

3.2.1. Search and Data Entry

Many clinical applications include data entry interfaces controlled or assisted by protocols, templates or structured data entry forms. Each field on a data entry form may allow only a limited set of terms or concepts to be entered. The set of candidate [term](#) or [concept](#) may range from very small (e.g. a set of priorities for a procedure) to very large (e.g. any general diagnosis). [Reference sets](#) can be used to restrict the possible values that meet the requirements of a particular data entry protocol.

Examples of using reference sets to support search and data entry include:

- [5.2.1 Simple Reference Set](#) can be used to constrain searches or provide values for selection lists.
- [5.2.20 Ordered Reference Set](#) can be used to prioritize search results or provide an alternative ordering of search results.
- [5.2.7 Annotation Reference Set](#) can be used to supplement search results or data entry options with additional textual or coded information, such as advice on intended usage.
- [5.8. Language Reference Set](#) can be used to ensure that the preferred descriptions, for a given dialect, care setting or clinical context, are displayed.

A [SNOMED CT enabled application](#) can use an appropriate [reference set](#) to display the valid data entry options and constrain text searches. For more detailed use case examples, please refer to the following sections:

- [3.2.1.1. Constrain Data Entry](#)
- [3.2.1.2. Constrain Searches](#)
- [3.2.1.3. Exclude Content](#)
- [3.2.1.4. Order Items for Search and Data Entry](#)
- [3.2.1.5. Alternative Hierarchical View](#)
- [3.2.1.6. Use Case Specific Associations](#)