support with SNOMED CT](#)

## CEN

The European Committee for Standardization is a major provider of European Standards and technical specifications. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment. Through its services it provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical specifications.

### Alternatives

- **Comité Européen de Normalisation**
- **Europäisches Komitee für Normung**
- **European Committee for Standardization**

### Related Links

- <http://www.cen.eu>

## CEN TC251

[CEN/TC 251](#) ([CEN](#) Technical Committee 251) is a committee within the European Committee for Standardization ([CEN](#)) working on standardization in the field of Health Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the *European Union*. Its goal is to achieve compatibility and interoperability between independent systems and to enable modularity in [Electronic Health Record](#) systems.

## check-digit

The *check-digit* is the final (rightmost) digit of the [SNOMED CT Identifier](#) ([SCTID](#)). It can be used to check the validity of [SCTIDs](#). [Clinical Information Systems](#) can use the *check-digit* to identify [SNOMED CT](#) codes that have been entered incorrectly (typo errors, etc). It is calculated using the Verhoeff algorithm.

### Related Links

- [5.4. Check-digit](#)
- [3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers](#)
- [5.4.2. Check-digit Computation](#)

## child

This is a synonym for [Subtype child](#)

A [concept](#) that has a direct [116680003](#) |is a| [subtype Relationship](#) to a specified [concept](#). See also [subtype](#) and [subtype descendant](#) .

### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept](#) "E" has three *subtype children* (G, H and J).

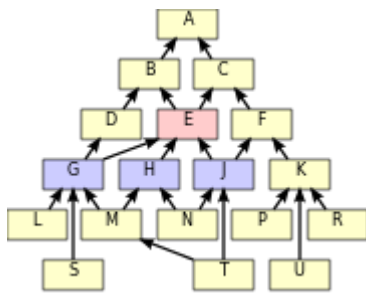


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

#### Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

## children

This is a synonym for [Subtype child](#)

A [concept](#) that has a direct 116680003 [is a](#) [subtype Relationship](#) to a specified [concept](#). See also [subtype](#) and [subtype descendant](#) .

#### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept](#) "E" has three *subtype children* (G, H and J).

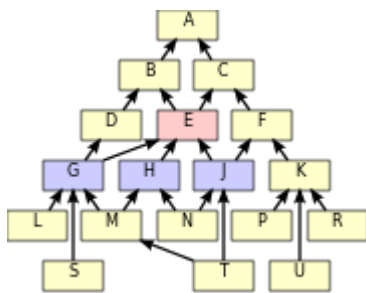


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

#### Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

## CIS

This is an abbreviation for [Clinical Information System](#)

A computer-based system that is designed for collecting, storing, manipulating and making available clinical information to support the delivery of healthcare services to individual people and populations.

### Alternatives

- **CIS**

## classifier

This is a synonym for [Description logic classifier](#)

A software tool that applies the rules of a [description logic](#) to a set of data to make inferences about the [relationships](#) between sets of [concepts](#).

### Note

[SNOMED CT concepts](#) and [relationships](#) are processed by a *description logic classifier* to generate the [subtype hierarchy](#). [SNOMED CT expressions](#) can also be processed by a classifier to make inferences that support selective retrieval.

### Alternatives

- **Classifier**

## clinical decision support

A service that supports clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

### Notes

1. A [clinical decision support system](#) is defined as a computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

### Alternatives

- **CDS**

### Related Links

- [Decision Support with SNOMED CT](#)

## clinical decision support system

A computer system or software application designed to support clinicians, other health professionals, carers or patients making decisions related to the health and treatment of a patient.

### Notes

1. Typically a clinical decision support system responds to triggers, such as specific symptoms, signs, diagnoses, laboratory results, medication choices, or complex combinations of these. The system then provides information or recommendations directly relevant to the specific patient.
2. [Clinical decision support](#) (CDS) refers to services provided (or potentially provided) by clinical decision support systems.

### Alternatives

- **CDSS**

### Related Links

- [Decision Support with SNOMED CT](#)

## clinical information system

A computer-based system that is designed for collecting, storing, manipulating and making available clinical information to support the delivery of healthcare services to individual people and populations.

### Alternatives

- **CIS**

## clinical situation

This is a synonym for [Situation with explicit context](#)

A [concept](#) that specifically includes a definition the context of use of a clinical finding or procedure.

### Note

A *situation with explicit context* is defined as a [subtype](#) of the situation to which it applies with an attribute associating it with the relevant clinical finding or procedure.

### Example

"Family history of diabetes mellitus" is a situation with explicit [concept](#) because it defines the context as "family history". In contrast, "diabetes mellitus" is not a *situation with explicit context* because it can be used in many different situations including "family history", "past medical history", "current diagnosis", etc.

### Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

## Related Links

- [Safely representing the context of recorded codes](#)

## Clinical Terms Version 3

One of the source terminologies, along with [SNOMED RT](#), that were used to develop [SNOMED CT](#). *CTV3* is UK Crown Copyright, distributed by the United Kingdom [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#), and is integrated into [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **CTV3**
- **Version 3 of the Read Codes**

## C-NPU

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

### Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

### Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

### Related Links

- <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/>

## Collabnet

This is a synonym for [Collaborative Space](#)

A web resource with software to help people involved in a common task achieve goals by enabling effective communication within an project or organization.

### Note

The [SNOMED International Collaborative Space](#) supports the communication needs of [SNOMED International](#) governance and advisory bodies. [SNOMED International](#) Standing Committees, Affiliate Forum, Member Forum and Working Groups all have *Collaborative Space* Projects each of which contain meeting announcements, discussions, shared documents and issue trackers.

### Alternatives

- **Confluence**

## Related Links

- [SNOMED International Confluence Space](#)

## collaborative space

A web resource with software to help people involved in a common task achieve goals by enabling effective communication within an project or organization.

### Note

The [SNOMED International Collaborative Space](#) supports the communication needs of [SNOMED International](#) governance and advisory bodies. [SNOMED International](#) Standing Committees, Affiliate Forum, Member Forum and Working Groups all have *Collaborative Space* Projects each of which contain meeting announcements, discussions, shared documents and issue trackers.

### Alternatives

- **Confluence**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Confluence Space](#)

## Common Terminology Services 2

An [Application Programming Interface \(API\)](#) specification that is intended to describe the basic functionality that needed by healthcare software implementations to query and access terminological content. *CTS2* defines the functional requirements of a set of service interfaces to allow the representation, access, and maintenance of terminology content either locally, or across a federation of [terminology service](#) nodes.

### Notes

- *CTS2* is specified as an [API](#) rather than a set of data structures to enable a wide variety of terminological content to be integrated within a common framework without the need for significant migration or rewrite.
- *CTS2* was developed from the original the [see [HL7 CTS specification](#)] and is now a joint initiative between HL7 and the [see [Object Management Group \(OMG\)](#)].

### Alternatives

- **CTS2**
- **HL7 CTS2**

## complement

In set theory the *complement* of set A relative to the universal set U is the set of all members of U that are not members of A.

### Note

Set theory is applied when describing the intended result of combinations of Reference Sets or Constraints.



## component

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT Component](#)

A [Concept](#), [Description](#) or [Relationship](#) that conforms with the SNOMED CT logical model.

### Notes

1. The [partition-identifier](#) indicates the type of component referred to by that [SCTID](#).
2. Components are released and distributed in file formats that conform to the [Release File Specification](#).
3. A *component* may be part of the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#) or in an authorized [Extension](#).

### Alternatives

- **Component**

## component history

A record of an addition or change in the *status* of a [SNOMED CT Component](#) in a particular [Release Version](#).

## compositional grammar

The set of rules that govern the way in which [SNOMED CT expressions](#) are represented as a plain text string.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT compositional grammar**

### Related Links

- [Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide](#)

## concept

A clinical idea to which a unique [concept identifier](#) has been assigned.

### Notes

1. SNOMED CT concepts are distributed in the [Concept File](#).
2. Concepts are associated with [descriptions](#) that contain human-readable [terms](#) describing the concept.
3. Concepts are related to one another by [relationships](#) that provide a formal logical definition of the concept.
4. Disambiguation:  
 When working with SNOMED CT, it is recommended the default meaning of "concept" refers to a SNOMED CT concept defined as noted above. However, the word "concept" is sometimes used in other more specific or more general ways as noted below.
  - As an abbreviated name for the [concept identifier](#). For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this is should be referred to as an "identifier", "id" or "code" (e.g. "concept id", "concept identifier" or "concept code");
  - In its more general dictionary defined usage referring to an idea or class of real-world entities that may be represented by a [concept identifier](#). For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this is should

be referred to as an "idea" or "meaning" (e.g. "a clinical idea" or "clinical meaning" or "code meaning").

## Alternatives

- SNOMED CT concept

## Related Links

- [3.2.1. Concept File Specification](#)
- [Logical Model of SNOMED CT Components](#)
- [Concept file](#)

## concept enumeration

Use of [SNOMED CT concept Identifiers](#) to represent of a set of values for a property of a particular type of [SNOMED CT component](#).

## Note

The [SNOMED CT concepts](#) used to represent *concept enumerations* are usually [subtype children](#) (or [descendants](#)) of a relevant general [concept](#) in the [SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy](#). Each possible value is represented by a single child [concept](#), and the set of values can be used to enable selection from a pick-list of one or more [concepts](#).

## Example

```
900000000000446008 |Description type (core metadata concept)|
• 90000000000003001 |Fully specified name (core metadata concept)|
• 90000000000013009 |Synonym (core metadata concept)|
• 900000000000550004 |Definition (core metadata concept)|
```

Figure 1: Concept enumeration for Description.typeId

## concept equivalence

[Equivalence](#) is the state of two [SNOMED CT concept codes](#) or [postcoordinated expressions](#) having the same meaning. *Concept equivalence* can occur when a [postcoordinated expression](#) has the same meaning as a [precoordinated concept code](#); or when two different [postcoordinated expressions](#) have the same meaning.

## concept identifier

A [SNOMED CT Identifier](#) that uniquely identifies a [Concept](#) (meaning).

## Example

- For the meaning named [233604007 |Pneumonia \(disorder\)|](#), the *Concept Identifier* is 233604007.

## Related Links

- [Concepts](#)
- [Component features - Identifiers](#)

## concept model

The set of rules that determines the permitted sets of [relationships](#) between particular types of [concept](#).

### Note

The *Concept Model* specifies the [attributes](#) that can be applied to [concepts](#) in particular [domains](#) and the [ranges](#) of permitted values for each of these attributes. There are also additional rules on the [cardinality](#) and grouping of particular types of [relationships](#).

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)
- [Editorial Guide](#)

## concept model attribute

This is a synonym for [Attribute](#)

An *attribute* represents a characteristic of the meaning of a [concept](#) or the nature of a refinement.

### Note

An *attribute* has a name which is represented by a [concept](#). All the [concepts](#) that can be used to name *attributes* are [subtypes](#) of the [concept](#) | *concept model attribute* |. An *attribute* is assigned a value ( [attribute value pair](#)) when used in the definition of a [concept](#) or in a [postcoordinated expression](#). The permitted [range](#) of values depends on the rules specified in the [concept model](#).

### Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

### Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## concept model domain

This is a synonym for [Domain](#)

A set of [concepts](#) which the [Concept Model](#) permits to be defined or refined using a particular set of [attributes](#) and [ranges](#).

### Note

A *domain* to which an [attribute](#) can be applied is typically defined to include concepts in one or more branches of the subtype hierarchy.

### Example

- The *domain* of the [attribute](#) 116676008 |Associated morphology| is defined as subtype of 404684003 |Clinical finding| hierarchy. Similarly, the [range](#) for values of 116676008 |Associated morphology| is subtypes of 49755003 |Morphologically abnormal structure| .

### Alternatives

- **Concept model domain**

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## concept model range

This is a synonym for [Range](#)

A constrained set of values that the [Concept Model](#) permits to be applied to a specific [attribute](#) when that [attribute](#) is applied to a [concept](#) in a particular [domain](#).

### Note

The *range* of permitted values that can be applied to an [attribute](#) is typically defined to include concepts in one or more branches of the subtype hierarchy.

### Example

The [range](#) for values of 116676008 |Associated morphology| is subtypes of 49755003 |Morphologically abnormal structure| .

### Alternatives

- **Concept model range**

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## constraint

A rule that specifies limits on the attributes, values and associations that may be applied to a particular component.

## Examples

1. A modeling constraint may limit the permissible defining [Relationships](#) applied to a particular type of [concept](#).
2. An instance data constraint may limit the permissible refinements that may be applied to particular [concept](#)

## context

This term is used when referring to concept model attributes applied to the [Situation with explicit context](#) domain.

### Situation with explicit context

A [concept](#) that specifically includes a definition the context of use of a clinical finding or procedure.

#### Note

A *situation with explicit context* is defined as a [subtype](#) of the situation to which it applies with an attribute associating it with the relevant clinical finding or procedure.

#### Example

"Family history of diabetes mellitus" is a situation with explicit [concept](#) because it defines the context as "family history". In contrast, "diabetes mellitus" is not a *situation with explicit context* because it can be used in many different situations including "family history", "past medical history", "current diagnosis", etc.

#### Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

#### Related Links

- [Safely representing the context of recorded codes](#)

## context wrapper

The part of a [SNOMED CT expression](#) that specifies the context that applies to the [focus concept](#) that it contains.

### Example

- "Family history of asthma" can be represented by an [expression](#) in which the [concept](#) "asthma" is nested within an *context wrapper* that indicates that this is "family history" - rather than a current condition affecting the patient.

### References

- [Situation with explicit context](#)
- [Modeling semantic context.](#)

## core file

A distribution file used to represent the main [SNOMED CT components](#) ( [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)).

## Note

In the past the term "core" has also been used to refer to the content of the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) but this usage is deprecated.

## Alternatives

- **Core table**
- **SNOMED CT core**
- **SNOMED CT core file**
- **SNOMED CT core table**

## core table

This is a synonym for [Core file](#)

A distribution file used to represent the main [SNOMED CT components](#) ( [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)).

### Note

In the past the term "core" has also been used to refer to the content of the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) but this usage is deprecated.

### Alternatives

- **Core table**
- **SNOMED CT core**
- **SNOMED CT core file**
- **SNOMED CT core table**

## cross mapping

This is a synonym for [Mapping](#)

The process of converting data from a representation in one code system, classification or terminology so that it is represented in another code system, classification or terminology.

### Note

The process as a whole includes the preparation and maintenance of resources used to enable this conversion and the application of such resources to convert instance data.

In [SNOMED CT Mapping](#) resources are distributed as [Simple Map Reference Sets](#) or [Complex and Extended Map Reference Sets](#).

### Alternatives

- **Cross Mapping**

## CTS2

This is an abbreviation for [Common Terminology Services 2](#)

An [Application Programming Interface \(API\)](#) specification that is intended to describe the basic functionality that needed by healthcare software implementations to query and access terminological content. *CTS2* defines the functional requirements of a set of service interfaces to allow the representation, access, and maintenance of terminology content either locally, or across a federation of [terminology service](#) nodes.

### Notes

- *CTS2* is specified as an [API](#) rather than a set of data structures to enable a wide variety of terminological content to be integrated within a common framework without the need for significant migration or rewrite.
- *CTS2* was developed from the original the [see [HL7 CTS specification](#)] and is now a joint initiative between HL7 and the [see [Object Management Group \(OMG\)](#)].

### Alternatives

- **CTS2**
- **HL7 CTS2**

## CTV3

This is an abbreviation for [Clinical Terms Version 3](#)

One of the source terminologies, along with [SNOMED RT](#), that were used to develop [SNOMED CT](#). *CTV3* is UK Crown Copyright, distributed by the United Kingdom [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#), and is integrated into [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **CTV3**
- **Version 3 of the Read Codes**

## D

### DAG

This is an abbreviation for [Directed Acyclic Graph](#)

A set of nodes connected to one another by lines (edges) in which each connection has a specified direction such that no route that follows the direction of the connections enters a loop (cycle).

#### Example

The [SNOMED CT subtype hierarchy](#) is an example of a *Directed Acyclic Graph*. [SNOMED CT concepts](#) are nodes and ["is a" Relationships](#) are the directed lines that connect them. All ["is a" Relationships](#) lead from a more specific [concept](#) to a more general [concept](#), so a cycle would be a logical error (e.g. if "rubella virus" is a type of "virus" and "virus" is a type of "microorganism", then "microorganism" cannot be a type of "rubella virus").

#### Alternatives

- **DAG**

#### Related Links

- [Wikipedia description of Directed Acyclic Graph](#)

## Darwin Information Typing Architecture

The Darwin Information Typing Architecture (*DITA*) is an XML-based architecture for authoring, producing, and delivering information. Although its main applications have so far been in technical publications, *DITA* is also used for other types of documents such as policies and procedures.

#### Notes

1. *DITA* was used for creation, publication and maintenance of many [SNOMED International](#) guidance documents prior to migration of the documents to Confluence.
2. Since early 2016 *DITA* is no longer used by [SNOMED International](#) for any active work. This glossary entry is only included for backward compatibility.

#### Related Links

- <http://docs.oasis-open.org/dita/v1.1/CS01/overview/overview.html>

## Data Analysis System

A computer system that is used to analyze records or other data that is encoded using [SNOMED CT](#), but not if that system is also a [Data Creation System](#).

#### Note

[SNOMED International](#) charges fees for use of *Data Analysis Systems* and [Data Creation Systems](#) in Non-Member Territories.



## Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## Data Creation System

A computer system that is used to create records or other data that is encoded using [SNOMED CT](#).

### Note

[SNOMED International](#) charges fees for use of [Data Analysis Systems](#) and *Data Creation Systems* in Non-Member Territories.

## Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## data migration

Steps taken to enable legacy data to be accessible as part of a system that uses [SNOMED CT](#).

### Note

The objective of *data migration* is to enable data recorded prior to introduction of [SNOMED CT](#) can be retrieved and reused within a [SNOMED CT enabled application](#). Options for *data migration* include actual conversion of the data or provision of methods for accessing the data in its original form.

## defining characteristic

This is a synonym for [Defining relationship](#)

A [relationship](#) to a target [concept](#) that is always necessarily true from any instance of the source [concept](#).

### Example

- The *defining relationships* of the concept 53442002 |gastroctomy| include 260686004 |method| = 129304002 |excision - action| and 405813007 |procedure site - Direct| = 69695003 |stomach structure|.

### Alternatives

- **Defining characteristic**

## defining relationship

A [relationship](#) to a target [concept](#) that is always necessarily true from any instance of the source [concept](#).

### Example

- The *defining relationships* of the concept 53442002 |gastroctomy| include 260686004 |method| = 129304002 |excision - action| and 405813007 |procedure site - Direct| = 69695003 |stomach structure|.

### Alternatives

- **Defining characteristic**

## delta release

A [Release Type](#) in which the [release files](#) contain only component versions created since the previous release. Each component version in a *delta release* represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.

## derivative

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT Derivative](#)

A document, subset, set of maps, or other resource that consists of, includes, references or is derived from one or more [SNOMED CT components](#). The standard computer processable representation for most types of *SNOMED CT derivatives* is a [reference set](#).

Alternatives

- **Derivative**

## descendant

This is a synonym for [Subtype descendant](#)

All [subtypes](#) of a [concept](#), including [subtypes](#) of [subtypes](#). For example, if a [concept](#) has four [children](#), then *descendants* are those [children](#) plus all the [concepts](#) that are descended from those four [children](#). See also [subtype](#) and [subtype child](#).

Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept](#) "E" has eight *subtype descendants* (G, H, J, L, M, N, S and T).

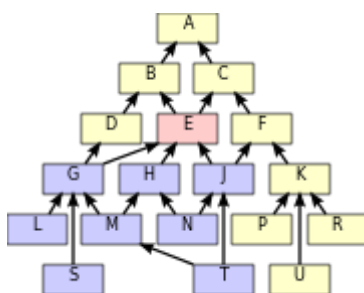


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype descendants

Alternatives

- **Descendant**

## description

An association between a human-readable phrase ([term](#)) and a particular [SNOMED CT concept](#).

### Notes

1. Each *description* is represented by a separate row in the [Description File](#).
2. Each *description* has a unique [identifier](#) and connects a [concept](#) with a *term* of a specified [description type](#).

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT description**

### Related Links

- [3.1.2. Descriptions and Terms](#)
- [3.2.2. Description File Specification](#)

## description identifier

A [SNOMED CT Identifier](#) that uniquely identifies a [Description](#) .

## description logic

A representation of semantic knowledge that allows formal reasoning to be applied based on axioms that state [relationships](#) between [concepts](#).

### Note

*Description logic* definitions of [SNOMED CT concepts](#) are represented by [defining relationships](#). The formal rules of *description logic* can be applied to [defining relationships](#) by software tools ( [description logic classifiers](#)) to interpret the meaning of [concepts](#). This enables confirmation of the logical integrity of the terminology, and can also be used to support meaning-based retrieval from [SNOMED CT enabled](#) record systems.

### Alternatives

- **DL**

### Related Links

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Description\\_logic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Description_logic)

## description logic classifier

A software tool that applies the rules of a [description logic](#) to a set of data to make inferences about the [relationships](#) between sets of [concepts](#).

### Note

[SNOMED CT concepts](#) and [relationships](#) are processed by a *description logic classifier* to generate the [subtype hierarchy](#). [SNOMED CT expressions](#) can also be processed by a classifier to make inferences that support selective retrieval.

### Alternatives

- **Classifier**

## description type

An indication of the intended usage of the [term](#) of a [SNOMED CT description](#) when applied to the associated [concept](#).

### Notes

1. The [description type](#) is represented by the value of the [description.typeId](#) attribute.
2. Permitted values include the following (other types may be defined in future):

**Table 1: Description types**

typeId (with term)	Further information
900000000000003001  Fully specified name	A <i>term</i> unique among <a href="#">active descriptions</a> in <a href="#">SNOMED CT</a> that names the meaning of a <a href="#">concept</a> code in a manner that is intended to be unambiguous and stable across multiple contexts (see <a href="#">fully specified name (FSN)</a> ).
900000000000013009  Synonym	A <i>term</i> that is an acceptable way to express a the meaning of a <a href="#">SNOMED CT concept</a> (see <a href="#">synonym</a> ).
900000000000550004  Definition	An additional textual <a href="#">description</a> applied to some <a href="#">SNOMED CT concepts</a> that provides additional information about the intended meaning or usage of the <a href="#">concept</a> (see <a href="#">textual definition</a> ).

3. The [preferred term](#) is the [synonym](#) marked as preferred for use in the [Language Reference Set](#) for a given [language](#) or [dialect](#) (it is **not** a distinct [description type](#)).

### Related Links

- [Description Format Reference Set](#)

## dialect

A [language](#) modified by the vocabulary and grammatical conventions applied to the [language](#) of a particular geographical or cultural environment.

## directed acyclic graph

A set of nodes connected to one another by lines (edges) in which each connection has a specified direction such that no route that follows the direction of the connections enters a loop (cycle).

### Example

The [SNOMED CT subtype hierarchy](#) is an example of a *Directed Acyclic Graph*. [SNOMED CT concepts](#) are nodes and "is a" [Relationships](#) are the directed lines that connect them. All "is a" [Relationships](#) lead from a more specific [concept](#) to a more general [concept](#) , so a cycle would be a logical error (e.g. if "rubella virus" is a type of "virus" and "virus" is a type of "microorganism" , then "microorganism" cannot be a type of "rubella virus").

### Alternatives

- **DAG**

## Related Links

- [Wikipedia description of Directed Acyclic Graph](#)

## DL

This is an abbreviation for [Description logic](#)

A representation of semantic knowledge that allows formal reasoning to be applied based on axioms that state [relationships](#) between [concepts](#).

### Note

*Description logic* definitions of [SNOMED CT concepts](#) are represented by [defining relationships](#). The formal rules of *description logic* can be applied to [defining relationships](#) by software tools ( [description logic classifiers](#)) to interpret the meaning of [concepts](#). This enables confirmation of the logical integrity of the terminology, and can also be used to support meaning-based retrieval from [SNOMED CT enabled](#) record systems.

### Alternatives

- **DL**

### Related Links

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Description\\_logic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Description_logic)

## domain

A set of [concepts](#) which the [Concept Model](#) permits to be defined or refined using a particular set of [attributes](#) and [ranges](#).

### Note

A *domain* to which an [attribute](#) can be applied is typically defined to include concepts in one or more branches of the subtype hierarchy.

### Example

- The *domain* of the [attribute](#) 116676008 |Associated morphology| is defined as subtype of 404684003 |Clinical finding| hierarchy. Similarly, the [range](#) for values of 116676008 |Associated morphology| is subtypes of 49755003 |Morphologically abnormal structure|.

### Alternatives

- **Concept model domain**

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## Draft Standard for Trial Use

A *Draft Standard for Trial Use* is a specification and process to allow implementers to test a standard. At the end of the trial period the standard may be balloted, revised or withdrawn.

### Example

The joint project between HL7 International and the [SNOMED International](#), [TermInfo](#), is an example of an HL7 DSTU.

### Alternatives

- **DSTU**

## DSTU

This is an abbreviation for [Draft Standard for Trial Use](#)

A *Draft Standard for Trial Use* is a specification and process to allow implementers to test a standard. At the end of the trial period the standard may be balloted, revised or withdrawn.

### Example

The joint project between HL7 International and the [SNOMED International](#), [TermInfo](#), is an example of an HL7 DSTU.

### Alternatives

- **DSTU**

## duplicate term

A *Term* that occurs in several [Active Descriptions](#). *Duplicate Terms* are valid in [SNOMED CT](#) since the intention is to provide natural *terms* used by clinicians rather than to apply formalized phraseology. The formalized form is provided by the [Fully Specified Name](#) and these are not permitted to be duplicated.

## dynamic snapshot view

A "[snapshot view](#)" for a specified date that is generated by filtering a "[full view](#)".

## E

### edition

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT Edition](#)

A complete set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) that belong to an identified focus [module](#) plus all of the modules on which the focus module depends.

#### Notes

1. All *SNOMED CT editions* (except the [International Edition](#)) are a combination of one or more extension modules, together with the modules from the SNOMED CT International Edition.
2. A complete *SNOMED CT edition* may be prepared and released by [SNOMED International](#) or by the provider of a [SNOMED CT Extension](#). Alternatively, a *SNOMED CT Edition* may be derived from one or more [release packages](#), by combining the contents of an identified focus module with the contents of the relevant version of all modules on which the focus module depends.
3. The dependencies between modules are represented using the [Module dependency reference set](#) (foundation metadata concept).
4. A SNOMED CT Edition can be identified using a URI as specified by the [URI Standard \(2.1 URIs for Editions and Versions\)](#).

#### Examples

- The [SNOMED CT International Edition](#) consists of the focus module, [SNOMED CT core module](#), and the module on which it depends, [SNOMED CT model component module](#).
- The US [National Edition](#) (including the US SNOMED to ICD-10-CM maps) consists of the focus module, [SNOMED CT to ICD-10-CM rule-based mapping module](#), and the three modules on which this depends, [US National Library of Medicine maintained module](#), [SNOMED CT core module](#) and [SNOMED CT model component module](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Edition**

## EHR

This is an abbreviation for [Electronic health record](#)

A systematic collection of health information about individual patients or populations that is stored in a digital form. An *Electronic health record* may contain a complete and detailed record of a patient's health or may consist of a summary of information of particular relevance to continuing delivery of care.

#### Alternatives

- **EHR**

## electronic health record

A systematic collection of health information about individual patients or populations that is stored in a digital form. An *Electronic health record* may contain a complete and detailed record of a patient's health or may consist of a summary of information of particular relevance to continuing delivery of care.

### Alternatives

- **EHR**

## EN13606

*Electronic Health Record Communication* (EN 13606) European Standard developed by [CEN TC251](#) to define a rigorous and stable information architecture for communicating part or all of the [Electronic Health Record \(EHR\)](#) of a single subject of care (patient). This is to support the interoperability of systems and components that need to communicate (access, transfer, add or modify) [EHR](#) data via electronic messages or as distributed objects:

- preserving the original clinical meaning intended by the author;
- reflecting the confidentiality of that data as intended by the author and patient. .

### Related Links

- 

## enabled application

A software application designed to support the use of [SNOMED CT](#) .

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

## enabled implementation

Implementation of information systems that are able to make effective use of [SNOMED CT](#) in an organization or region.

### Note

[SNOMED CT enabled implementation](#) has a broader meaning than [SNOMED CT enabled application](#). An implementation involves practical deployment of one or more applications but extends beyond the software itself to address personnel and organizational issues that allow the potential benefits to be realized.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**



## entire

This is a synonym for [Structure-Entire-Part](#)

A modeling approach used in SNOMED CT to represent anatomical entities such as body organs, body systems, body regions, etc.

- **Structure** is the most general way to refer to an organ, body system or region.
- **Entire** refers to a complete organ, body system or region.
- **Part** refers to a part of an organ, body system or region. It explicitly does not refer to the entire organ, body system or region.

### Example

The [Table 0](#) below illustrates the relationships between the structure, entire and part concepts applied to a the heart.

- 80891009 |heart structure|
- 302509004 |entire heart|
- 119202000 |heart part|

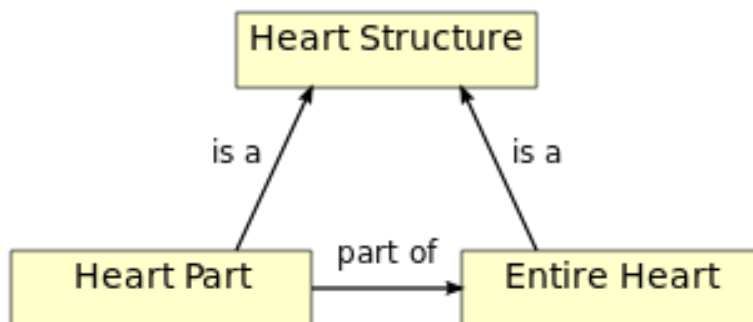


Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

### Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Structure**

### Related Links

- [General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model](#)

## equivalence

See [Word Equivalents](#), [Phrase equivalence](#) and [Concept equivalence](#) .

## European Committee for Standardization

This is the full name for [CEN](#)

The European Committee for Standardization is a major provider of European Standards and technical specifications. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment. Through its services it provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical specifications.

### Alternatives

- **Comité Européen de Normalisation**
- **Europäisches Komitee für Normung**
- **European Committee for Standardization**

### Related Links

- <http://www.cen.eu>

## explicit context

This is a synonym for [Situation with explicit context](#)

A [concept](#) that specifically includes a definition the context of use of a clinical finding or procedure.

### Note

A *situation with explicit context* is defined as a [subtype](#) of the situation to which it applies with an attribute associating it with the relevant clinical finding or procedure.

### Example

"Family history of diabetes mellitus" is a situation with explicit [concept](#) because it defines the context as "family history". In contrast, "diabetes mellitus" is not a *situation with explicit context* because it can be used in many different situations including "family history", "past medical history", "current diagnosis", etc.

### Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

### Related Links

- [Safely representing the context of recorded codes](#)

## expression

A structured combination of one or more [concept identifiers](#) used to express a clinical idea.

## Notes

1. An *expression* containing a single [concept identifier](#) is referred to as a [precoordinated expression](#). An *expression* that contains two or more [concept identifiers](#) is a [postcoordinated expression](#).
2. The [concept identifiers](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#) are related to one another in accordance with rules expressed in the [SNOMED CT Concept Model](#).
3. These rules allow an *expression* to [refine](#) the meaning of a [concept](#) by applying more specific values to particular attributes of a more general [concept](#).

## Example

- 284196006 |burn of skin|: 363698007 |finding site|= 33712006 |skin of hand|

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT expression**

## Related Links

- [Expressions](#)
- [Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide](#)
- [Logical Model of SNOMED CT expressions](#)

## expression refinement

The part of a [SNOMED CT expression](#) that applies qualifying details to a [focus concept](#).

## Example

- A "spiral fracture of the left humerus" can be represented by an [expression](#) in which the [concept](#) "fracture of humerus" is made more specific by the addition of two refinements "laterality = left" and "associated morphology = spiral fracture".

## Alternatives

- **Refinement**

## extension

This is an abbreviation for [SNOMED CT Extension](#).

### SNOMED CT Extension

A set of terminology [components](#) and [reference set members](#) that add to and are dependent on the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#), and are created, structured, maintained and distributed in accordance with [SNOMED CT specifications and guidelines](#).

#### Notes

1. An *extension* consists of one or more [modules](#). All components and reference set members maintained in an extension include a module identifier that assigns them to a module in that extension.
2. SNOMED CT extensions may be created and maintained by [SNOMED International](#) itself or by [SNOMED International Members](#) or [Affiliate licensees](#) to which SNOMED International has assigned a [namespace identifier](#).

3. Components that are created by Members or Affiliates are identified using [SCTIDs](#) that include the [namespace identifier](#) assigned to that organization. This ensures that they do not collide with other [SCTIDs](#), and can be traced to an authorized originator. Identifiers of extension components and reference set members created by SNOMED International are not required to include a namespace identifier.
4. Extensions released by SNOMED International contain components and reference set members that extend, rather than being an essential part of the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#). However these SNOMED CT International Extensions are considered to be part of the overall [International Release](#).
5. [Members](#) may create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to address specific national, regional and language requirements. [SNOMED International Affiliates](#) may also create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to meet the needs of particular software solutions and customers.

### Alternatives

- **Extension**

### Related Links

- [Information about requesting a namespace and a link to the register of allocated namespaces](#)
- [Related terms SNOMED CT Edition and SNOMED CT Release](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

## extension namespace identifier

This is a synonym for [Namespace identifier](#)

A seven digit number allocated by [SNOMED International](#) to an organization that is permitted to maintain a [SNOMED CT Extension](#).

### Notes

1. The *namespace identifier* enables an authorized organization to generate a unique identifier ([SCTID](#)) for every [SNOMED CT component](#) that they create. It forms part of the [SCTID](#) assigned to every [component](#) that is created by the organization to which it is allocated. Therefore the *namespace identifier* indicates the provenance of each [SNOMED CT component](#).
2. Short format [SCTIDs](#), which are used for [components](#) that originate from SNOMED International, do not include a *namespace identifier*. For these [SCTIDs](#) the [partition identifier](#) provides sufficient information about the origin of the component.

### Alternatives

- **Extension namespace identifiers**
- **NamespaceId**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Extension](#)
- [Representing SNOMED CT identifiers](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

## extensional subset definition

A subset definition in which the membership is represented by enumeration.

### Notes

1. An extensional definition of a subset of SNOMED CT components can be represented as a list of the identifiers of all the components in the subset.
2. The standard format for distributing an extensionally defined subset of SNOMED CT components is a [simple reference set](#).

### Related Links

- [Intensional subset definition](#)
- [Practical Guide to Reference Sets](#)
- [Wikipedia comparison of extensional and intensional definitions](#)

## F

### Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

This is the full name for [FHIR](#).

#### FHIR

A next generation standards framework created by HL7. FHIR combines the best features of HL7's [v2](#), [HL7 v3](#) and [CDA](#) product lines while leveraging the latest web standards and applying a tight focus on implementability.

#### Notes

1. The FHIR standard that defines a set of resources that represent granular clinical concepts.
2. The resources can be managed in isolation, or aggregated into complex documents.
3. Technically, FHIR is designed for the web; the resources are based on simple XML or JSON structures, with an http-based RESTful protocol where each resource has predictable URL. Where possible, open internet standards are used for data representation.

#### Alternatives

- **Full name - Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources**
- **Abbreviation - FHIR, which is pronounced "Fire".**

#### Related Links

- **FHIR Standard - Specification, Resources and Documentation** <http://hl7.org/fhir>

### FHIR

A next generation standards framework created by HL7. FHIR combines the best features of HL7's [v2](#), [HL7 v3](#) and [CDA](#) product lines while leveraging the latest web standards and applying a tight focus on implementability.

#### Notes

1. The FHIR standard that defines a set of resources that represent granular clinical concepts.
2. The resources can be managed in isolation, or aggregated into complex documents.
3. Technically, FHIR is designed for the web; the resources are based on simple XML or JSON structures, with an http-based RESTful protocol where each resource has predictable URL. Where possible, open internet standards are used for data representation.

#### Alternatives

- **Full name - Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources**
- **Abbreviation - FHIR, which is pronounced "Fire".**

#### Related Links

- **FHIR Standard - Specification, Resources and Documentation** <http://hl7.org/fhir>

## focus concept

The part of a [SNOMED CT expression](#) that represents a clinical finding, observation, event or procedure. This *focus concept* may be given context by a surrounding content wrapped and may be made more specific by a refinement.

### Example

- A past history of replacement of the left hip may be represented by a [SNOMED CT expression](#) in which the *focus concept* "hip replacement" is refined by "laterality: left" and enclosed in a [context wrapper](#) representing "past history".

## FSN

This is an abbreviation for [Fully Specified Name](#)

A *term* unique among [active descriptions](#) in [SNOMED CT](#) that names the meaning of a [concept](#) code in a manner that is intended to be unambiguous and stable across multiple contexts.

### Notes

1. *Fully specified names* are indicated with the typeId 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name| .
2. There may be more than one [active description](#) with the typeId 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name|. However, only one *fully specified name* should be marked as preferred for use in a given [language](#) or [dialect](#) in the relevant [Language Reference Set](#) .
3. The US English *fully specified name* is the point of reference for the meaning of all [concepts](#) in the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#). However, where a [concept](#) is part of an [extension](#) the *fully specified name* specified in the original language of that [extension](#) applies.

### Alternatives

- **FSN**

### Related Links

- [Synonym](#)
- [Descriptions](#)

## full release

A [Release Type](#) in which the [release files](#) contain every version of every component ever released.

## full view

A view of [SNOMED CT](#) that includes all the components in a [Full release](#). This includes the full history or all components ever released. A [Full view](#) can be filtered to provide a [Dynamic snapshot view](#) of the components as they were at any point in the past.

## fully defined concept

This is a synonym for [Sufficiently defined concept](#)

A [concept](#) with a formal logic definition that is sufficient to distinguish its meaning from other similar [concepts](#).

### Notes

1. The meaning of [SNOMED CT concept](#) is expressed in a human-readable form by its [Fully Specified Name \(FSN\)](#) and has a formal logic definition represented by a set of defining [relationships](#) to other [concepts](#). A *Sufficiently defined concept* has sufficient defining [relationships](#) to computably distinguish it from any [concepts](#) or [expressions](#) that are equivalent to or a subtype of the the defined concept.
2. Contrast with [primitive concept](#).

### Examples

The [concept](#) 74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)| is *sufficiently defined* by the following definition because any [concept](#) for which these defining relationships are true are either the disorder "appendicitis" or a subtype of "appendicitis".

**Table 1: Definition of: 74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)| - (sufficiently defined)**

74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)|

```

=== 116680003 |is a| = 18526009 |disorder of appendix|
    116680003 |is a| = 302168000 |inflammation of large intestine|
    116676008 |associated morphology| = 23583003 |inflammation|
    363698007 |finding site| = 66754008 |appendix structure|
  
```

### Alternatives

- **Fully defined concept**

## fully specified name

A *term* unique among [active descriptions](#) in [SNOMED CT](#) that names the meaning of a [concept](#) code in a manner that is intended to be unambiguous and stable across multiple contexts.

### Notes

1. *Fully specified names* are indicated with the typeId 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name|.
2. There may be more than one [active description](#) with the typeId 900000000000003001 |Fully specified name|. However, only one *fully specified name* should be marked as preferred for use in a given [language](#) or [dialect](#) in the relevant [Language Reference Set](#).
3. The US English *fully specified name* is the point of reference for the meaning of all [concepts](#) in the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#). However, where a [concept](#) is part of an [extension](#) the *fully specified name* specified in the original language of that [extension](#) applies.





## Alternatives

- **FSN**

## Related Links

- [Synonym](#)
- [Descriptions](#)

# G

## H

### Health Level 7

A not-for-profit, [ANSI](#) -accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

#### Alternatives

- **HL7**

#### Related Links

- <http://www.hl7.org>

### Health Level 7 Version 3

A standard for communication of health care information developed by [HL7](#). Version 3 is based on a formal development framework and its communication structures a derived as refinements from a [Reference Information Model \(HL7 V3 RIM\)](#).

#### Alternatives

- **HL7 V3**

### Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model

The [reference information model](#) on which [HL7 Version 3](#) is based.

#### Alternatives

- **HL7 V3 RIM**

### hierarchy

An ordered organization of [concept](#) codes linked together through [116680003](#) is a [relationships](#). [Concept](#) codes linked to their more general parent [concept](#) codes directly above them in a *hierarchy* [Concept](#) codes with more general meanings are usually presented as being at the top of the *hierarchy* and then at each level down the *hierarchy* code meanings become increasingly more specific or specialized. Formally, a *hierarchy* is represented as a [Directed Acyclic Graph](#).

## HL7

This is an abbreviation for [Health Level 7](#)

A not-for-profit, [ANSI](#) -accredited standards developing organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

### Alternatives

- **HL7**

### Related Links

- <http://www.hl7.org>

## HL7 CTS2

This is an abbreviation for [Common Terminology Services 2](#)

An [Application Programming Interface \(API\)](#) specification that is intended to describe the basic functionality that needed by healthcare software implementations to query and access terminological content. *CTS2* defines the functional requirements of a set of service interfaces to allow the representation, access, and maintenance of terminology content either locally, or across a federation of [terminology service](#) nodes.

### Notes

- *CTS2* is specified as an [API](#) rather than a set of data structures to enable a wide variety of terminological content to be integrated within a common framework without the need for significant migration or rewrite.
- *CTS2* was developed from the original the [see [HL7 CTS specification](#)] and is now a joint initiative between HL7 and the [see [Object Management Group \(OMG\)](#)].

### Alternatives

- **CTS2**
- **HL7 CTS2**

## HL7 TermInfo

An [HL7](#) project that developed the ' [HL7 Version 3 Implementation Guide: Using SNOMED CT](#) ' as a [Draft Standard for Trial Use](#) (DSTU). The purpose of this guide is to ensure that [HL7](#) Version 3 standards achieve their stated goal of semantic interoperability when used to communicate clinical information that is represented using [concepts](#) from [SNOMED CT](#)

### Alternatives

- **Term Info**

### Related Links

- [Guide to use of SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3](#)

## HL7 V3

This is an abbreviation for [Health Level 7 Version 3](#)

A standard for communication of health care information developed by [HL7](#). Version 3 is based on a formal development framework and its communication structures are derived as refinements from a [Reference Information Model \(HL7 V3 RIM\)](#).

### Alternatives

- **HL7 V3**

## HL7 V3 RIM

This is an abbreviation for [Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model](#)

The [reference information model](#) on which [HL7 Version 3](#) is based.

### Alternatives

- **HL7 V3 RIM**

|

## ICD-9

*The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 9th Revision (ICD-9)* is a coding of diseases and signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases, as classified by the [World Health Organization](#). ( [WHO](#) ).

### Note

Replaced by [ICD-10](#).

## ICD-9-CM

The International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification" (ICD-9-CM), Sixth Edition, issued for use beginning October 1, 2008 for federal fiscal year 2009 (FY09). The ICD-9-CM is maintained jointly by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

### Related Links

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/icd9/abticd9.htm>

## ICD-10

*The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10)* is a coding of diseases and signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances and external causes of injury or diseases, as classified by the [World Health Organization](#). ( [WHO](#) ).

### Related Links

- <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>

## identifier

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT Identifier](#)

A unique *integer* identifier applied to each [SNOMED CT component](#) ( [Concept](#), [Description](#) or [Relationship](#) ). Each *SCTID* includes an item identifier, a [check-digit](#), a [partition identifier](#) and, depending on the [partition identifier](#), may also include a [namespace identifier](#) .

### Alternatives

- **Identifier**
- **SCTID**

### Related Links

- [3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers](#)
- [5. Representing SNOMED CT identifiers](#)

## IFCC-IUPAC

The combination of these abbreviations sometimes refers to [C-NPU](#).

### C-NPU

#### C-NPU

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

#### Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

#### Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

#### Related Links

- <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/>

## IHTSDO

This is an abbreviation for [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#)

The not-for-profit organization that develops and promotes use of [SNOMED CT](#) to support safe and effective health information exchange.

#### Notes

In January 2017, the *International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation* adopted the trading name [SNOMED International](#).

#### Alternatives

- Trading name [SNOMED International](#)
- **IHTSDO**

#### Related Links

- [www.snomed.org](http://www.snomed.org)
- [IHTSDO Adopts Trading Name of SNOMED International](#)

## IHTSDO Affiliate

This is a synonym for [Affiliate Licensee](#).

### [Affiliate Licensee](#)

An organization or individual who has been issued a license to use SNOMED CT by [SNOMED International](#).

#### Note

Usage must be in accordance with the [SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Affiliate**
- **SNOMED International Affiliate**
- **IHTSDO Affiliate**

#### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## IHTSDO Member

This is a synonym for [Member](#).

### [Member](#)

A Member of the [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#) (trading as [SNOMED International](#)) in accordance with the IHTSDO Articles of Association.

#### Alternatives

- **IHTSDO Member**
- **SNOMED International Member**

#### Related Links

- [IHTSDO Articles of Association](#)

## immutable

A negative assertion of [mutability](#).

### [mutability](#)

An indication of whether the value of an attribute can change between two released versions of the same component.



## Notes

All released versions of the same component have the same identifier ([id](#)) but each version has a different [effectiveTime](#). If a field is mutable (Mutable=YES), its value can differ from one version to the next without the identifier changing. If a field is Immutable (Mutable=NO), its value must be the same in every version of a specific identified component. If the value associated with an immutable field needs to be changed, the existing component must be inactivated and a new component must be created to replace it. The new component must have a previously unused identifier its field values must be set to replace the inactivated concept with the updated information.

The mutability for each field (or column) in each type of release file is indicated in the release file specification table for that component type or reference set (see SNOMED CT [Release File Specifications](#)).

## Alternatives

- **Mutable**
- **Immutable (opposite of mutable)**

## Related Links

- [Release File Specifications](#)

## inactive

This is a synonym for [Inactive component](#)

A [SNOMED CT component](#) that is not intended for use. [Active](#) and *Inactive components* are included in [release files](#) to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology different points in time.

## Note

A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value Component.*active*=0 (zero). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

## Alternatives

- **Inactive**

## Related Links

- [2.6. Meaning of the Active Field](#)
- [2.8. Release Types](#)

## inactive component

A [SNOMED CT component](#) that is not intended for use. [Active](#) and *Inactive components* are included in [release files](#) to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology different points in time.

## Note

A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value Component.*active*=0 (zero). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

## Alternatives

- **Inactive**

## Related Links

- [2.6. Meaning of the Active Field](#)
- [2.8. Release Types](#)

## inactive concept

A [Concept](#) that is not intended for use. [Release files](#) contain [Active](#) and [Inactive components](#) to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

## Note

A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value Component.*active*=0 (zero). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

## inactive description

A [Description](#) that is not intended for use. [Release files](#) contain [Active](#) and [Inactive components](#) to provide a historical record of the content of the terminology at different points in time.

## Note

A component is inactive when the most recent row with the relevant Component.*id* in the [Full Release](#) of the relevant [Release File](#) has the value Component.*active*=0 (zero). The most recent row for a component is determined based on the Component.*effectiveTime* value.

## intellectual property

This is a synonym for [Intellectual property rights](#)

*As defined in the [SNOMED International Affiliate License Agreement](#): patents, trade marks, service marks, copyright (including rights in computer software), moral rights, database rights, rights in designs, trade secrets, know-how and other *intellectual property rights*, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including applications for registration, and all rights or forms of protection having equivalent or similar effect in any jurisdiction.*

## Note

The [SNOMED International](#) owns the *intellectual property rights* of [SNOMED CT](#). The [SNOMED International](#) is responsible for ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution of [SNOMED CT](#).

## Alternatives

- **Intellectual Property**
- **IP**
- **IPR**

## Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## intellectual property rights

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## Alternatives

- **Intellectual Property**
- **IP**
- **IPR**

## Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## intensional subset definition

A subset definition in which the membership is represented by a set of rules. These rules specify the necessary conditions that must be met for inclusion within the subset.

### Notes

1. An extensional definition of the members of subset of SNOMED CT concepts can be represented as a set of rules (e.g. concepts that are types of respiratory disease characterized by edema).
2. The standard way to represent an intensional definition of a subset of SNOMED CT concepts is to use the [SNOMED CT expression constraint language](#).
3. The standard way to distribute an intensional definition of a subset of SNOMED CT concepts is as a row in a [query specification reference set](#) containing the expression constraint.

## Related Links

- [Extensional subset definition](#)
- [Practical Guide to Reference Sets](#)
- [Wikipedia comparison of extensional and intensional definitions](#)

## International Edition

This is an abbreviation for [SNOMED CT International Edition](#).

### SNOMED CT International Edition

The set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) that belong to a focus [module](#) identified by [SNOMED International](#) and all modules on which that module depends.

#### Notes

1. The *International Edition* is the essential foundational content of SNOMED CT on which all other [SNOMED CT modules](#) must declare dependencies.
2. [SNOMED International](#) currently identifies the [SNOMED CT core module \(core metadata concept\)](#) as the focus module for the International Edition and the only dependency currently specified for this module is the [Module dependency reference set \(foundation metadata concept\)](#).
3. The *International Edition* may be supplemented by [extensions](#) maintained and distributed by [SNOMED International](#), [Members](#) and [Affiliates](#) to meet additional requirements at international, national, local and organizational levels.

#### Alternatives

- **International Edition**

#### Related Links

- Related terms [International release](#), [SNOMED International Extensions](#), [National Extension](#) and [National Edition](#)

## International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation

The not-for-profit organization that develops and promotes use of [SNOMED CT](#) to support safe and effective health information exchange.

#### Notes

In January 2017, the *International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation* adopted the trading name [SNOMED International](#).

#### Alternatives

- Trading name [SNOMED International](#)
- **IHTSDO**

#### Related Links

- [www.snomed.org](http://www.snomed.org)
- [IHTSDO Adopts Trading Name of SNOMED International](#)

## International Release

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT International Release](#)

The complete set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) distributed by [SNOMED International](#) and made available to its [Members](#) and [Affiliates](#).

### Notes

1. The *International Release*, provided by [SNOMED International](#), includes the [SNOMED International Edition](#) and all supplementary content and derivatives contained in [SNOMED International Extensions](#).
2. The *International Release* may be supplemented by [Extension](#) releases provided by [Members](#) and [Affiliates](#) to meet additional national, local and organizational requirements.
3. The *International Release* made available on a particular date can be referred to as an *International Release version*.

### Alternatives

- **International Release**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Release File Specification](#)
- [SNOMED CT International Edition](#)
- [SNOMED International Extensions](#)
- [SNOMED CT release](#)

## intersection

In set theory the *intersection* of the sets A and B, is the set of all objects that are members of both A and B.

### Note

Set theory is applied when describing the intended result of combinations of Reference Sets or Constraints.

## IP

This is an abbreviation for [Intellectual property rights](#)

*As defined in the [SNOMED International Affiliate License Agreement](#): patents, trade marks, service marks, copyright (including rights in computer software), moral rights, database rights, rights in designs, trade secrets, know-how and other *intellectual property rights*, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including applications for registration, and all rights or forms of protection having equivalent or similar effect in any jurisdiction.*

### Note

The [SNOMED International](#) owns the *intellectual property rights* of [SNOMED CT](#). The [SNOMED International](#) is responsible for ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution of [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **Intellectual Property**
- **IP**
- **IPR**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## IPR

This is an abbreviation for [Intellectual property rights](#)

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### Note

The [SNOMED International](#) owns the *intellectual property rights* of [SNOMED CT](#). The [SNOMED International](#) is responsible for ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution of [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **Intellectual Property**
- **IP**
- **IPR**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## is a

The RelationshipType that defines a supertype - [subtype Relationship](#) between two [Concepts](#). Usually expressed as [subtype 116680003](#) |is a| supertype. For Example, [Blister with infection 116680003](#) |is a| [Infection of skin](#).

## ISO

*ISO* (International Organization for Standardization ) is the world's largest developer and publisher of International Standards. ISO is a network of the national standards institutes from over 160 countries, one member per country, with a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, that coordinates the system.

### Related Links

- <http://www.iso.org>

## ISO TC215

*ISO TC215* is the ISO Technical Committee for Standardization in the field of information for health, and Health Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Its objectives are to enable compatibility and interoperability between independent systems, to ensure compatibility of data for comparative statistical purposes (e.g. classifications), and to reduce duplication of effort and redundancies.

### Related Links

- <http://www.iso.org/tc215>

# J



## K

### KB

This is an abbreviation for [Knowledge Base](#)

#### Knowledge Base

The underlying set of facts, assumptions, and rules which a computer system has available to answer a question or solve a problem.

#### Alternatives

- **KB**

#### Related Links

- [3. Knowledge Base](#)

## kind of value

The nature of a value that may be associated with a [Concept](#). For example, the [concept 271649006 |systolic blood pressure|](#) can label a numeric value. The Kind-of-Value that it labels is a pressure.

## knowledge base

The underlying set of facts, assumptions, and rules which a computer system has available to answer a question or solve a problem.

#### Alternatives

- **KB**

#### Related Links

- [3. Knowledge Base](#)

## L

## language

For purposes of [SNOMED CT](#) translations, a *language* is a vocabulary and grammatical form that has been allocated an ISO639-1 *language* code. See also [dialect](#) .

## Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes

This is the full name for [LOINC](#)

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes, a dataset of universal identifiers for identifying medical laboratory observations and other clinical observations to facilitate exchange and storage of clinical results or vital signs.

### Alternatives

- **Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes**

### Related Links

- [LOINC website \(http://loinc.org\)](http://loinc.org)
- [Guide to Using LOINC with SNOMED CT](#)

## LOINC

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes, a dataset of universal identifiers for identifying medical laboratory observations and other clinical observations to facilitate exchange and storage of clinical results or vital signs.

### Alternatives

- **Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes**

### Related Links

- [LOINC website \(http://loinc.org\)](http://loinc.org)
- [Guide to Using LOINC with SNOMED CT](#)

## M

### machine readable concept model

A representation of the rules that comprise the [SNOMED CT Concept Model](#) in a form that can be processed by computer software and applied to validate content.

#### Note

The *Machine readable concept model* can be applied to support consistent authoring of [SNOMED CT](#) content and can also support the creation of valid [postcoordinated expressions](#) in instance data.

#### See also

The specification of the [Machine Readable Concept Model](#).

#### Alternatives

- **MRCM**

### managed content addition

An implementation strategy that involves creating additional [concepts](#), [Descriptions](#) and [Relationships](#) in an extension so that data can be recorded to the required level of detail using only [precoordinated expressions](#).

#### Note

A [description logic classifier](#) can be used to obtain an updated inferred view of the whole terminology in order to support data retrieval.

#### Alternatives

- **MCA**

### mapping

The process of converting data from a representation in one code system, classification or terminology so that it is represented in another code system, classification or terminology.

#### Note

The process as a whole includes the preparation and maintenance of resources used to enable this conversion and the application of such resources to convert instance data.

In [SNOMED CT Mapping](#) resources are distributed as [Simple Map Reference Sets](#) or [Complex and Extended Map Reference Sets](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Cross Mapping**

## MCA

This is an abbreviation for [Managed content addition](#)

An implementation strategy that involves creating additional [concepts](#), [Descriptions](#) and [Relationships](#) in an extension so that data can be recorded to the required level of detail using only [precoordinated expressions](#) .

### Note

A [description logic classifier](#) can be used to obtain an updated inferred view of the whole terminology in order to support data retrieval.

### Alternatives

- **MCA**

## Member

A Member of the [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#) (trading as [SNOMED International](#)) in accordance with the IHTSDO Articles of Association.

### Alternatives

- **IHTSDO Member**
- **SNOMED International Member**

### Related Links

- [IHTSDO Articles of Association](#)

## Member Forum

The Member Forum is an SNOMED International advisory body whose role is to:

- facilitate collaboration and cooperation between Members;
- provide Member priorities for all new and proposed SNOMED International projects and products; and
- promote learning from shared experiences.

The Member Forum supports the objectives of SNOMED International by promoting consultation and communication at an operational level between SNOMED International and its Members.

## member territory

A territory that is represented by an [Member](#) (as published by the Licensor from time to time)

### Related Links

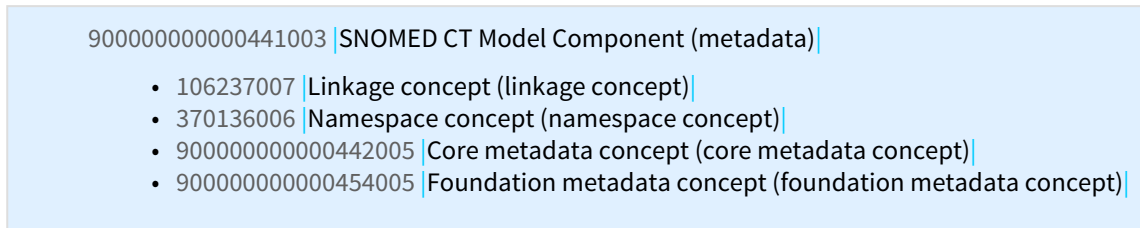
- [Membership is governed by the SNOMED International Articles of Association](#)
- [List of Current Members](#)

## metadata

[SNOMED CT](#) content (including [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)) that is used to describe or provide additional information about [SNOMED](#) content and derivatives (including [reference sets](#)).

## Note

All [SNOMED CT metadata concepts](#) are [subtypes](#) of [900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component \(metadata\)|](#). The top level of the metadata hierarchy represents broad groups of metadata as shown below.



**Figure 1: Top level of the SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy**

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT Metadata**

## Related Links

- [3.3. Metadata Hierarchy](#)

## migration

See [Operational migration](#), [Data migration](#) and [Predicate migration](#) .

## modeler

A person who directly edits the logic definitions and other structures of the terminology. Also sometimes called Clinical Editor or Terminology Manager.

## Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

## modeling

The process of editing logic definitions to reflect the meaning intended by the [Fully Specified Name](#) .

## Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

## modeller

This is a synonym for [Modeler](#)

A person who directly edits the logic definitions and other structures of the terminology. Also sometimes called Clinical Editor or Terminology Manager.

### Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

## modelling

This is a synonym for [Modeling](#)

The process of editing logic definitions to reflect the meaning intended by the [Fully Specified Name](#) .

### Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

## model of meaning

An information model that is structured in a way that is designed to provide a common representation of particular types of information which is reusable between different use cases. A model of a meaning combines structural and terminological component in ways that avoid ambiguity and minimize alternative representations of similar meanings.

### Note

In contrast, a [model of use](#) represents the underlying meaning in a way that is determined by a limited set use cases.

### Example

A model that specifies a how [SNOMED CT expressions](#) are used to represent in a particular [reference information model](#) to represent clinical findings and procedures in an [electronic health record](#).

## model of use

An information model that is structured in a way suggested by a particular intended use of the information that will be represented by that model.

## Note

In contrast, a [model of meaning](#) represents the underlying meaning in a way that is common to and reusable between different use cases.

## Example

A database that is structured with tables and fields that match specific [user interface](#) forms and the data entry box on those forms.

## module

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT Module](#)

A group of [SNOMED CT components](#) and/or [reference set members](#) that are at a given point in time managed, maintained and distributed as a unit.

### Notes

1. [Components](#) and [reference set members](#) that are part of the same *module* share the same *moduleId* value.
2. Each [component](#) and [reference set member](#) is a part of one and only one *module* as at a given point in time.
3. The organization responsible for a *module* can move a [component](#) and [reference set member](#) from that *module* to another *module* that the same organization is responsible for, by creating a revised version of the [component](#) or [reference set member](#) with a different *moduleId* that applies from the *effectiveTime* of the revised version.
4. Subject to rules related to movement of components between two extensions or between an extension and the International Edition, it is possible for a [component](#) and [reference set member](#) to be moved between *modules* maintained by different organizations .

### Alternatives

- **Module**

## monohierarchical classification

This is a synonym for [Monohierarchy](#)

A *Monohierarchy* is a hierarchy in which each node is linked to one and only one parent node.

This type of hierarchy can be represented as a tree with a single root to which each node is attached.

### Alternatives

- **Monohierarchical classification**

## monohierarchy

A *Monohierarchy* is a hierarchy in which each node is linked to one and only one parent node.

This type of hierarchy can be represented as a tree with a single root to which each node is attached.

## Alternatives

- **Monohierarchical classification**

## moved elsewhere

The state of a [component](#) that has been moved to another [Namespace](#).

## Note

[Concepts](#) or [Descriptions](#) may be moved from an [Extension](#) to the [International Release](#), from the [International Release](#) to an [Extension](#) or between one [Extension](#) and another. Moves occur if responsibility for supporting the [Concepts](#) changes to another organization.

## MRCM

This is an abbreviation for [Machine readable concept model](#)

A representation of the rules that comprise the [SNOMED CT Concept Model](#) in a form that can be processed by computer software and applied to validate content.

### Note

The *Machine readable concept model* can be applied to support consistent authoring of [SNOMED CT](#) content and can also support the creation of valid [postcoordinated expressions](#) in instance data.

### See also

The specification of the [Machine Readable Concept Model](#).

### Alternatives

- **MRCM**

## mutability

An indication of whether the value of an attribute can change between two released versions of the same component.

## Notes

All released versions of the same component have the same identifier ([id](#)) but each version has a different [effectiveTime](#). If a field is mutable (Mutable=YES), its value can differ from one version to the next without the identifier changing. If a field is Immutable (Mutable=NO), its value must be the same in every version of a specific identified component. If the value associated with an immutable field needs to be changed, the existing component must be inactivated and a new component must be created to replace it. The new component must have a previously unused identifier its field values must be set to replace the inactivated concept with the updated information.

The mutability for each field (or column) in each type of release file is indicated in the release file specification table for that component type or reference set (see [SNOMED CT Release File Specifications](#)).



## Alternatives

- **Mutable**
- **Immutable (opposite of mutable)**

## Related Links

- [Release File Specifications](#)

# mutable

A positive assertion of [mutability](#).

## [mutability](#)

An indication of whether the value of an attribute can change between two released versions of the same component.

## Notes

All released versions of the same component have the same identifier ([id](#)) but each version has a different [effectiveTime](#). If a field is mutable (Mutable=YES), its value can differ from one version to the next without the identifier changing. If a field is Immutable (Mutable=NO), its value must be the same in every version of a specific identified component. If the value associated with an immutable field needs to be changed, the existing component must be inactivated and a new component must be created to replace it. The new component must have a previously unused identifier its field values must be set to replace the inactivated concept with the updated information.

The mutability for each field (or column) in each type of release file is indicated in the release file specification table for that component type or reference set (see SNOMED CT [Release File Specifications](#)).

## Alternatives

- **Mutable**
- **Immutable (opposite of mutable)**

## Related Links

- [Release File Specifications](#)

## N

### namespace concept

A **Concept** that exists to represent a **SNOMED CT Namespace - Identifier**. All *Namespace Concepts* are direct subtypes of the **Concept " Namespace Concept"** which is a subtype of the Top-Level **Concept "Special Concept"**.

### namespaceid

This is a synonym for [Namespace identifier](#)

A seven digit number allocated by [SNOMED International](#) to an organization that is permitted to maintain a [SNOMED CT Extension](#).

#### Notes

1. The *namespace identifier* enables an authorized organization to generate a unique identifier (**SCTID**) for every **SNOMED CT component** that they create. It forms part of the **SCTID** assigned to every **component** that is created by the organization to which it is allocated. Therefore the *namespace identifier* indicates the provenance of each **SNOMED CT component**.
2. Short format **SCTIDs**, which are used for **components** that originate from SNOMED International, do not include a *namespace identifier*. For these **SCTIDs** the **partition identifier** provides sufficient information about the origin of the component.

#### Alternatives

- **Extension namespace identifiers**
- **Namespaceld**

#### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Extension](#)
- [Representing SNOMED CT identifiers](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

### namespace identifier

A seven digit number allocated by [SNOMED International](#) to an organization that is permitted to maintain a [SNOMED CT Extension](#).

#### Notes

1. The *namespace identifier* enables an authorized organization to generate a unique identifier (**SCTID**) for every **SNOMED CT component** that they create. It forms part of the **SCTID** assigned to every **component** that is created by the organization to which it is allocated. Therefore the *namespace identifier* indicates the provenance of each **SNOMED CT component**.
2. Short format **SCTIDs**, which are used for **components** that originate from SNOMED International, do not include a *namespace identifier*. For these **SCTIDs** the **partition identifier** provides sufficient information about the origin of the component.

## Alternatives

- **Extension namespace identifiers**
- **NamespaceId**

## Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Extension](#)
- [Representing SNOMED CT identifiers](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

# National Edition

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT National Edition](#)

A set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) that belong to an focus [module](#) identified by a [National Release Center \(NRC\)](#), and all modules on which that module depends.

## Notes

1. The focus module identified by the [NRC](#) should be part of the [National Release](#) for which that [NRC](#) is responsible. Other modules within the [National Release](#) are included in the *National Edition* if they are specified as dependencies of the focus module.
2. A [NRC](#) may define multiple *National Editions* by identifying different focus modules for each edition.
3. A *National Edition* may be made available to licensees as part of a [National Release](#). Alternatively a *National Edition* may be derived by combining the contents of the identified focus module from the [National Release](#) with the contents of the relevant version of all modules in the [International Edition](#) and any other extension modules on which it depends.

## Examples

- United States Edition
- Canadian Edition
- United Kingdom Clinical Edition (does not include UK drug extension modules)
- United Kingdom Edition (includes UK drug extension modules)

## Alternatives

- **National Edition**

## Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Edition](#)
- [SNOMED CT National Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT National Extension](#)

# National Health Service

Located in the United Kingdom, the *National Health Service* (*NHS*) worked with the College of American Pathologists in the development of [SNOMED CT](#). The *NHS* is was one of the founder Members of the [SNOMED International](#) that is now responsible for [SNOMED CT](#).

## Alternatives

- **NHS**
- **UK National Health Service**
- **UK NHS**

## Related Links

- <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/>

## National Library of Medicine

The *National Library of Medicine* (*NLM*, in Bethesda, Maryland, is a part of the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). *NLM* is the world's largest medical library. The *NLM* represents the US, as a founder Member of the [SNOMED International](#) .

## Alternatives

- **NLM**

## National Release

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT National Release](#)

The complete set of SNOMED CT [components](#) and [reference set members](#) distributed to licensees by a [Member](#).

### Notes

1. The *National Release* is made available as a set of [release files](#) which contain components and derivatives from a National Extension maintained and distributed by a [Member](#).
2. A *National release* may also include the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) on which it depends, in which case it is a release of the [National Edition](#).
3. Alternatively, a *National Release* may consist only of the [National Extension release files](#) for the specified release date. In this case, the [National Edition](#) is generated by combining these files with the [International Release](#) on which it depends.
4. The *National Release* made available on a particular date can be referred to as a *National Release Version*.

### Alternatives

- **National Release**

### Related Links

- [National Edition](#)
- [SNOMED CT release](#)

## National Release Center

The organization within an [Member](#) country that is responsible for maintaining and releasing [SNOMED CT](#) content including any National [Extensions](#) of [SNOMED CT](#) .

## natural language processing

A service in which a computer system converts between human-readable text (and/or spoken languages) and formal representations of information that can be readily generated, analyzed and processed by other software applications.

### Notes

1. Natural language processing of human-readable text can generate formal representations that may include [SNOMED CT expressions](#).
2. Natural language generation systems can convert information from formal representations into human-readable text.

### Alternatives

- **NLP**

## navigation

The process of locating a [Concept](#) by traversing [Relationships](#) or [Navigation links](#). For example, moving from a supertype [Concept](#) to more refined [Concepts](#), from a specific [Concept](#) to a more general [Concept](#) or from a [Concept](#) to its [Defining characteristics](#). [Navigation Links](#) allow *navigation* to follow intuitive routes through [SNOMED CT](#) even where there are no direct supertype or [subtype Relationships](#).

## navigation concept

A [Concept](#) that exists only to support [Navigation](#). A *Navigation Concept* is not suitable for recording or aggregating information. All *Navigation Concepts*:

- Are direct [subtypes](#) of the [concept](#) "Navigational [Concept](#)";
- Have not other supertype or [subtype Relationships](#)
- Are linked to other [Concepts](#) only by [Navigational Links](#).

## navigation hierarchy

A hierarchical view of a set of [SNOMED CT concepts](#) that is intended to assist navigation at the [user interface](#).

### Note

There are several differences between *navigation hierarchies* and the formal [subtype hierarchy](#):

1. Links between [concepts](#) in a *navigation hierarchy* are represented by an [Ordered Reference Set](#)
2. *Navigation links* do not contribute to the semantic definitions of [concepts](#). Therefore, the criteria for creating a *navigation hierarchy* can be based on arbitrary criteria relating to usability
3. A *navigation hierarchy* may specify the order in which a set of [concepts](#) are to be displayed when nested under another specified [concept](#).

## necessary condition

A characteristic that is always true of a [concept](#).

### Notes

- SNOMED CT represents necessary conditions as [defining relationships](#).

## Example

- The defining relationship  
116676008 |morphology| = 72704001 |fracture| is a necessary condition of 71620000 |fracture of femur| because you do not have a 71620000 |fracture of femur| unless the morphological abnormality 72704001 |fracture| is present.

## Related Links

## NHS

This is an abbreviation for [National Health Service](#)

Located in the United Kingdom, the *National Health Service* (*NHS*) worked with the College of American Pathologists in the development of [SNOMED CT](#). The *NHS* is was one of the founder Members of the [SNOMED International](#) that is now responsible for [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **NHS**
- **UK National Health Service**
- **UK NHS**

### Related Links

- <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/>

## NLM

This is an abbreviation for [National Library of Medicine](#)

The *National Library of Medicine* (*NLM*, in Bethesda, Maryland, is a part of the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). *NLM* is the world's largest medical library. The *NLM* represents the US, as a founder Member of the [SNOMED International](#).

### Alternatives

- **NLM**

## NLP

This is an abbreviation for [Natural language processing](#)

A service in which a computer system converts between human-readable text (and/or spoken languages) and formal representations of information that can be readily generated, analyzed and processed by other software applications.

### Notes

1. Natural language processing of human-readable text can generate formal representations that may include [SNOMED CT expressions](#).
2. Natural language generation systems can convert information from formal representations into human-readable text.

### Alternatives

- **NLP**

## Nomenclature, Properties and Units

This is the full name for [C-NPU](#)

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

### Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

### Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

### Related Links

- <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/>

## non-member territory

A territory that is not an [Member Territory](#)

### Note

In accordance with [SNOMED International Affiliate License](#), fees are payable to the [SNOMED International](#) for use of [SNOMED CT](#) in non-Member Territories.

### Related Links

- [Membership is governed by the SNOMED International Articles of Association](#)
- [List of Current Members](#)

## normal form

A representation of a [SNOMED CT expression](#) in which none of the referenced [concepts](#) are [fully defined](#) and where there is no redundancy or duplication of meaning.

## Notes

1. *Normal forms* can be used to determine [equivalence](#) and subsumption between [expressions](#) and thus assist with selective retrieval.
2. Any [SNOMED CT expression](#) can be transformed to its *normal form* by replacing each reference to a [fully defined concept](#) with a nested [expression](#) representing the definition of that [concept](#). Transformation rules then resolve redundancies, which may arise from expanding [fully defined concepts](#), by removing less specific [attribute values](#).

## normal form transformation

The process of converting a [SNOMED CT expression](#) into its [normal form](#).

## Notes

- The [normal form](#) provides a way compare different [expressions](#) which have a similar meaning.

## Alternatives

- **Transform**
- **Transformation**

## Related Links

- [12.4 Transforming Expressions to Normal Forms](#)

## NPU

This is an abbreviation for [C-NPU](#)

The Coded Nomenclature, Properties and Units which is coded terminology used in clinical laboratory sciences

### Note

- C-NPU is maintained by the International Federations of Clinical Chemists (IFCC) in collaboration with International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

### Alternatives

- **Nomenclature, Properties and Units**
- **NPU**
- **IFCC-IUPAC**

### Related Links

- <http://www.ifcc.org/ifcc-scientific-division/sd-committees/c-npu/>



## O

### openEHR

*openEHR* is an international not-for-profit Foundation working toward making the interoperable, life-long [electronic health record](#) a reality and improving health care in the information society. It develops specifications that are primarily based on and extend key aspects of the [CEN Standard for Electronic Health Record Communication \(EN 13606\)](#).

#### Related Links

- <http://www.openehr.org>

### operational migration

Steps taken to enable an organization that either used a previous coding scheme (or no clinical coding scheme) to make use of [SNOMED CT](#).

### other-code

A code or identifier in a code system, classification or terminology other than [SNOMED CT](#).

#### Notes

The hyphenated form other-code (or other-codes) is used to avoid confusion with the more general reference to another code.

#### Alternatives

- **Target code**

### OWL

This is the acronym for [Web Ontology Language](#)

#### Web Ontology Language

The **Web Ontology Language (OWL)** is a family of knowledge representation languages for authoring [ontologies](#). Ontologies are a formal way to describe taxonomies and classification networks, essentially defining the structure of knowledge for various domains: the nouns representing classes of objects and the verbs representing relations between the objects.

#### Alternatives

- **OWL**

#### Related Links

- [Web Ontology Language \(Wikipedia page\)](#)
- [Ontologies \(Wikipedia page\)](#)

## P

### partitionid

This is a synonym for [Partition-identifier](#)

The second and third digits from the right of the string rendering of the [SCTID](#). The value of the *partition-identifier* indicates the type of component that the [SCTID](#) identifies (e.g. [Concept](#), [Description](#), [Relationship](#), etc) and also indicates whether the [SCTID](#) contains a [namespace identifier](#) .

#### Alternatives

- **PartitionId**

### partition-identifier

The second and third digits from the right of the string rendering of the [SCTID](#). The value of the *partition-identifier* indicates the type of component that the [SCTID](#) identifies (e.g. [Concept](#), [Description](#), [Relationship](#), etc) and also indicates whether the [SCTID](#) contains a [namespace identifier](#) .

#### Alternatives

- **PartitionId**

### pending move

The state of a [component](#) that is thought to belong in a different [Namespace](#) but which is maintained with its current [SCTID](#) while awaiting addition to the new [Namespace](#).

#### Note

A new [Concept](#) and associated [Descriptions](#) may be added with this *Status* where a missing [SNOMED CT Concept](#) is urgently required to support the needs of a particular [Extension](#). Existing [Concepts](#) are also given this *status* when it is recognized that they should be moved to a different [Extension](#) or to the [International Release](#). See also [Moved elsewhere](#).

### phrase equivalence

Two words or phrases with a similar meaning. For example, "renal calculus" and "kidney stone". See [Word Equivalents](#) .

## POC

This is an abbreviation for [Point of Care](#)

### Point of Care

The time and location at which clinicians or other health professionals deliver healthcare products and services to patients.

#### Note

The term *point of care* is most often used to indicate a particular activity is carried out at the location where the patient is being seen or treated. For example, point of care testing and point of care documentation.

#### Alternatives

- **POC**

#### Related Links

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care\\_documentation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_documentation)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care\\_testing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_testing)

## point of care

The time and location at which clinicians or other health professionals deliver healthcare products and services to patients.

#### Note

The term *point of care* is most often used to indicate a particular activity is carried out at the location where the patient is being seen or treated. For example, point of care testing and point of care documentation.

#### Alternatives

- **POC**

#### Related Links

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care\\_documentation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_documentation)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care\\_testing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point-of-care_testing)

## polyhierarchical classification

This is a synonym for [Polyhierarchy](#)

A *Polyhierarchy* is a hierarchy in which each node has one or more parents.

This type of hierarchy can be represented as a graph in which each node has a one or more directed links to or from other nodes. Since a node in a hierarchy cannot be a [descendant](#) of itself the resulting graph must not contain cyclic [Relationships](#). This type of graphs is referred to as a " [Directed Acyclic Graph](#) ".

#### Alternatives

- **Polyhierarchical classification**

## polyhierarchy

A *Polyhierarchy* is a hierarchy in which each node has one or more parents.

This type of hierarchy can be represented as a graph in which each node has a one or more directed links to or from other nodes. Since a node in a hierarchy cannot be a [descendant](#) of itself the resulting graph must not contain cyclic [Relationships](#). This type of graphs is referred to as a " [Directed Acyclic Graph](#) ".

#### Alternatives

- **Polyhierarchical classification**

## postcoordinated

This is a synonym for [Postcoordinated expression](#)

Representation of a clinical meaning using a combination of two or more [concept identifiers](#) is referred to as *postcoordination*.

#### Note

Some clinical meanings may be represented in several different ways. [SNOMED CT](#) technical specifications include guidance for transforming logical [expressions](#) to a common [canonical form](#).

#### Example

[SNOMED CT](#) includes the following [concepts](#):

- 125605004 |fracture of bone|
- 363698007 |finding site|
- 71341001 |bone structure of femur|

[SNOMED CT](#) also includes a *precoordinated concept* for 71620000 |fracture of femur|. Therefore It is possible to represent the clinical meaning "fracture of femur" in different ways:

- as a [precoordinated expression](#):
  - 71620000 |fracture of femur|
- or as a *postcoordinated expression*:
  - 125605004 |fracture of bone| : 363698007 |finding site| = 71341001 |bone structure of femur|

#### Alternatives

- **Postcoordinated**
- **Postcoordination**

## postcoordinated expression

Representation of a clinical meaning using a combination of two or more [concept identifiers](#) is referred to as *postcoordination*.

### Note

Some clinical meanings may be represented in several different ways. [SNOMED CT](#) technical specifications include guidance for transforming logical [expressions](#) to a common [canonical form](#).

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- as a [precoordinated expression](#):
  - 71620000 |fracture of femur|
- or as a *postcoordinated expression*:
  - 125605004 |fracture of bone| : 363698007 |finding site| = 71341001 |bone structure of femur|

### Alternatives

- **Postcoordinated**
- **Postcoordination**

## postcoordination

This is a synonym for [Postcoordinated expression](#)

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### Note

Some clinical meanings may be represented in several different ways. [SNOMED CT](#) technical specifications include guidance for transforming logical [expressions](#) to a common [canonical form](#).

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- as a [precoordinated expression](#):

- 71620000 |fracture of femur|
- or as a *postcoordinated expression*:
  - 125605004 |fracture of bone| : 363698007 |finding site| = 71341001 |bone structure of femur|

#### Alternatives

- **Postcoordinated**
- **Postcoordination**

## precoordinated

This is a synonym for [Precoordinated expression](#)

Representation of a clinical meaning using a single [concept identifier](#) is referred to as a *precoordinated expression*.

#### Note

In contrast, [expressions](#) that contain two or more [concepts Identifier](#) are referred to as [postcoordinated expressions](#). For more information and examples see the glossary entry for [postcoordinated expression](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Precoordinated**
- **precoordinated expression**
- **Precoordination**

## precoordinated expression

Representation of a clinical meaning using a single [concept identifier](#) is referred to as a *precoordinated expression*.

#### Note

In contrast, [expressions](#) that contain two or more [concepts Identifier](#) are referred to as [postcoordinated expressions](#). For more information and examples see the glossary entry for [postcoordinated expression](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Precoordinated**
- **precoordinated expression**
- **Precoordination**

## precoordination

This is a synonym for [Precoordinated expression](#)

Representation of a clinical meaning using a single [concept identifier](#) is referred to as a *precoordinated expression*.

## Note

In contrast, [expressions](#) that contain two or more [concepts Identifier](#) are referred to as [postcoordinated expressions](#). For more information and examples see the glossary entry for [postcoordinated expression](#).

## Alternatives

- **Precoordinated**
- **precoordinated expression**
- **Precoordination**

## predicate migration

Steps taken to enable pre-existing data retrieval predicates (including queries, standard reports and decision support protocols) to be converted or utilized in a system using [SNOMED CT](#).

## preferred term

The *term* that is deemed to be the most clinically appropriate way of expressing a [Concept](#) in a clinical record. The *Preferred Term* varies according to language and [dialect](#).

## Note

The *Preferred Term* is indicated by the *acceptabilityId* field of the relevant [4.2.4. Language Reference Set](#).

## primitive concept

A [concept](#) with a formal logic definition that is not sufficient to distinguish its meaning from other similar [concepts](#).

## Note

1. The meaning of [SNOMED CT concept](#) is expressed in a human-readable form by its [Fully Specified Name](#).
2. Each [concept](#) also has a formal logic definition represented by a set of defining [relationships](#) to other [concepts](#). This logic definition is computer processable. A *primitive concept* does not have sufficient defining [relationships](#) to computably distinguish them from more general [concepts](#)(supertypes).
3. See also [sufficiently defined concept](#).

## Example

The concept [5596004 |atypical appendicitis \(disorder\)|](#) is *primitive* because the following definition is not sufficient to distinguish "atypical appendicitis" from any other type of "appendicitis".

**Table 1: Definition of [5596004 |atypical appendicitis \(disorder\)|](#) - (primitive)**

[5596004 |atypical appendicitis \(disorder\)|](#)

```
<<< 116680003 |is a| = 74400008 |appendicitis|
    116676008 |associated morphology| = 23583003 |inflammation|
    363698007 |finding site| = 66754008 |appendix structure|
```

## production release package

This Release status applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent the final, formally endorsed release of additions of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other products in the SNOMED International Service Catalog.

The Production status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) commits to maintain the release history of this release and all subsequent updates. Thus from the first Production release onwards, the historical audit trail will be maintained throughout the Product's lifetime.

### Notes

- The significance of the Production status is that it represents the authoritative release of the product, and implementers can use the additional components and derivatives in operational clinical systems with confidence in the subsequent maintenance of the product.

### Alternatives

- **Production release**
- **Production package**

### Related Links

- [Alpha release package](#)
- [Beta release package](#)



## Q

### qualifier

This is a synonym for [Qualifying characteristic](#)

An [attribute-value relationship](#) associated with a [concept](#) code to indicate to users that it may be applied to refine the meaning of the code. The set of qualifying [relationships](#) provide syntactically correct values that can be presented to a user for [postcoordination](#).

#### Note

- Following the introduction of the [RF2](#) in 2012 qualifying relationships are no longer part of the standard distributed release.
- The [Machine Readable Concept Model](#) provides a more comprehensive and flexible way to identify the full set of [attributes](#) and [ranges](#) that can be applied to refine [concepts](#) in particular [domains](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Qualifier**

### qualifying characteristic

An [attribute-value relationship](#) associated with a [concept](#) code to indicate to users that it may be applied to refine the meaning of the code. The set of qualifying [relationships](#) provide syntactically correct values that can be presented to a user for [postcoordination](#).

#### Note

- Following the introduction of the [RF2](#) in 2012 qualifying relationships are no longer part of the standard distributed release.
- The [Machine Readable Concept Model](#) provides a more comprehensive and flexible way to identify the full set of [attributes](#) and [ranges](#) that can be applied to refine [concepts](#) in particular [domains](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Qualifier**

### quality characteristic

A type of attribute of a component by which its quality is assessed or measured.

#### Note

The set of [SNOMED International quality characteristics](#) are a typology of attributes of an [SNOMED International Component](#) by which its quality is assessed or measured. A typology is the study or systematic classification of types that have attributes or traits in common.

#### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Quality Framework](#)

## quality metric

An agreed method and means for measuring levels of achievement, performance or conformance of a component or its [Quality characteristic](#) (s).

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Quality Framework](#)

## quality target

An agreed level of achievement, performance or conformance of a component for any given [Quality characteristic](#) .

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Quality Framework](#)

## query predicate

A statement of a condition that determines whether candidate instance data should be included in or excluded from a selection.

### Note

*Query predicates* applied to a set of [SNOMED CT expressions](#) may test for subsumption of the overall meaning and/ or may test the values applied to particular [attributes](#) in the [expression](#).

## R

### range

A constrained set of values that the [Concept Model](#) permits to be applied to a specific [attribute](#) when that [attribute](#) is applied to a [concept](#) in a particular [domain](#).

#### Note

The *range* of permitted values that can be applied to an [attribute](#) is typically defined to include concepts in one or more branches of the subtype hierarchy.

#### Example

The [range](#) for values of 116676008 |Associated morphology| is subtypes of 49755003 |Morphologically abnormal structure|.

#### Alternatives

- **Concept model range**

#### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

### Read Code

A five-character code allocated to a [concept](#) or *term* in [CTV3](#). Note that codes allocated in *Read Codes Version 2* and the *Read Codes 4-Byte Set* are also included in [CTV3](#). The original 4-byte codes are distinguished from 5-byte codes in the general representation by prefixing them with a full stop.

#### Alternatives

- **Read Codes 4-Byte Set**
- **Read Codes Version 2**

### Read Codes 4-Byte Set

This is a synonym for [Read Code](#)

A five-character code allocated to a [concept](#) or *term* in [CTV3](#). Note that codes allocated in *Read Codes Version 2* and the *Read Codes 4-Byte Set* are also included in [CTV3](#). The original 4-byte codes are distinguished from 5-byte codes in the general representation by prefixing them with a full stop.

#### Alternatives

- **Read Codes 4-Byte Set**
- **Read Codes Version 2**

## Read Codes Version 2

This is a synonym for [Read Code](#)

A five-character code allocated to a [concept](#) or [term](#) in [CTV3](#). Note that codes allocated in *Read Codes Version 2* and the *Read Codes 4-Byte Set* are also included in [CTV3](#). The original 4-byte codes are distinguished from 5-byte codes in the general representation by prefixing them with a full stop.

### Alternatives

- **Read Codes 4-Byte Set**
- **Read Codes Version 2**

## realm

A sphere of authority, expertise, or preference that influences the range of [components](#) required, or the frequency with which they are used. A *Realm* may be a nation, an organization, a professional discipline, a specialty, or an individual user.

## record service

A function performed by software that interacts with a record system used to capture information which may include references to information in a terminology.

### Note

*Record services* are intimately related to ways in which information is entered, stored and retrieved by a particular application. These services interact with [Terminology services](#) but, unlike [Terminology services](#) they are usually specific to a particular application.

### Related Links

- [Record Services Guide](#)
- [Service architecture](#)
- [Terminology service](#)

## reference information model

A high-level generalized model that allows information to be represented and related consistently within a particular field of human endeavor.

### Note

The [Health Level 7 Version 3 Reference Information Model](#) is an example of a *reference information model* used in health care.

## reference set

A standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to [SNOMED CT components](#) and optionally associating referenced components with additional information.

## Notes

1. A reference set can be used to represent a subset of components ([concepts](#), [descriptions](#) or [relationships](#)).
2. A reference set that associates additional information with referenced components can be used to support various different purposes, such as representing:
  - An ordered lists of components;
  - Sets of associations between components;
  - Maps between SNOMED CT concepts and codes in other code systems, classifications or knowledge resources.

## Alternatives

- **Refset**
- **SNOMED CT reference set**

## Related Links

- [Reference Sets](#)
- [Reference Set Types](#)
- [Subset](#)
- [Extensibility Mechanism](#)
- [Practical Guide to Reference Sets](#)

## reference set member

A uniquely identified row within the [snapshot view](#) of a [reference set](#).

### Note

1. Different versions of a *reference set member* may share the same identifier ( *id* ) but have different *effectiveTimes*. This allows a *reference set member* to be modified or made *inactive* (i.e. removed from the active set) at a specified time.
2. Each [reference set](#) has an identifier ( *refsetId* ) and contains one or more *reference set members*. Each *reference set member* has its own unique identifier ( *id* ) which allows it to be versioned using the *effectiveTime* and *active* fields. All *reference set members* also contain a *referencedComponentId* (which refers to a component that is part of the set) and other fields that depend on the type of [reference set](#).

## reference terminology

A terminology in which each *term* has a formal computer processable definition that supports meaning based retrieval and aggregation. [SNOMED CT](#) is a *reference terminology*

## refinement

This is a synonym for [Expression refinement](#)

The part of a [SNOMED CT expression](#) that applies qualifying details to a [focus concept](#).

### Example

- A "spiral fracture of the left humerus" can be represented by an [expression](#) in which the [concept](#) "fracture of humerus" if made more specific by the addition of two refinements "laterality = left" and "associated morphology = spiral fracture".

## Alternatives

- **Refinement**

## refset

This is a synonym for [Reference set](#)

A standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to [SNOMED CT components](#) and optionally associating referenced components with additional information.

### Notes

1. A reference set can be used to represent a subset of components ([concepts](#), [descriptions](#) or [relationships](#)).
2. A reference set that associates additional information with referenced components can be used to support various different purposes, such as representing:
  - An ordered lists of components;
  - Sets of associations between components;
  - Maps between SNOMED CT concepts and codes in other code systems, classifications or knowledge resources.

### Alternatives

- **Refset**
- **SNOMED CT reference set**

### Related Links

- [Reference Sets](#)
- [Reference Set Types](#)
- [Subset](#)
- [Extensibility Mechanism](#)
- [Practical Guide to Reference Sets](#)

## relationship

An association between a source [concept](#) and a destination [concept](#). The type of association is indicated by a reference to an [attribute concept](#).

### Notes

1. Each *relationship* provides defining information about the source [concept](#).
2. *Relationships* are represented by rows in the [Relationship File Specification](#).

### Example

The relationship in the table below states that part of the definition of the concept 74400008 |[appendicitis](#)| is that its 363698007 |[finding site](#)| is the 66754008 |[appendix structure](#)|.

**Table 1: Example of a Relationship (for clarity the US English preferred term is shown for each concept)**

sourceId	typeId	destinationId
74400008  appendicitis	363698007  finding site	66754008  appendix structure

#### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT relationship**

#### Related Links

- [Relationships](#)
- [Defining Attributes by Hierarchy and Domain](#)
- [Individual Hierarchies](#)
- [Relationship file](#)

## relationship type

This is a synonym for [Attribute](#)

An *attribute* represents a characteristic of the meaning of a [concept](#) or the nature of a refinement.

#### Note

An *attribute* has a name which is represented by a [concept](#). All the [concepts](#) that can be used to name *attributes* are [subtypes](#) of the [concept](#) | *concept model attribute* |. An *attribute* is assigned a value ( [attribute value pair](#) ) when used in the definition of a [concept](#) or in a [postcoordinated expression](#). The permitted [range](#) of values depends on the rules specified in the [concept model](#).

#### Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

#### Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

#### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## release file

A computer file used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content from the [SNOMED International](#) (or from the originator of an [Extension](#)) in a form that can be readily imported by a software application.

*SNOMED CT release files* follow one of the [release format](#) specifications [RF1](#) or [RF2](#) .

#### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution file**
- **SNOMED CT release file**

#### Related Links

- [3. Component Release Files Specification](#)
- [2.2. Release Format 2 - Introduction](#)

## release format

A file structure specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content.

#### Note

The current *release format* is [Release Format 2](#), which superseded [Release Format 1](#) in 2012.

#### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution format**
- **SNOMED CT release format**

#### Related Links

- [Release File Specification](#)

## Release Format 1

The file structure specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for the files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content in 2002.

#### Note

This format was replaced by [Release Format 2](#) in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the [SNOMED CT International Release](#). For backward compatibility *Release Format 1* files can be generated using a conversion utility and continue to be distributed available during an interim transitional period.

#### Alternatives

- **RF1**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1**

## Release Format 2

The file structures specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content and derivatives.

#### Note

In 2012 Release Format 2 replaced the original SNOMED CT release format used between the first release on 2002 and 2012. During an overlap period until 2016, both formats were used for the [International Release](#).

#### Alternatives

- **RF2**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2**



## Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Release File Specifications](#)
- [Release Format 1](#)

## release package

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT release package](#).

### SNOMED CT release package

A set of SNOMED CT [components](#) and [reference set members](#) that are distributed in a set of SNOMED CT release files as a single unit.

#### Notes

1. A release package may be a complete [SNOMED CT Edition](#) (in which all dependencies are resolved) or a supplementary extension module that depends upon separately packaged modules.
2. A SNOMED CT release package as distributed at a given point in time can be referred to as a release package version.

#### Alternatives

- [Release package](#)

#### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT International Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT National Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT release](#)

## release type

The temporal scope and completeness of a [Release Format 2](#) file or set of files.

Table 2. SNOMED CT Release Types	
Release Type	Description
Full	The files representing each type of component contain <b>every</b> version of every component ever released.
Snapshot	The files representing each type of component contain <b>one</b> version of every component released up to the time of the snapshot. The version of each component contained in a snapshot is the most recent version of that component at the time of the snapshot.

Delta	The files representing each type of component contain only component versions created since the previous release. Each component version in a <a href="#">delta release</a> represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.
-------	---

## RF1

This is an abbreviation for [Release Format 1](#)

The file structure specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for the files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content in 2002.

### Note

This format was replaced by [Release Format 2](#) in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the [SNOMED CT International Release](#). For backward compatibility *Release Format 1* files can be generated using a conversion utility and continue to be distributed available during an interim transitional period.

### Alternatives

- **RF1**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1**

## RF2

This is an abbreviation for [Release Format 2](#)

The file structures specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content and derivatives.

### Note

In 2012 Release Format 2 replaced the original SNOMED CT release format used between the first release on 2002 and 2012. During an overlap period until 2016, both formats were used for the [International Release](#).

### Alternatives

- **RF2**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Release File Specifications](#)
- [Release Format 1](#)

## role

This is a synonym for [Attribute](#)

An *attribute* represents a characteristic of the meaning of a [concept](#) or the nature of a refinement.

### Note

An *attribute* has a name which is represented by a [concept](#). All the [concepts](#) that can be used to name *attributes* are [subtypes](#) of the [concept](#) | [concept model attribute](#) |. An *attribute* is assigned a value ( [attribute value pair](#)) when used in the definition of a [concept](#) or in a [postcoordinated expression](#). The permitted [range](#) of values depends on the rules specified in the [concept model](#).

### Example

- 116676008 |Associated morphology|

### Alternatives

- **Concept Model Attribute**
- **Relationship Type**
- **Role**

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)

## root concept

The single [concept](#) that is at the top of the 138875005 |SNOMED CT Concept| hierarchy.

### Related Links

- [Root and top-level concepts](#)

## root metadata code

This is a synonym for [Root metadata concept](#).

### Root metadata concept

The single [concept](#) that is at the top of the 900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)| hierarchy.

### Alternatives

- **Root metadata code**

### Related Links

- [3.3. Metadata Hierarchy](#)

## root metadata concept

The single [concept](#) that is at the top of the [900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component \(metadata\)|](#) hierarchy.

### Alternatives

- **Root metadata code**

### Related Links

- [3.3. Metadata Hierarchy](#)

## S

### SCT

This is an abbreviation for [SNOMED Clinical Terms](#).

#### SNOMED Clinical Terms

A clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the [SNOMED International](#). It is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual healthcare terminology in the world. It was created as a result of the merger of [SNOMED RT](#) and [NHS Clinical Terms Version 3](#).

#### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT**

### SCTID

This is an abbreviation for [SNOMED CT Identifier](#)

A unique *integer* identifier applied to each [SNOMED CT component](#) ( [Concept](#), [Description](#) or [Relationship](#)). Each *SCTID* includes an item identifier, a [check-digit](#), a [partition identifier](#) and, depending on the [partition identifier](#), may also include a [namespace identifier](#) .

#### Alternatives

- **Identifier**
- **SCTID**

#### Related Links

- [3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers](#)
- [5. Representing SNOMED CT identifiers](#)

### SEP

This is an abbreviation for [Structure-Entire-Part](#)

A modeling approach used in SNOMED CT to represent anatomical entities such as body organs, body systems, body regions,etc.

- **Structure** is the most general way to refer to an organ, body system or region.
- **Entire** refers to a complete organ, body system or region.
- **Part** refers to a part of an organ, body system or region. It explicitly does not refer to the entire organ, body system or region.

### Example

The [Table 0](#) below illustrates the relationships between the structure, entire and part concepts applied to a the heart.

- 80891009 |heart structure|
- 302509004 |entire heart|
- 119202000 |heart part|

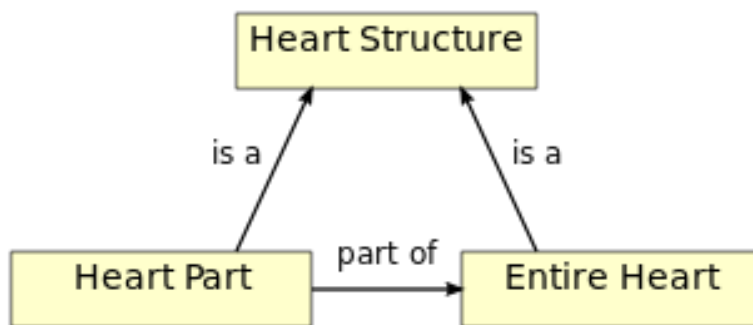


Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

### Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Stucture**

### Related Links

- [General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model](#)

## situation with explicit context

A [concept](#) that specifically includes a definition the context of use of a clinical finding or procedure.

### Note

A *situation with explicit context* is defined as a [subtype](#) of the situation to which it applies with an attribute associating it with the relevant clinical finding or procedure.

### Example

"Family history of diabetes mellitus" is a situation with explicit [concept](#) because it defines the context as "family history". In contrast, "diabetes mellitus" is not a *situation with explicit context* because it can be used in many different situations including "family history", "past medical history", "current diagnosis", etc.

### Alternatives

- **Clinical situation**
- **Explicit context**

## Related Links

- [Safely representing the context of recorded codes](#)

## snapshot release

A [Release Type](#) in which the [release files](#) contain one version of every component released up to the time of the snapshot. The version of each component contained in a snapshot is the most recent version of that component at the time of the snapshot.

## snapshot view

A view of [SNOMED CT](#) that includes all the components in the state there were in at a specified point in time. A [Snapshot view](#) be provided by a fixed representation that matches the content of a [Snapshot release](#) or may be generated as a [Dynamic snapshot view](#) by filtering a [Full view](#) .

## SNOMED

An acronym for the **S**ystematized **No**menclature of **Med**icine originally developed by the College of American Pathologists and now owned and maintained by the [SNOMED International](#). [SNOMED Clinical Terms](#) is the most recent version of this terminology. It was preceded by [SNOMED RT](#) and [SNOMED International](#) .

## Alternatives

- **Med**
- **No**

## SNOMED application

This is the full name for [Enabled application](#)

A software application designed to support the use of [SNOMED CT](#) .

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

## SNOMED Clinical Terms

A clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the [SNOMED International](#). It is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual healthcare terminology in the world. It was created as a result of the merger of [SNOMED RT](#) and [NHS Clinical Terms Version 3](#).

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT**

## SNOMED CT

This is a synonym for [SNOMED Clinical Terms](#)

A clinical terminology maintained and distributed by the [SNOMED International](#). It is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual healthcare terminology in the world. It was created as a result of the merger of [SNOMED RT](#) and [NHS Clinical Terms Version 3](#).

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT**

## SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement

This is the full name for [Affiliate Licence Agreement](#).

### [Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

The agreement between an [SNOMED CT Affiliate Licensee](#) and [SNOMED International](#) (the licensor) under which developers and implementers are permitted to use the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) and distribute the terminology to their sub-licensees as part of a software system.

### Alternatives

- **Affiliate Licence**
- **SNOMED CT Affiliate License Agreement**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED International Affiliate Licence Agreement](#)

## SNOMED CT application

This is the full name for [Enabled application](#)

A software application designed to support the use of [SNOMED CT](#) .

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**



## SNOMED CT author

This is the full name for [Modeler](#)

A person who directly edits the logic definitions and other structures of the terminology. Also sometimes called Clinical Editor or Terminology Manager.

### Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

## SNOMED CT authoring

This is the full name for [Modeling](#)

The process of editing logic definitions to reflect the meaning intended by the [Fully Specified Name](#) .

### Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

## SNOMED CT browser

This is the full name for [Browser](#)

A computer application or software tool used for exploring and searching terminology content. A typical *SNOMED CT browser* can locate [concepts](#) and [descriptions](#) by [Identifiers](#) and by searching the text of [description terms](#). Various views of located [concepts](#) may be displayed including the set of related [descriptions](#), the hierarchical [relationships](#) and other defining [relationships](#) .

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT browser**

### Related Links

- [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed\\_browsers.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/Snomed/snomed_browsers.html)

## SNOMED CT component

A [Concept](#), [Description](#) or [Relationship](#) that conforms with the SNOMED CT logical model.

## Notes

1. The [partition-identifier](#) indicates the type of component referred to by that [SCTID](#).
2. Components are released and distributed in file formats that conform to the [Release File Specification](#).
3. A *component* may be part of the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#) or in an authorized [Extension](#).

## Alternatives

- **Component**

## SNOMED CT compositional grammar

This is the full name for [Compositional grammar](#)

The set of rules that govern the way in which [SNOMED CT expressions](#) are represented as a plain text string.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT compositional grammar**

### Related Links

- [Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide](#)

## SNOMED CT concept

This is the full name for [Concept](#)

A clinical idea to which a unique [concept identifier](#) has been assigned.

### Notes

1. SNOMED CT concepts are distributed in the [Concept File](#).
2. Concepts are associated with [descriptions](#) that contain human-readable [terms](#) describing the concept.
3. Concepts are related to one another by [relationships](#) that provide a formal logical definition of the concept.
4. Disambiguation:  
 When working with SNOMED CT, it is recommended the default meaning of "concept" refers to a SNOMED CT concept defined as noted above. However, the word "concept" is sometimes used in other more specific or more general ways as noted below.
  - As an abbreviated name for the [concept identifier](#). For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this should be referred to as an "identifier", "id" or "code" (e.g. "concept id", "concept identifier" or "concept code");
  - In its more general dictionary defined usage referring to an idea or class of real-world entities that may be represented by a [concept identifier](#). For clarity when working with SNOMED CT, this should be referred to as an "idea" or "meaning" (e.g. "a clinical idea" or "clinical meaning" or "code meaning").

### Alternatives

- SNOMED CT concept

### Related Links

- [3.2.1. Concept File Specification](#)
- [Logical Model of SNOMED CT Components](#)
- [Concept file](#)

## SNOMED CT concept model

This is the full name for [Concept model](#)

The set of rules that determines the permitted sets of [relationships](#) between particular types of [concept](#).

### Note

The *Concept Model* specifies the [attributes](#) that can be applied to [concepts](#) in particular [domains](#) and the [ranges](#) of permitted values for each of these attributes. There are also additional rules on the [cardinality](#) and grouping of particular types of [relationships](#).

### Related Links

- [Concept Model Overview](#)
- [Machine Readable Concept Model](#)
- [Editorial Guide](#)

## SNOMED CT core

This is the full name for [Core file](#)

A distribution file used to represent the main [SNOMED CT components](#) ( [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)).

### Note

In the past the term "core" has also been used to refer to the content of the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) but this usage is deprecated.

### Alternatives

- **Core table**
- **SNOMED CT core**
- **SNOMED CT core file**
- **SNOMED CT core table**

## SNOMED CT core file

This is the full name for [Core file](#)

A distribution file used to represent the main [SNOMED CT components](#) ( [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)).

### Note

In the past the term "core" has also been used to refer to the content of the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) but this usage is deprecated.

### Alternatives

- **Core table**
- **SNOMED CT core**
- **SNOMED CT core file**
- **SNOMED CT core table**

## SNOMED CT core table

This is the full name for [Core file](#)

A distribution file used to represent the main [SNOMED CT components](#) ( [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)).

### Note

In the past the term "core" has also been used to refer to the content of the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) but this usage is deprecated.

### Alternatives

- **Core table**
- **SNOMED CT core**
- **SNOMED CT core file**
- **SNOMED CT core table**

## SNOMED CT derivative

A document, subset, set of maps, or other resource that consists of, includes, references or is derived from one or more [SNOMED CT components](#). The standard computer processable representation for most types of *SNOMED CT derivatives* is a [reference set](#).

### Alternatives

- **Derivative**

## SNOMED CT description

This is the full name for [Description](#)

An association between a human-readable phrase ([term](#)) and a particular [SNOMED CT concept](#).

### Notes

1. Each *description* is represented by a separate row in the [Description File](#).
2. Each *description* has a unique [identifier](#) and connects a [concept](#) with a *term* of a specified [description type](#).

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT description**

### Related Links

- [3.1.2. Descriptions and Terms](#)
- [3.2.2. Description File Specification](#)

## SNOMED CT distribution file

This is the full name for [Release file](#)

A computer file used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content from the [SNOMED International](#) (or from the originator of an [Extension](#)) in a form that can be readily imported by a software application.

*SNOMED CT release files* follow one of the [release format](#) specifications [RF1](#) or [RF2](#).

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution file**
- **SNOMED CT release file**

### Related Links

- [3. Component Release Files Specification](#)
- [2.2. Release Format 2 - Introduction](#)

## SNOMED CT distribution format

This is the full name for [Release format](#)

A file structure specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content.

## Note

The current *release format* is and [Release Format 2](#), which superseded [Release Format 1](#) in 2012.

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution format**
- **SNOMED CT release format**

## Related Links

- [Release File Specification](#)

## SNOMED CT edition

A complete set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) that belong to an identified focus [module](#) plus all of the modules on which the focus module depends.

## Notes

1. All *SNOMED CT editions* (except the [International Edition](#)) are a combination of one or more extension modules, together with the modules from the SNOMED CT International Edition.
2. A complete *SNOMED CT edition* may be prepared and released by [SNOMED International](#) or by the provider of a [SNOMED CT Extension](#). Alternatively, a *SNOMED CT Edition* may be derived from one or more [release packages](#), by combining the contents of an identified focus module with the contents of the relevant version of all modules on which the focus module depends.
3. The dependencies between modules are represented using the [Module dependency reference set](#) (foundation metadata concept).
4. A SNOMED CT Edition can be identified using a URI as specified by the [URI Standard \(2.1 URIs for Editions and Versions\)](#).

## Examples

- The [SNOMED CT International Edition](#) consists of the focus module, [SNOMED CT core module](#), and the module on which it depends, [SNOMED CT model component module](#).
- The US [National Edition](#) (including the US SNOMED to ICD-10-CM maps) consists of the focus module, [SNOMED CT to ICD-10-CM rule-based mapping module](#), and the three modules on which this depends, [US National Library of Medicine maintained module](#), [SNOMED CT core module](#) and [SNOMED CT model component module](#).

## Alternatives

- **Edition**

## SNOMED CT enabled application

This is the full name for [Enabled application](#)

A software application designed to support the use of [SNOMED CT](#).

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

## SNOMED CT enabled implementation

This is the full name for [Enabled implementation](#)

Implementation of information systems that are able to make effective use of [SNOMED CT](#) in an organization or region.

### Note

[SNOMED CT enabled implementation](#) has a broader meaning than [SNOMED CT enabled application](#). An implementation involves practical deployment of one or more applications but extends beyond the software itself to address personnel and organizational issues that allow the potential benefits to be realized.

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

## SNOMED CT expression

This is the full name for [Expression](#)

A structured combination of one or more [concept identifiers](#) used to express a clinical idea.

### Notes

1. An *expression* containing a single [concept identifier](#) is referred to as a [precoordinated expression](#). An *expression* that contains two or more [concept identifiers](#) is a [postcoordinated expression](#).
2. The [concept identifiers](#) in a [postcoordinated expression](#) are related to one another in accordance with rules expressed in the [SNOMED CT Concept Model](#).
3. These rules allow an *expression* to [refine](#) the meaning of a [concept](#) by applying more specific values to particular attributes of a more general [concept](#).

### Example

- 284196006 |burn of skin|: 363698007 |finding site|= 33712006 |skin of hand|

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT expression**

## Related Links

- [Expressions](#)
- [Compositional Grammar Specification and Guide](#)
- [Logical Model of SNOMED CT expressions](#)

## SNOMED CT extension

A set of terminology [components](#) and [reference set members](#) that add to and are dependent on the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#), and are created, structured, maintained and distributed in accordance with [SNOMED CT specifications and guidelines](#).

### Notes

1. An *extension* consists of one or more [modules](#). All components and reference set members maintained in an extension include a module identifier that assigns them to a module in that extension.
2. SNOMED CT extensions may be created and maintained by [SNOMED International](#) itself or by [SNOMED International Members](#) or [Affiliate licensees](#) to which SNOMED International has assigned a [namespace identifier](#).
3. Components that are created by Members or Affiliates are identified using [SCTIDs](#) that include the [namespace identifier](#) assigned to that organization. This ensures that they do not collide with other [SCTIDs](#), and can be traced to an authorized originator. Identifiers of extension components and reference set members created by SNOMED International are not required to include a namespace identifier.
4. Extensions released by SNOMED International contain components and reference set members that extend, rather than being an essential part of the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#). However these SNOMED CT International Extensions are considered to be part of the overall [International Release](#).
5. [Members](#) may create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to address specific national, regional and language requirements. [SNOMED International Affiliates](#) may also create, maintain and distribute *extensions* to meet the needs of particular software solutions and customers.

### Alternatives

- **Extension**

### Related Links

- [Information about requesting a namespace and a link to the register of allocated namespaces](#)
- [Related terms SNOMED CT Edition and SNOMED CT Release](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

## SNOMED CT identifier

A unique *integer* identifier applied to each [SNOMED CT component](#) ( [Concept](#), [Description](#) or [Relationship](#)). Each *SCTID* includes an item identifier, a [check-digit](#), a [partition identifier](#) and, depending on the [partition identifier](#), may also include a [namespace identifier](#) .

### Alternatives

- **Identifier**
- **SCTID**

### Related Links

- [3.1.4.2. Component features - Identifiers](#)
- [5. Representing SNOMED CT identifiers](#)



## SNOMED CT implementation

This usually refers to [Enabled implementation](#)

Implementation of information systems that are able to make effective use of [SNOMED CT](#) in an organization or region.

### Note

[SNOMED CT enabled implementation](#) has a broader meaning than [SNOMED CT enabled application](#). An implementation involves practical deployment of one or more applications but extends beyond the software itself to address personnel and organizational issues that allow the potential benefits to be realized.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

## SNOMED CT International Edition

The set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) that belong to a focus [module](#) identified by [SNOMED International](#) and all modules on which that module depends.

### Notes

1. The *International Edition* is the essential foundational content of SNOMED CT on which all other [SNOMED CT modules](#) must declare dependencies.
2. [SNOMED International](#) currently identifies the [SNOMED CT core module \(core metadata concept\)](#) as the focus module for the International Edition and the only dependency currently specified for this module is the [Module dependency reference set \(foundation metadata concept\)](#).
3. The *International Edition* may be supplemented by [extensions](#) maintained and distributed by [SNOMED International](#), [Members](#) and [Affiliates](#) to meet additional requirements at international, national, local and organizational levels.

### Alternatives

- **International Edition**

### Related Links

- Related terms [International release](#), [SNOMED International Extensions](#), [National Extension](#) and [National Edition](#)

## SNOMED CT international extension

A [SNOMED CT extension](#) that is maintained and distributed by [SNOMED International](#).

### Notes

1. Identifiers of components in an extension created and maintained by SNOMED International are not required to include a [namespace identifier](#).

2. *SNOMED CT International Extensions* contain [components](#) and [reference set members](#) which belong to [modules](#) that are not included in the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#), but which are dependent on the modules in the International Edition. While these extensions are not part of the International Edition, they are considered to be part of the overall [International Release](#). released by SNOMED International contain components and derivatives that extend, rather than being an essential part of, the [SNOMED CT International Edition](#). However these SNOMED CT International Extensions are considered to be part of the overall [International Release](#).

### Example

- The contents of the [|LOINC - SNOMED CT Cooperation Project module|](#).

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT extension](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

## SNOMED CT International Release

The complete set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) distributed by [SNOMED International](#) and made available to its [Members](#) and [Affiliates](#).

### Notes

1. The *International Release*, provided by [SNOMED International](#), includes the [SNOMED International Edition](#) and all supplementary content and derivatives contained in [SNOMED International Extensions](#).
2. The *International Release* may be supplemented by [Extension](#) releases provided by [Members](#) and [Affiliates](#) to meet additional national, local and organizational requirements.
3. The *International Release* made available on a particular date can be referred to as an *International Release version*.

### Alternatives

- **International Release**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Release File Specification](#)
- [SNOMED CT International Edition](#)
- [SNOMED International Extensions](#)
- [SNOMED CT release](#)

## SNOMED CT international release package

A set of SNOMED CT [components](#) and [reference set members](#) that are distributed by [SNOMED International](#) in a set of SNOMED CT release files as a single unit.

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT International Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT release package](#)

## SNOMED CT metadata

\$paramPrefix [Metadata](#).

### Metadata

SNOMED CT content (including [concepts](#), [descriptions](#) and [relationships](#)) that is used to describe or provide additional information about SNOMED content and derivatives (including [reference sets](#)).

### Note

All SNOMED CT metadata [concepts](#) are [subtypes](#) of 900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)|. The top level of the metadata hierarchy represents broad groups of metadata as shown below.

- 900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)|
- 106237007 |Linkage concept (linkage concept)|
  - 370136006 |Namespace concept (namespace concept)|
  - 900000000000442005 |Core metadata concept (core metadata concept)|
  - 900000000000454005 |Foundation metadata concept (foundation metadata concept)|

Figure 1: Top level of the SNOMED CT metadata hierarchy

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT Metadata**

### Related Links

- [3.3. Metadata Hierarchy](#)

## SNOMED CT modeler

This is the full name for [Modeler](#)

A person who directly edits the logic definitions and other structures of the terminology. Also sometimes called Clinical Editor or Terminology Manager.

### Alternatives

- **Modeller**
- **SNOMED CT author**
- **SNOMED CT modeler**

## SNOMED CT modeling

This is the full name for [Modeling](#)

The process of editing logic definitions to reflect the meaning intended by the [Fully Specified Name](#) .

### Alternatives

- **Modelling**
- **SNOMED CT authoring**
- **SNOMED CT modeling**

## SNOMED CT module

A group of [SNOMED CT components](#) and/or [reference set members](#) that are at a given point in time managed, maintained and distributed as a unit.

### Notes

1. [Components](#) and [reference set members](#) that are part of the same *module* share the same *moduleId* value.
2. Each [component](#) and [reference set member](#) is a part of one and only one *module* as at a given point in time.
3. The organization responsible for a *module* can move a [component](#) and [reference set member](#) from that *module* to another *module* that the same organization is responsible for, by creating a revised version of the [component](#) or [reference set member](#) with a different *moduleId* that applies from the *effectiveTime* of the revised version.
4. Subject to rules related to movement of components between two extensions or between an extension and the International Edition, it is possible for a [component](#) and [reference set member](#) to be moved between *modules* maintained by different organizations .

### Alternatives

- **Module**

## SNOMED CT National Edition

A set of [SNOMED CT components](#) and [reference set members](#) that belong to an focus [module](#) identified by a [National Release Center \(NRC\)](#), and all modules on which that module depends.

### Notes

1. The focus module identified by the [NRC](#) should be part of the [National Release](#) for which that [NRC](#) is responsible. Other modules within the [National Release](#) are included in the *National Edition* if they are specified as dependencies of the focus module.
2. A [NRC](#) may define multiple *National Editions* by identifying different focus modules for each edition.
3. A *National Edition* may be made available to licensees as part of a [National Release](#). Alternatively a *National Edition* may be derived by combining the contents of the identified focus module from the *National Release* with the contents of the relevant version of all modules in the [International Edition](#) and any other extension modules on which it depends.

### Examples

- United States Edition

- Canadian Edition
- United Kingdom Clinical Edition (does not include UK drug extension modules)
- United Kingdom Edition (includes UK drug extension modules)

#### Alternatives

- **National Edition**

#### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Edition](#)
- [SNOMED CT National Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT National Extension](#)

## SNOMED CT National Extension

A [SNOMED CT Extension](#) that is maintained by a [Member](#) for use in the country or territory for which that Member is responsible.

#### Related Links

- Related terms [SNOMED CT Extension](#) and [National Edition](#)
- [Practical Guide to Extensions](#)

## SNOMED CT National Release

The complete set of SNOMED CT [components](#) and [reference set members](#) distributed to licensees by a [Member](#).

#### Notes

1. The *National Release* is made available as a set of [release files](#) which contain components and derivatives from a National Extension maintained and distributed by a [Member](#).
2. A *National release* may also include the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) on which it depends, in which case it is a release of the [National Edition](#).
3. Alternatively, a *National Release* may consist only of the [National Extension release files](#) for the specified release date. In this case, the [National Edition](#) is generated by combining these files with the [International Release](#) on which it depends.
4. The *National Release* made available on a particular date can be referred to as a *National Release Version*.

#### Alternatives

- **National Release**

#### Related Links

- [National Edition](#)
- [SNOMED CT release](#)

## SNOMED CT reference set

This is the full name for [Reference set](#)

A standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to [SNOMED CT components](#) and optionally associating referenced components with additional information.

## Notes

1. A reference set can be used to represent a subset of components ([concepts](#), [descriptions](#) or [relationships](#)).
2. A reference set that associates additional information with referenced components can be used to support various different purposes, such as representing:
  - An ordered lists of components;
  - Sets of associations between components;
  - Maps between SNOMED CT concepts and codes in other code systems, classifications or knowledge resources.

## Alternatives

- **Refset**
- **SNOMED CT reference set**

## Related Links

- [Reference Sets](#)
- [Reference Set Types](#)
- [Subset](#)
- [Extensibility Mechanism](#)
- [Practical Guide to Reference Sets](#)

# SNOMED CT relationship

This is the full name for [Relationship](#)

An association between a source [concept](#) and a destination [concept](#). The type of association is indicated by a reference to an [attribute concept](#).

## Notes

1. Each *relationship* provides defining information about the source [concept](#).
2. *Relationships* are represented by rows in the [Relationship File Specification](#).

## Example

The relationship in the table below states that part of the definition of the concept 74400008 |[appendicitis](#)| is that its 363698007 |[finding site](#)| is the 66754008 |[appendix structure](#)|.

**Table 1: Example of a Relationship (for clarity the US English preferred term is shown for each concept)**

sourceId	typeId	destinationId
74400008   <a href="#">appendicitis</a>	363698007   <a href="#">finding site</a>	66754008   <a href="#">appendix structure</a>

## Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT relationship**

## Related Links

- [Relationships](#)
- [Defining Attributes by Hierarchy and Domain](#)
- [Individual Hierarchies](#)
- [Relationship file](#)

## SNOMED CT release

The complete set of SNOMED CT [components](#) and [reference set members](#) distributed by a specific organization.

### Note

A release at a given point in time can be referred to as a SNOMED CT release version.

### Examples

- The [SNOMED CT International Release](#) distributed by [SNOMED International](#).
- A [SNOMED CT National Release](#) distributed by a [Member National Release Center](#).

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Edition](#)
- [SNOMED CT release package](#)

## SNOMED CT release file

This is the full name for [Release file](#)

A computer file used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content from the [SNOMED International](#) (or from the originator of an [Extension](#)) in a form that can be readily imported by a software application.

*SNOMED CT release files* follow one of the [release format](#) specifications [RF1](#) or [RF2](#).

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution file**
- **SNOMED CT release file**

### Related Links

- [3. Component Release Files Specification](#)
- [2.2. Release Format 2 - Introduction](#)

## SNOMED CT release format

This is the full name for [Release format](#)

A file structure specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content.

### Note

The current *release format* is [Release Format 2](#), which superseded [Release Format 1](#) in 2012.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT distribution format**
- **SNOMED CT release format**

### Related Links

- [Release File Specification](#)

## SNOMED CT Release Format 1

This is the full name for [Release Format 1](#)

The file structure specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for the files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content in 2002.

### Note

This format was replaced by [Release Format 2](#) in January 2012, which is now the primary format for the [SNOMED CT International Release](#). For backward compatibility *Release Format 1* files can be generated using a conversion utility and continue to be distributed available during an interim transitional period.

### Alternatives

- **RF1**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 1**

## SNOMED CT Release Format 2

This is the full name for [Release Format 2](#)

The file structures specified by the [SNOMED International](#) for files used to distribute [SNOMED CT](#) content and derivatives.



### Note

In 2012 Release Format 2 replaced the original SNOMED CT release format used between the first release on 2002 and 2012. During an overlap period until 2016, both formats were used for the [International Release](#).

### Alternatives

- **RF2**
- **SNOMED CT Release Format 2**

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT Release File Specifications](#)
- [Release Format 1](#)

## SNOMED CT release package

A set of SNOMED CT [components](#) and [reference set members](#) that are distributed in a set of SNOMED CT release files as a single unit.

### Notes

1. A release package may be a complete [SNOMED CT Edition](#) (in which all dependencies are resolved) or a supplementary extension module that depends upon separately packaged modules.
2. A SNOMED CT release package as distributed at a given point in time can be referred to as a release package version.

### Alternatives

- Release package

### Related Links

- [SNOMED CT International Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT National Release](#)
- [SNOMED CT release](#)

## SNOMED CT terminology server

This is the full name for [Terminology server](#)

Software that provides access to [SNOMED CT](#) (and/or to other terminologies). A *terminology server* typically supports searches and [Navigation](#) through [Concepts](#). A server may provide a [user interface](#) (e.g. a [browser](#) or set of screen controls) or may provide low-level software services to support access to the terminology by other applications. See the *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide*.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT terminology server**

## SNOMED CT version

A [SNOMED CT edition](#) published on a specific date.

### Note

A new version of the International Edition of SNOMED CT is released twice a year (in January and July). National [extensions](#) mostly follow this cycle (albeit typically with a three month delay). However, some extensions (notably those including medication related concepts) are released more frequently.

### Examples

- The International Edition, 20170131 (dated January 31, 2017).
- The US National Edition, 20160901.

### Alternatives

- **Version**
- **Versioned edition**
- **SNOMED CT versioned edition**

## SNOMED CT versioned edition

This is the full name for [SNOMED CT version](#).

### SNOMED CT version

A [SNOMED CT edition](#) published on a specific date.

#### Note

A new version of the International Edition of SNOMED CT is released twice a year (in January and July). National [extensions](#) mostly follow this cycle (albeit typically with a three month delay). However, some extensions (notably those including medication related concepts) are released more frequently.

#### Examples

- The International Edition, 20170131 (dated January 31, 2017).
- The US National Edition, 20160901.

#### Alternatives

- **Version**
- **Versioned edition**
- **SNOMED CT versioned edition**

## SNOMED enabled application

This is the full name for [Enabled application](#)

A software application designed to support the use of [SNOMED CT](#) .

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED application**
- **SNOMED CT application**
- **SNOMED CT enabled application**
- **SNOMED enabled application**

## SNOMED enabled implementation

This is the full name for [Enabled implementation](#)

Implementation of information systems that are able to make effective use of [SNOMED CT](#) in an organization or region.

### Note

*SNOMED CT enabled implementation* has a broader meaning than [SNOMED CT enabled application](#). An implementation involves practical deployment of one or more applications but extends beyond the software itself to address personnel and organizational issues that allow the potential benefits to be realized.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

## SNOMED implementation

This is the full name for [Enabled implementation](#)

Implementation of information systems that are able to make effective use of [SNOMED CT](#) in an organization or region.

### Note

*SNOMED CT enabled implementation* has a broader meaning than [SNOMED CT enabled application](#). An implementation involves practical deployment of one or more applications but extends beyond the software itself to address personnel and organizational issues that allow the potential benefits to be realized.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED CT implementation**
- **SNOMED enabled implementation**
- **SNOMED implementation**

## SNOMED International

This is the trading name of the [International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation](#).

### International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation

The not-for-profit organization that develops and promotes use of [SNOMED CT](#) to support safe and effective health information exchange.

#### Notes

In January 2017, the *International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation* adopted the trading name [SNOMED International](#).

#### Alternatives

- Trading name [SNOMED International](#)
- **IHTSDO**

#### Related Links

- [www.snomed.org](http://www.snomed.org)
- [IHTSDO Adopts Trading Name of SNOMED International](#)

### Disambiguation

See also the glossary entry for the earlier version of SNOMED known as [SNOMED International](#).

## SNOMED International (version of SNOMED)

*SNOMED International* was the name of the version of the [SNOMED](#) terminology that was first released in 1993 and which, as version 3.5 released in 1998, was the immediate predecessor of [SNOMED RT](#).

### Disambiguation

See also the glossary reference for the current use of the name [SNOMED International](#). Since 2017 [SNOMED International](#) has been the trading name of the organization responsible for maintaining and distributing [SNOMED CT](#).

## SNOMED Reference Terminology

The version of [SNOMED](#) prior to the collaborative effort to develop [SNOMED Clinical Terms](#). It was one of the source terminologies, along with [CTV3](#), from which [SNOMED CT](#) was developed.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED RT**

## SNOMED RT

\$paramPrefix [SNOMED Reference Terminology](#).

### SNOMED Reference Terminology

The version of [SNOMED](#) prior to the collaborative effort to develop [SNOMED Clinical Terms](#). It was one of the source terminologies, along with [CTV3](#), from which [SNOMED CT](#) was developed.

#### Alternatives

- **SNOMED RT**

## source language

This is a synonym for [Translation source language](#)

The language in which the original text is written.

#### Example

English is the source language for the [International edition](#) of [SNOMED CT](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Source language**

## sponsored territory

A Non-Member Territory that has been recognized and designated by the Licensor ( [SNOMED International](#) ) as a sponsored territory

#### Note

[SNOMED CT](#) may be used free of charge by [SNOMED International Affiliates](#) and their sub-licensees in Sponsored Territories. Information about Sponsored Territories is published on the [SNOMED International](#) web site.

#### Related Links

- [www.snomed.org](http://www.snomed.org)

## SQL

This is an abbreviation for [Structured Query Language](#).

### Structured Query Language

A domain-specific language used in programming and designed for managing data held in a relational database management system (RDBMS), or for stream processing in a relational data stream management system (RDSMS).

#### Alternatives

- **Abbreviation SQL**

#### Related Links

- [Practical Guide to Accessing SNOMED CT Using SQL](#)

## stated form

This is a synonym for [Stated view](#)

The *stated view* of a [Concept](#) definition consists of the [Relationships](#) directly edited by terminology authors. It consists of the stated [subtype Relationships](#) plus the defining [Relationships](#) that exist prior to running a [Description Logic classifier](#).

#### Note

The [Relationships](#) distributed in the main [Relationships](#) files are inferred from the stated [Relationships](#) using a [Description Logic classifier](#) to ensure consistency and completeness. The *stated view* is distributed in the [Stated Relationship File](#).

#### Alternatives

- **Stated form**

## stated view

The *stated view* of a [Concept](#) definition consists of the [Relationships](#) directly edited by terminology authors. It consists of the stated [subtype Relationships](#) plus the defining [Relationships](#) that exist prior to running a [Description Logic classifier](#).

#### Note

The [Relationships](#) distributed in the main [Relationships](#) files are inferred from the stated [Relationships](#) using a [Description Logic classifier](#) to ensure consistency and completeness. The *stated view* is distributed in the [Stated Relationship File](#).

## Alternatives

- **Stated form**

## statistical classification

A hierarchical organization of *terms* or ideas that allows aggregation into categories that can be counted and compared without double counting. A *statistical classification* is monohierarchical which means that each node in the [hierarchy](#) is part of one node is the level above. This avoids double counting but means that arbitrary decisions must be made where a node is naturally related to more than one parent. For example, in a *statistical classification* such as [ICD-10](#), 'bacterial pneumonia' is related to 'lung disorder' or 'infection disorder' but not to both.

## Structured Query Language

A domain-specific language used in programming and designed for managing data held in a relational database management system (RDBMS), or for stream processing in a relational data stream management system (RDSMS).

## Alternatives

- **Abbreviation SQL**

## Related Links

- [Practical Guide to Accessing SNOMED CT Using SQL](#)

## structure-entire-part

A modeling approach used in SNOMED CT to represent anatomical entities such as body organs, body systems, body regions, etc.

- **Structure** is the most general way to refer to an organ, body system or region.
- **Entire** refers to a complete organ, body system or region.
- **Part** refers to a part of an organ, body system or region. It explicitly does not refer to the entire organ, body system or region.

## Example

The [Table 0](#) below illustrates the relationships between the structure, entire and part concepts applied to a the heart.

- 80891009 |heart structure|
- 302509004 |entire heart|
- 119202000 |heart part|

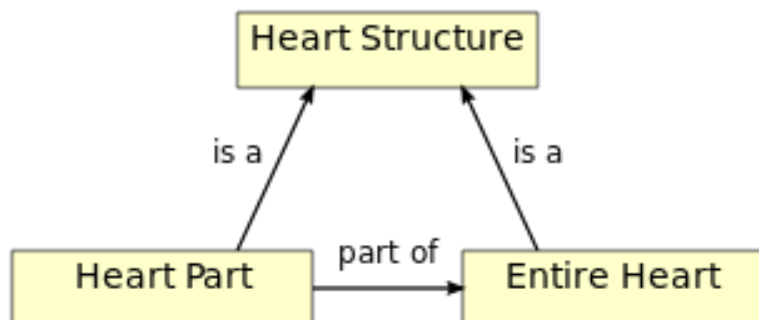


Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart

### Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Structure**

### Related Links

- [General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model](#)

## structure

This is a synonym for [Structure-Entire-Part](#)

A modeling approach used in SNOMED CT to represent anatomical entities such as body organs, body systems, body regions, etc.

- **Structure** is the most general way to refer to an organ, body system or region.
- **Entire** refers to a complete organ, body system or region.
- **Part** refers to a part of an organ, body system or region. It explicitly does not refer to the entire organ, body system or region.

### Example

The [Table 0](#) below illustrates the relationships between the structure, entire and part concepts applied to a the heart.

- 80891009 |heart structure|
- 302509004 |entire heart|
- 119202000 |heart part|

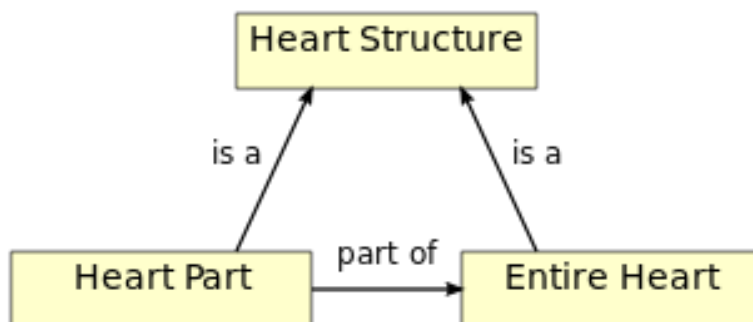


Figure 1: Structure-Entire-Part applied the heart



## Alternatives

- **Entire**
- **Part**
- **SEP**
- **Stucture**

## Related Links

- [General Principles Underlying the SNOMED CT Model](#)

## subset

A set of members all of which are also members of another set.

### Notes

The definition of subset stated above matches the general use of the word subset in set theory and mathematics. The notes below apply this definition to subsets of SNOMED CT components.

1. A subset of SNOMED CT [concepts](#) is a defined set of concepts taken from a wider set of concepts (e.g. all the concepts in a particular version of a specified [SNOMED CT edition](#)).
2. Similarly, a subset of SNOMED CT [descriptions](#) is a set of descriptions taken from a wider set of descriptions (e.g. all the descriptions in a particular version of a specified [SNOMED CT edition](#)).
3. The members of a subset can defined in one of two ways [extensionally](#), by enumeration, or [intensionally](#), using rules to determine inclusion.
4. The standard distribution format for extensionally defined subsets is a [simple reference set](#), while the standard distribution format for intensionally defined subsets is [query reference sets](#).

### Related Links

- [Information about subsets in the References Sets Practical Guide](#)
- [Wikipedia page about subsets](#)
- [Extensional subset definition](#)
- [Intensional subset definition](#)
- [Reference set](#)

## subsumption test

A test to determine whether a specified candidate [concept](#) or [expression](#) is a [subtype descendant](#) of another specified [concept](#) or [expression](#).

### Alternatives

- **Subtype test**

## subtype

A specialization of a [concept](#), sharing all the definitional attributes of the parent [concept](#), with additional [defining characteristics](#). For example, bacterial infectious disease is a *subtype* of infectious disease. Bacterial septicemia, bacteremia, bacterial peritonitis, etc. are *subtypes* of bacterial infectious disease (and infectious disease as well). *Subtype* is sometimes used to refer to the [concepts](#) in a [hierarchy](#) that are directly related to a parent [concept](#) via the 116680003 | is a [relationship](#). In this usage, it is distinguished from [descendants](#) which explicitly includes *subtypes of subtypes*

## subtype child

A [concept](#) that has a direct 116680003 [is a](#) [subtype Relationship](#) to a specified [concept](#). See also [subtype](#) and [subtype descendant](#).

### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept "E"](#) has three *subtype children* (G, H and J).

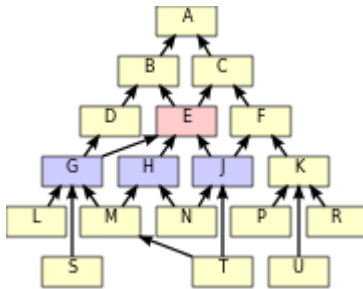


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

### Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

## subtype children

This is a synonym for [Subtype child](#)

A [concept](#) that has a direct 116680003 [is a](#) [subtype Relationship](#) to a specified [concept](#). See also [subtype](#) and [subtype descendant](#).

### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept "E"](#) has three *subtype children* (G, H and J).

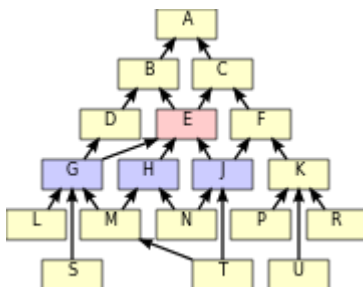


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype children

## Alternatives

- **Child**
- **Children**
- **Subtype children**

## subtype classification

A classification hierarchy in which each node is connected to its supertypes. This allows aggregation of information based on a hierarchy of types.

## Alternatives

- **Subtype hierarchy**

## subtype descendant

All *subtypes* of a *concept*, including *subtypes* of *subtypes*. For example, if a *concept* has four *children*, then *descendants* are those *children* plus all the *concepts* that are descended from those four *children*. See also *subtype* and *subtype child*.

## Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which *concept* "E" has eight *subtype descendants* (G, H, J, L, M, N, S and T).

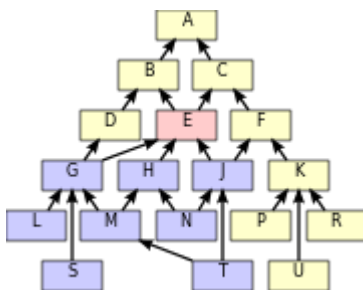


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype descendants

## Alternatives

- **Descendant**

## subtype hierarchy

This is a synonym for [Subtype classification](#)

A classification hierarchy in which each node is connected to its supertypes. This allows aggregation of information based on a hierarchy of types.

## Alternatives

- **Subtype hierarchy**

## subtype test

This is a synonym for [Subsumption test](#)

A test to determine whether a specified candidate [concept](#) or [expression](#) is a [subtype descendant](#) of another specified [concept](#) or [expression](#) .

## Alternatives

- **Subtype test**

## sufficiently defined concept

A [concept](#) with a formal logic definition that is sufficient to distinguish its meaning from other similar [concepts](#).

## Notes

1. The meaning of [SNOMED CT concept](#) is expressed in a human-readable form by its [Fully Specified Name\(FSN\)](#) and has a formal logic definition represented by a set of defining [relationships](#) to other [concepts](#). A *Sufficiently defined concept* has sufficient defining [relationships](#) to computably distinguish it from any [concepts](#) or [expressions](#) that are equivalent to or a subtype of the the defined concept.
2. Contrast with [primitive concept](#).

## Examples

The [concept 74400008 |appendicitis \(disorder\)|](#) is *sufficiently defined* by the following definition because any [concept](#) for which these defining relationships are true are either the disorder "appendicitis" or a subtype of "appendicitis".

**Table 1: Definition of: 74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)| - (sufficiently defined)**

74400008 |appendicitis (disorder)|

```

=== 116680003 |is a| = 18526009 |disorder of appendix|
    116680003 |is a| = 302168000 |inflammation of large intestine|
    116676008 |associated morphology| = 23583003 |inflammation|
    363698007 |finding site| = 66754008 |appendix structure|
  
```

## Alternatives

- **Fully defined concept**

## supertype ancestor

Any [concepts](#) of which the specified [concept](#) is a [subtype](#). Includes the [supertype parents](#) and the [supertype parents](#) of each [supertype parent](#) and so on recursively until the [root concept](#) is reached.

### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept](#) "T" has ten *supertype ancestors* A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, and M).

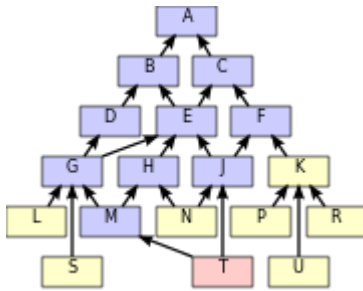


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Subtype ancestors

### Alternatives

- **Ancestor**

## supertype parent

A [concept](#) that is the target of a direct 116680003 [is a](#) [subtype Relationship](#) from a specified [concept](#) (see also [supertype ancestor](#) ).

### Example

The figure below shows an example hierarchy in which [concept](#) "T" has two *supertype parents* (J and M).

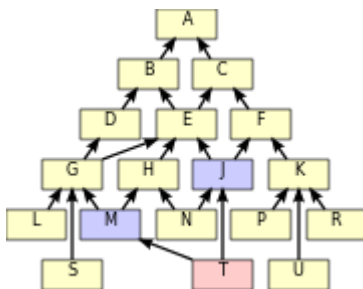


Figure 1: Hierarchy Illustration - Supertype parents

## synonym

A *term* that is an acceptable way to express the meaning of a [SNOMED CT concept](#) in a particular [language](#).

## Notes

1. *Synonyms* are represented as [SNOMED CT descriptions](#) with the *typeId* value 900000000000013009 | [Synonym](#) | .
2. *Synonyms* allow representations of the various ways a [concept](#) may be described.
3. *Synonyms* (unlike [fully specified names](#)) are not necessarily unique because the same *term* can be used to describe more than one [concept](#) .
4. The [preferred term](#) is the [synonym](#) marked as preferred for use in the [Language Reference Set](#) for a given [language](#) or [dialect](#) .

## SNOMED International (version of SNOMED)

*SNOMED International* was the name of the version of the [SNOMED](#) terminology that was first released in 1993 and which, as version 3.5 released in 1998, was the immediate predecessor of [SNOMED RT](#) .

## Disambiguation

See also the glossary reference for the current use of the name [SNOMED International](#) . Since 2017 [SNOMED International](#) has been the trading name of the organization responsible for maintaining and distributing [SNOMED CT](#) .

## T

### target code

This is a synonym for [Other-code](#).

#### Other-code

A code or identifier in a code system, classification or terminology other than [SNOMED CT](#).

#### Notes

The hyphenated form other-code (or other-codes) is used to avoid confusion with the more general reference to another code.

#### Alternatives

- **Target code**

### target language

This is a synonym for [Translation target language](#)

A language into which the original text is being translated or rendered.

#### Example

For the Spanish language edition, Spanish is the target language.

#### Alternatives

- **Target language**

### target scheme

A terminology, coding scheme or classification to which some or all [SNOMED CT Concepts](#) are mapped.

### technology preview

Superseded by - [Alpha release package](#).

#### Alpha release package

Previously known as the “Technology Preview” Release status, this applies to a collection of SNOMED CT release files that represent a proposed addition of components and/or derivatives to the SNOMED CT International Release or to other items in the SNOMED International Service Catalog. The Alpha status indicates the releasing party (SNOMED International or the owner of the Extension) is only releasing these additional components or derivatives for review and testing by implementers and other stakeholders. The objective of an

Alpha release is to test the chosen approach and elicit feedback before committing to the content and/or release format for the additional material. It is likely that, prior to publication of a Beta release, significant changes may be made to address the feedback received, and issues identified by testing.

### Notes

1. The Alpha release packages are distributed for evaluation purposes only. They must not be used in production clinical systems or in clinical settings.
2. Alpha releases should not be distributed to Affiliate Licensees or any third parties before the relevant Production release.
3. The significance of Alpha releases is that the data should not be used in an operational environment that may incorporate the data into a record or create a dependency on continued maintenance of the additional components or derivatives.

### Alternatives

- **Alpha release**
- **Alpha package**

### Related Links

- [Beta release package](#)
- [Production release package](#)

## term

A human-readable phrase that names or describes a [concept](#). A *term* is one of the properties of a [description](#). Other properties of a [description](#) link the *term* to an identified [concept](#) and indicate the type of [description](#) (e.g. [Fully Specified Name](#), [Synonym](#), etc.).

## term info

This is a synonym for [HL7 TermInfo](#)

An [HL7](#) project that developed the ' [HL7 Version 3 Implementation Guide: Using SNOMED CT](#) ' as a [Draft Standard for Trial Use](#) (DSTU). The purpose of this guide is to ensure that [HL7 Version 3](#) standards achieve their stated goal of semantic interoperability when used to communicate clinical information that is represented using [concepts](#) from [SNOMED CT](#)

### Alternatives

- **Term Info**

### Related Links

- [Guide to use of SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3](#)

## terminology binding

A link between a terminology component and an information model artifact, such as class or attribute in a [electronic health record](#) or message.



## Notes

1. Terminology components include [SNOMED CT expressions](#), [reference sets](#) and constraints.
2. Information model artifacts include classes and attributes in reference models for [electronic health records](#) and communication specifications.
3. *Terminology binding* can also be used to refer to the process of creating and persisting links between terminology components and information model artifacts.

## Examples

1. A set of coded values that may be applied to a particular attribute in an information model. The set may be expressed either explicitly (extensionally) or as a definitional constraint (intensionally).
2. The association between a named attribute value in the information model and a specific coded value or [expression](#).
3. A rule that determines the way that a coded [expression](#) is constructed based on multiple attribute values in the information model.

## terminology server

Software that provides access to [SNOMED CT](#) (and/or to other terminologies). A *terminology server* typically supports searches and [Navigation](#) through [Concepts](#). A server may provide a [user interface](#) (e.g. a [browser](#) or set of screen controls) or may provide low-level software services to support access to the terminology by other applications. See the *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide*.

### Alternatives

- **SNOMED CT terminology server**

## terminology service

A function performed by software that interacts with one or more representations of the terminology and provide access to information derived from the terminology.

### Note

*Terminology services* can be generalized, so that they are independent of the way the terminology is used in a particular application. *Terminology services* may be used by [record services](#) that enter, store and retrieve information that includes [SNOMED CT expressions](#). In contrast to *terminology services*, [record services](#) are usually specific to the design of a particular application.

### Related Links

- [Terminology Services Guide](#)
- [Service architecture](#)
- [Record service](#)

## textual definition

An additional textual [description](#) applied to some [SNOMED CT concepts](#) that provides additional information about the intended meaning or usage of the [concept](#).

### Note

Textual definitions are distributed in a file that follows the same structure as the *Description file (RF2)* but the terms permitted by the "textual definition" are much longer the 255 character limited applied to [synonyms](#) and [fully](#)

specified names. Textual definitions are not essential for [SNOMED CT implementations](#) but they are useful as they provide narrative [Descriptions](#) of [concepts](#) that may be easier to understand than the shorter terms.

## Example

These [descriptions](#) go beyond the detail of the [Fully Specified Name](#) as shown in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1: Textual Definition**

Concept Id	Fully Specified Name	Textual Definition
11530004	Brittle diabetes mellitus (finding)	Diabetes mellitus in which there are frequent, clinically significant fluctuations in blood glucose levels both above and below levels expected to be achieved by available therapies.

## top level concept

A [concept](#) that is directly related to the [Root Concept](#) by a single [relationship](#) of the [Relationship Type](#) 116680003 [|is a|](#).

### Note

All [concepts](#) (except for metadata [concepts](#)) are descended from at least one Top-Level Concept via at least one series of [relationships](#) with [relationship.typeId= 116680003 |is a|](#).

## top level concept code

This may sometimes be used to refer to [Top level concept](#).

### Top level concept

A [concept](#) that is directly related to the [Root Concept](#) by a single [relationship](#) of the [Relationship Type](#) 116680003 [|is a|](#).

### Note

All [concepts](#) (except for metadata [concepts](#)) are descended from at least one Top-Level Concept via at least one series of [relationships](#) with [relationship.typeId= 116680003 |is a|](#).

## top level metadata code

This may sometimes be used to refer to [Top level metadata concept](#).

### Top level metadata concept

A [concept](#) that is directly related to the [Root metadata concept](#) ( 900000000000441003 [|SNOMED CT Model Component \(metadata\)|](#)) by a single [relationship](#) of the [relationship type](#) 116680003 [|is a|](#).

### Note

All Metadata [concepts](#) are descended from at least one Top-Level Metadata concept via at least one series of [relationships](#) with Relationship.typeId= 116680003 |Is a|.

## top level metadata concept

A [concept](#) that is directly related to the [Root metadata concept](#) ( 900000000000441003 |SNOMED CT Model Component (metadata)|) by a single [relationship](#) of the [relationship type](#) 116680003 |is a|.

### Note

All Metadata [concepts](#) are descended from at least one Top-Level Metadata concept via at least one series of [relationships](#) with Relationship.typeId= 116680003 |Is a|.

## transform

This is a synonym for [Normal form transformation](#)

The process of converting a [SNOMED CT expression](#) into its [normal form](#).

### Notes

- The [normal form](#) provides a way compare different [expressions](#) which have a similar meaning.

### Alternatives

- **Transform**
- **Transformation**

### Related Links

- [12.4 Transforming Expressions to Normal Forms](#)

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The process of converting a [SNOMED CT expression](#) into its [normal form](#).

### Notes

- The [normal form](#) provides a way compare different [expressions](#) which have a similar meaning.

### Alternatives

- **Transform**
- **Transformation**

## Related Links

- [12.4 Transforming Expressions to Normal Forms](#)

## transitive closure

A comprehensive view of all the [supertype ancestors](#) of a [concept](#) derived by traversing all the 116680003 [is a](#) [relationships](#) between that [concept](#) and the [root concept](#).

### Note

A *transitive closure table* represents the transitive closure of the 116680003 [is a](#) [relationships](#) of all [active concepts](#).

## Related Links

- [7.5.2 Transitive closure implementation](#)

## translation

The process of rendering text originally written in one language (source language) into another language (target language).

## translation service provider

Person or organization supplying a translation service.

### Alternatives

- **TSP**

## translation source language

The language in which the original text is written.

### Example

English is the source language for the [International edition](#) of [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **Source language**

## translation target language

A language into which the original text is being translated or rendered.

### Example

For the Spanish language edition, Spanish is the target language.

### Alternatives

- **Target language**

## TSP

This is an abbreviation for [Translation Service Provider](#)

Person or organization supplying a translation service.

### Alternatives

- **TSP**

## U

## UI

This is an abbreviation for [User interface](#)

The way a software application presents itself to a user including, its on screen appearance, the commands it puts at a users disposal, and the manner in which the user can access and update information by using the application.

### Alternatives

- **UI**

## UK National Health Service

This is a synonym for [National Health Service](#)

Located in the United Kingdom, the *National Health Service* (*NHS* worked with the College of American Pathologists in the development of [SNOMED CT](#). The *NHS* is was one of the founder Members of the [SNOMED International](#) that is now responsible for [SNOMED CT](#) .

### Alternatives

- **NHS**
- **UK National Health Service**
- **UK NHS**

### Related Links

- <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/>

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Located in the United Kingdom, the *National Health Service* (*NHS* worked with the College of American Pathologists in the development of [SNOMED CT](#). The *NHS* is was one of the founder Members of the [SNOMED International](#) that is now responsible for [SNOMED CT](#) .

### Alternatives

- **NHS**
- **UK National Health Service**
- **UK NHS**

## Related Links

- <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/>

## understandability, reproducibility and usefulness

Criteria applied to test the validity of new [concepts](#) and design features of [SNOMED CT](#).

- Understandable: The meaning of a [concept](#) can be understood by an average health care provider, without reference to private or inaccessible information.
- Reproducible: Multiple users apply the [concept](#) to the same situations.
- Useful: The [concept](#) has a practical value to users that is self-evident or can be readily explained.

### Alternatives

- **URU**

### Related Links

- [Examining SNOMED from the Perspective of Formal Ontological Principles](#)

## union

In set theory *union* of the sets A and B, is the set of all objects that are a member of A, or B, or both.

### Note

Set theory is applied when describing the intended result of combinations of Reference Sets or Constraints.

## universally unique identifier

A datatype representing a sequence for a unique [Identifier](#) encoded as a 128-bit integer. Their unique values are generated by widely available algorithms and are not part of the SCTID namespace. In SNOMED CT, the id attribute uses this datatype, *for reference sets only*. Their uniqueness avoids the need to track the issuing of identifiers for the thousands of refset rows that are needed in some implementations.

### Notes

In [SNOMED CT release files](#) *UUIDs* are represented using a string following the standard [canonical form](#). In this string form a *UUID* is represented by 32 hexadecimal digits, displayed in five groups separated by hyphens, in the form 8-4-4-4-12 for a total of 36 characters (32 digits and four hyphens).

Example: ac527bed-9c70-4aad-8fc9-015828b148d9

### Alternatives

- **UUID**

## URU

This is an abbreviation for [Understandability, Reproducibility and Usefulness](#)

Criteria applied to test the validity of new [concepts](#) and design features of [SNOMED CT](#).

- Understandable: The meaning of a [concept](#) can be understood by an average health care provider, without reference to private or inaccessible information.
- Reproducible: Multiple users apply the [concept](#) to the same situations.
- Useful: The [concept](#) has a practical value to users that is self-evident or can be readily explained.

#### Alternatives

- **URU**

#### Related Links

- [Examining SNOMED from the Perspective of Formal Ontological Principles](#)

## user interface

The way a software application presents itself to a user including, its on screen appearance, the commands it puts at a users disposal, and the manner in which the user can access and update information by using the application.

#### Alternatives

- **UI**



## V

### value set

A uniquely identifiable set of valid concept representations, where any concept representation can be tested to determine whether or not it is a member of the *value set*.

#### Notes

1. This definition is used in [HL7 Vocabulary Committee](#) documents and [FHIR](#) specifications.
2. The role of a value set is to constrain the permissible content for a particular use (e.g. data entry into a particular field).
3. In [SNOMED CT](#) a concept representation may be a [concept identifier](#) or a [SNOMED CT expression](#).
4. A [reference set](#) can be used to represent a value set of [SNOMED CT concepts](#) each of which is represented by a [concept identifier](#) in the *referencedComponentId* field.

#### Related Links

- Release File Specification section [Reference Set Types](#).
- Full HL7 definition of *Value set* in [Core Principles and Properties of HL7 Version 3 Models](#).

### version

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT Version](#)

A [SNOMED CT edition](#) published on a specific date.

#### Note

A new version of the International Edition of SNOMED CT is released twice a year (in January and July). National [extensions](#) mostly follow this cycle (albeit typically with a three month delay). However, some extensions (notably those including medication related concepts) are released more frequently.

#### Examples

- The International Edition, 20170131 (dated January 31, 2017).
- The US National Edition, 20160901.

#### Alternatives

- **Version**
- **Versioned edition**
- **SNOMED CT versioned edition**

## Version 3 of the Read Codes

This is a synonym for [Clinical Terms Version 3](#)

One of the source terminologies, along with [SNOMED RT](#), that were used to develop [SNOMED CT](#). [CTV3](#) is UK Crown Copyright, distributed by the United Kingdom [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#), and is integrated into [SNOMED CT](#).

### Alternatives

- **CTV3**
- **Version 3 of the Read Codes**

## versioned edition

This is a synonym for [SNOMED CT version](#).

### [SNOMED CT version](#)

A [SNOMED CT edition](#) published on a specific date.

### Note

A new version of the International Edition of SNOMED CT is released twice a year (in January and July). National [extensions](#) mostly follow this cycle (albeit typically with a three month delay). However, some extensions (notably those including medication related concepts) are released more frequently.

### Examples

- The International Edition, 20170131 (dated January 31, 2017).
- The US National Edition, 20160901.

### Alternatives

- **Version**
- **Versioned edition**
- **SNOMED CT versioned edition**

## W

### web ontology language

The **Web Ontology Language (OWL)** is a family of knowledge representation languages for authoring **ontologies**. Ontologies are a formal way to describe taxonomies and classification networks, essentially defining the structure of knowledge for various domains: the nouns representing classes of objects and the verbs representing relations between the objects.

#### Alternatives

- **OWL**

#### Related Links

- [Web Ontology Language \(Wikipedia page\)](#)
- [Ontologies \(Wikipedia page\)](#)

## WHO

This is an abbreviation for [World Health Organization](#)

the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. The *World Health Organization* (*WHO*) maintains the International [Statistical Classification](#) of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD).

#### Alternatives

- **WHO**

#### Related Links

- <http://www.who.int>

### word equivalent

A word or abbreviation that is stated to be equivalent to one or more other words, phrases or abbreviations for the purposes of textual searches of **SNOMED CT**. *Word Equivalents* and *Phrase equivalents* are represented as rows in the *Word Equivalents Table*.

### workbench

A set of **SNOMED International** sponsored software tools designed to support the development, maintenance, and use of **SNOMED CT** in health systems around the world.

#### Related Links

## World Health Organization

the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. The *World Health Organization* ( *WHO* maintains the International [Statistical Classification](#) of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD).

### Alternatives

- **WHO**

### Related Links

- <http://www.who.int>

X

# Y

# Z