SNOMED CT, the world’s most comprehensive health terminology product, is owned and developed by SNOMED International*

How does SNOMED CT work?

SNOMED CT contains concepts with unique meanings and formal logic based definitions and is organized into hierarchies. SNOMED CT content is represented using three types of components:

**Concepts**
- Represent clinical thoughts.
- Every concept has a unique numeric concept identifier.
- Enable meaning-based queries

**Descriptions**
- Link human readable terms to concepts.
- Assist searching for concepts and provides multi-lingual support

**Relationships**
- Link concepts to other concepts whose meaning is related in some way.
- Support aggregation and queries

To benefit from a terminology, it must be implemented and used as part of an application. The design of the software application in which it is used, and the objectives and motivation of its users are key factors in determining success.

*The trading name of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)*
SNOMED CT at a glance

- The world’s most comprehensive, multilingual* clinical healthcare terminology containing over 350,000 concepts (*full or partial translations exist in Spanish, Danish, Swedish, French and Dutch)
- Maps to other international standards
- Used in 80+ countries
- Released internationally twice annually
- Adaptable to each country’s requirements
- Maintained and quality assured to a high standard
- Enables consistent, processable representation of clinical content in electronic health records (EHR)
- Tools to support implementation and use are available (e.g. SNOMED CT browser, mapping & authoring tools, terminology server)

Who benefits from SNOMED CT?

Our numerous customers and stakeholders benefit in different ways from the use of SNOMED CT.

Why implement SNOMED CT?

- Enables the global exchange of medical information through a codified language that represents groups of clinical terms
- Represents clinically relevant information consistently, reliably and comprehensively as an integral part of producing electronic health information
- Provides a standardized way to represent clinical phrases captured by the clinician and enables machine processable semantics automatic interpretation of those phrases
- It has rigorously evolved to meet the diverse, varying needs of clinicians and other stakeholders across different disciplines, sectors and geographies
- The availability of precise, exchangeable medical data results in better health records, clinical decisions and data analysis helping clinicians save time, money and lives and improving patients’ care and overall experience

https://www.snomed.org/snomed-ct/why-snomed-ct