Plurals

Fully specified names (FSNs)

In general, concepts are represented in the singular, rather than the plural.

For example:

- Disorder of lung (disorder), not disorder of lungs
- Acute cholecystitis due to biliary calculus (disorder), not biliary calculi

FSNs should not be plural unless the concept necessarily involves multiples.

Unintended plurals

*Unintended plurals* might be incorrectly interpreted. An unintended plural is the use of a plural when, in fact, there is only one entity.

Correct example,

- *Multiple cranial nerve palsies*; the word *multiple* indicates that there can never be just one, so the plural *palsies* is correct.

Incorrect example,

- *Trochlear lesion* versus *trochlear lesions*; users would use this concept to refer to a single trochlear lesion, thus the plural form *would be incorrect*.

Exceptions

Organizational nodes or grouper concepts may be plural.

For example,

- 234320004 | Procedures for splenic lesions (procedure)
- 194732001 | Diseases of mitral and aortic valves (disorder), has IS A 195002007 | Multiple valve disease (disorder)

A concept that necessarily involves multiples should have a plural FSN.

For example,

- Bilateral atrophy of testes (disorder)

⚠️ It is advisable to keep track of these exceptions in a separate subset or using a special term type, so that they can be excluded when the singular/plural distinction is important for mapping.