

# context

The circumstances that form the setting in which a [concept](#) can be appropriately interpreted.

## Notes

- Clear recording and appropriate interpretation of *context* is essential for safe use and accurate analysis of [electronic health records](#).
- The *context* in which a [concept](#) is used can be represented in various ways. Some of the possible representation are shown in the examples section below.
- Appropriate interpretation of different representations of *context* can be facilitated by [terminology binding](#) techniques that resolve multiple [models of use](#) into a common [model of meaning](#).

## Examples

- A disease such as "asthma" might be referred to in various *contexts*.
  - A current presenting problem needing treatment
  - A past history recorded during assessment for treatment of another condition
  - A family history recorded routinely during a consultation
- Family history of asthma can be recorded using [SNOMED CT](#) in several ways three of which are illustrated here.
  - Use of a single *concept* from the [situation with explicit context domain](#):

```
160377001 |Family history: Asthma (situation)|
```

- Application of a [context wrapper](#) to the *concept* 195967001 |Asthma (disorder)|:

```
57177007 |Family history with explicit context (situation)| :  
{ 246090004 |Associated finding (attribute)| = 195967001 |Asthma (disorder)| }
```

- Use of features of an [electronic health record](#) model, such as separate record sections for information with different *contexts*.

```
Family History Record Section  
195967001 |Asthma (disorder| )
```

- Based on the definitions of these concepts, a [description logic classifier](#) will infer that first two representations above have precisely the same meaning. The third representation can be similarly resolved if the "Family History Record Section" has a *model or meaning binding* to the 57177007 |Family history with explicit context (situation)| wrapper.

## Related Links

- [Situation with explicit context](#)
- [Context wrapper](#)
- [Domain](#)
- [Terminology binding](#)
- [Model of use](#)
- [Model of meaning](#)
- [Safely representing the context of recorded codes](#)