

2 Managing Content Changes in SNOMED CT

This section of the guide addresses potential issues that may affect implementations when new releases of [SNOMED CT](#) contain changes to content.

The likely impact of four general types of change are considered.

- Content additions.
- Content inactivation (e.g. inactivation of a [Concept](#)).
- Changes to [relationships](#) between [concepts](#)
- Changes to the [Concept Model](#) leading to systematic changes to a range of components.

The impact of these changes is assessed in [term \(field\)](#) of the main [record service](#) functions

- Data entry (e.g. potential requirements to change to data entry protocols).
- Data storage (e.g. whether pre-existing data needs to be migrated or processed in a particular way to ensure consistency).
- Data retrieval (e.g. whether existing queries are likely to need revising to take account of the changes).
- Communications (e.g. whether communication specification are likely to be affected and in particular potential issues from cross-version communications).

Following discussion of these general considerations, the remainder of this section holds specific advice related to any content changes in a release which are expected to require attention from implementers.