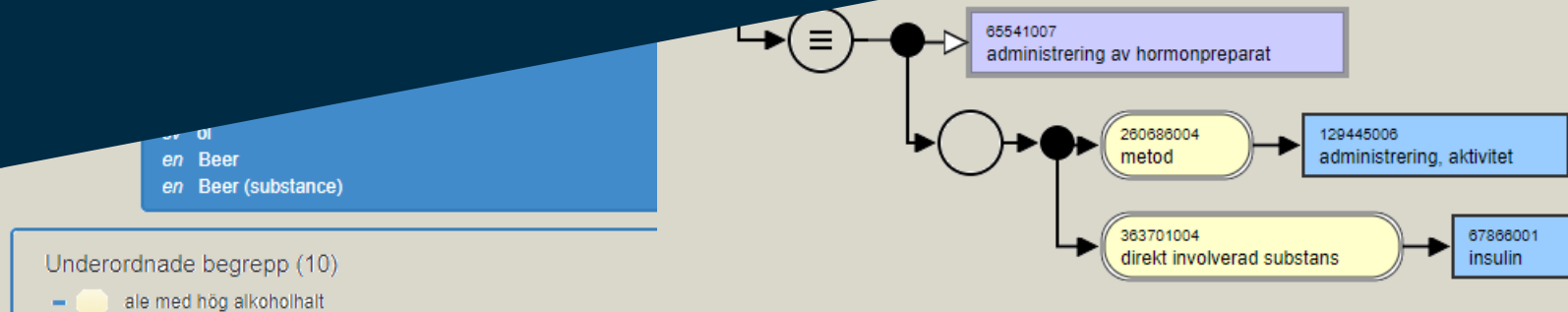# Maintaining a complete translation of Snomed CT

Sweden's National Release Center of Snomed CT
Emma Hultén

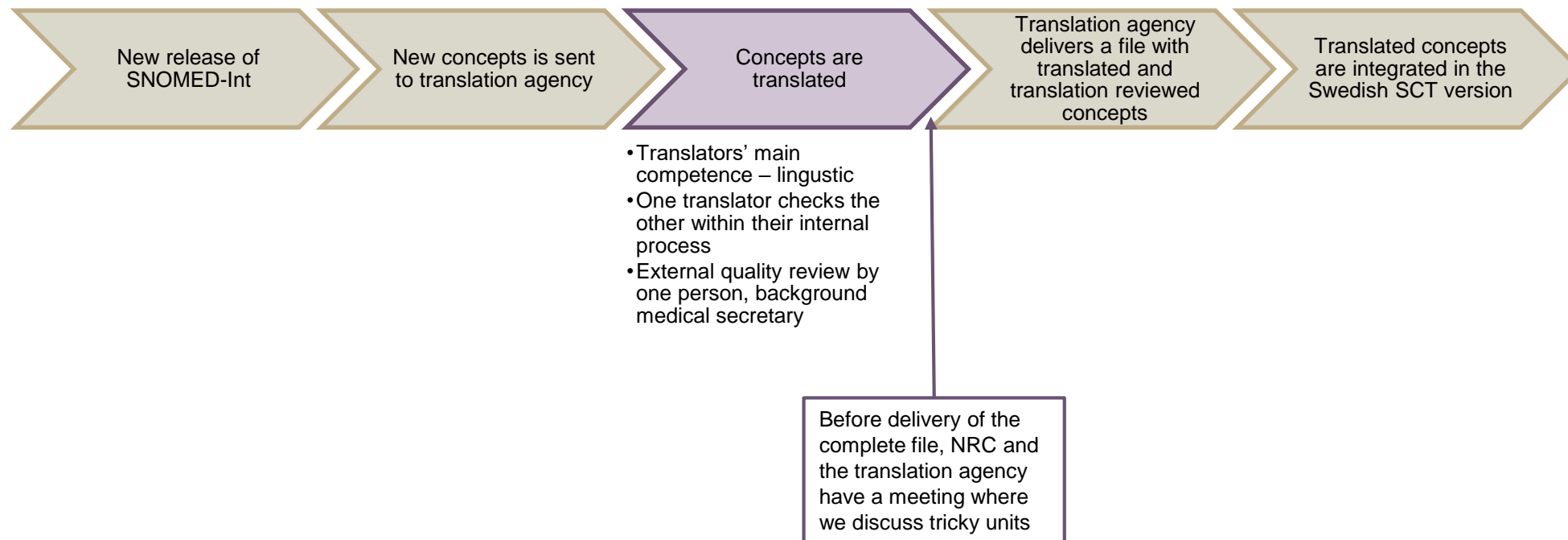2020-01-14

Sweden's National Release Center

- 8 persons, different backgrounds
  - Med. doctor, pharmacist, software developer, informatician, bioanalyst, dentist

The translation process today, overview

New release of SNOMED-Int → New concepts is sent to translation agency → Concepts are translated → Translation agency delivers a file with translated and translation reviewed concepts → Translated concepts are integrated in the Swedish SCT version

- Translators' main competence – lingustic
- One translator checks the other within their internal process
- External quality review by one person, background medical secretary

Before delivery of the complete file, NRC and the translation agency have a meeting where we discuss tricky units

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Challenges in maintaining a complete translation

- English is sometimes more expressive and nuanced than Swedish

- Duplicates can arise over the years

- The international version evolves – translations may need revision
  - keep up with the changes from the beginning!

- To find the perfect everyday-life, clinical useful term that strictly and exactly represents the clinical idea
  - clinical experts should revise and confirm translations
  - it would be easier/doable to maintain a clinical expert group if selected areas of the terminology should be updated rather than SCT as a whole

Key factors for a successful continous translation process

- Updated and continuously revised national guidelines for the translation

- Document "agreements" on principal issues

- Clinical experts for reviewing the translation – but how many and in what form?
  - What is the NRC role? To watch and care about the Swedish language? Or to reflect "what people actually say" (sometimes would that be English/"Swenglish" terms)?
  - The clinical experts should represent "everybody", how to find the key persons who can guarantee "national consensus"?
  - Impossible/unreasonable to carry out a full terminological investigation for each term.

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Wish list

My boss →

- A broad group of clinical experts in different areas for reviewing terms
- SCT competence among the translators – general knowledge and understanding of principles for FSN, modelling etc.
- An easy and effective tool for batch changes
- Unambigous, well modelled concepts with clear FSN:s…
- Endless of time…

https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/utveckla-verksamhet/e-halsa/snomed-ct/