Maintaining a SNOMED CT Translation

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Overview

▪ Translation deliverables
▪ Maintenance dependencies
▪ Maintenance triggers
▪ Maintenance tasks
Translation Deliverables

- Translations belong to a SNOMED CT extension
- Translations are dependent on the International Edition
  - They cannot be implemented on their own
  - Concepts are distributed with the International Edition or extension concepts
Maintenance Dependencies

- NRCs
- National Extension
- International Edition
- SNOMED International
- Local Extension
- Terminology extension producers
- EHR
- Terminology consumer
Maintenance Triggers

- Addition of new concepts
  - Both in the International Edition and extension
  - Inactivated concepts retain active descriptions
- Changes to descriptions in the International Edition may impact translated descriptions
- Changes to linguistic and translation principles
- User requests for changes
- User requests for addition of synonyms
Maintenance Tasks

- Maintenance of a SNOMED CT translation involves:
  - Adding descriptions for new concepts
  - Changing existing descriptions
    - Review and update existing descriptions
  - Managing requests for changes to descriptions
  - Managing requests for addition of synonyms
Descriptions for New Concepts

Procedures for identifying new local/national concepts which require the creation of a FSN, a PT and potential synonyms

Procedures for identifying new International Edition concepts which require the creation of a PT and potential synonyms
Identification of New Concepts

Service to identify new extension concepts:

Compare ‘delta release of components in extension module(-s)’ with snapshot of previous release.

Components which only appear in the delta release are new components

Service to identify new concepts in International Edition:

Compare ‘delta release of components in International Edition modules’ with snapshot of previous release.

Components which only appear in the delta release are new components
Changes to Existing Descriptions

Procedures for identifying descriptions which have changed since the last release

Procedures for identifying when active concepts are assigned a new PT

• Identify description components which occur in both the delta release and the previous snapshot
• Analyze the nature of the change and assess whether this impacts the translation
• Compare the PT of concepts in previous release with PT of concepts in current release. If these are not the same, assess the nature and impact of the change
User Requests for Description Changes

• Important to make users aware that changes and additions are possible
• Clear guidance on communication chain, request services, deadlines
• Some changes may conflict with translation principles or processes
• Advice on interim solutions or alternatives
User Requests for Synonyms

- SNOMED CT translations go beyond principal translation
  - Synonyms in the International Edition should not be translated
  - Synonyms are important for the applicability of the terminology
  - Synonyms should be driven by national usage
User Requests for Synonyms

- **Synonym**
  - A word or phrase that expresses the meaning of a SNOMED CT concept in a specified language

- **Considerations**
  - Very specific or local synonyms may not go into the National Extension, but may benefit from being kept in a separate extension
    - Local descriptions and language reference sets
Summary

- Maintaining a SNOMED CT translation is an ongoing effort and responsibility
- Creating an overview of dependencies, triggers and tasks helps the maintenance process
- Providing clear instructions to terminology consumers on
  - What is possible wrt addition and updates to a translated version of SNOMED CT
  - Communication flow and request services
  - Advice on the creation of synonyms
Links to Further Information

- **SNOMED CT Worldwide**

- **Translations Home**
  - Includes Information sheets, supporting materials and resources
    - [https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/TRAN/](https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/TRAN/)

- **Refset and Translation Tool**
  - [https://refset.ihtsdotools.org](https://refset.ihtsdotools.org)

- **Extensions Practical Guide**
  - [http://snomed.org/EXTPG](http://snomed.org/EXTPG)