Adjudication for Content Requests

There are processes for making decisions about adding or changing content in SNOMED CT.

Change requests

All change requests, whether for new content or for change to existing content, go through a request submission approval process. It involves review by authors to determine that there is:

- International applicability
- Compliance with Understandable, Reproducible, Useful (URU) principles
- No duplication with existing content
- No link to existing larger projects, as detailed in a Content Tracker document
- No conflict with existing collaboration agreements (e.g. Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) agreement)

Legends concepts

Legacy concepts, i.e. concepts not in the current draft/work-in-progress version of SNOMED CT, may not follow current guidelines. Requests based on legacy concepts are unacceptable.

Appeals, deferrals, and resolution

Appeals

Requests that are rejected may be appealed by the submitter.

Deferrals

Requests may be deferred for a number of reasons including questions about:

- How to model the concept; which attributes may be used
- Concept meaning
- Literature reference missing or inadequate
- Use case unclear
- Size of required change (attached to a Content Tracker)

Resolution

Resolution of deferrals may result in a decision delay requiring:

- A larger project or work item or
- Referral, internally, to other groups for decision. This depends on the complexity of the request and understanding of the wider impact.

Results

Results of adjudication are received by email from the Content Request System (CRS). Simpler issues can be resolved expeditiously (e.g. by a ruling from the Chief Terminologist).