

synonym

A word or phrase that expresses the meaning of a [SNOMED CT concept](#) in a specified [language](#).

Notes

- Each *synonym* is represented by the *term* in a [SNOMED CT description](#) with the *typed* value 900000000000013009 [Synonym].
- *Synonyms* allow the same [concept](#) to be expressed in different ways.
- Unlike [fully specified names](#), *synonyms* are not necessarily unique as the same *term* may be used to describe more than one [concept](#).
- In any given [language context](#), a concept may have any number of *synonyms* that are acceptable for use and must have one *synonym* that is preferred for use (the [preferred term](#)). The *synonyms* that are preferred or acceptable are specified by a *language reference set* for the relevant *language context*.

Related Links

- [Term](#)
- [Description](#)
- [Preferred term](#)
- [Fully specified name](#)
- [Language context](#)
- [Language reference set](#)
- [Release File Specification](#)
 - [4.2.2 Description File Specification](#)