

## 2.1.1 Release Types

Table 2.1.1-1 specifies the content of each of the [Release Format 2 Release Types](#) .

This table is followed by illustrations of each of the [Release Types](#) using the small same pattern of content development over seven release cycles. These illustrations highlight the key differences and the [Relationships](#) between the [Release Types](#) .

Table 2.1.1-1: SNOMED CT Release Types

| Release Type | Description  |
|--------------|--|
| Full         | The files representing each type of component contain <b>every</b> version of every component ever released.   |
| Snapshot     | The files representing each type of component contain <b>one</b> version of every component released up to the time of the snapshot. The version of each component contained in a snapshot is the most recent version of that component at the time of the snapshot. |
| Delta        | The files representing each type of component contain only component versions created since the previous release. Each component version in a <a href="#">delta release</a> represents either a new component or a change to an existing component.                  |

The seven columns in each of the following illustrations represent the content of seven releases (numbered 1-7). Each [component](#) is identified by a letters (A-K). A [component](#) version is represented by the identifying letter followed by a number (1-7) representing the release cycle in which that [component](#) version became effective.

[figure 2.1.1-0](#) shows the content of a series of [full releases](#). The yellow background color highlights the set of [component](#) versions that are also present in the snapshot for the same [release version](#) ( see [figure 2.1.1-0](#)). [component](#) versions are shown in gray in releases versions after they have been superseded by a new [component](#) version. Newly added [component](#) versions, shown in red, are also present in the delta for the same [release version](#) (see [figure 2.1.1-0](#)).

The content of the [full release](#) in any chosen version is identical to the combined content of all the [snapshot releases](#) up to and including that version. Thus adding a [delta release](#) to the previous version of the [full release](#) creates the [full release](#) for the new version. The [snapshot release](#) is derived from the [full release](#) by removing all except the most recent version of each [component](#) .

| <i>Earlier</i> <-- FULL RELEASES FOR SEVEN RELEASE CYCLES --> <i>Later</i> |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1  | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| A,1  | A,1 | A,1 | A,1 | A,1 | A,1 | A,1 |
| B,1  | B,1 | B,1 | A,4 | A,4 | A,4 | A,4 |
| C,1  | B,2 | B,2 | B,1 | B,1 | B,1 | B,1 |
| D,1  | C,1 | C,1 | B,2 | B,2 | B,2 | B,2 |
| E,1  | D,1 | C,3 | C,1 | C,1 | B,6 | B,6 |
|  | E,1 | D,1 | C,3 | C,3 | C,1 | C,1 |
|  | F,2 | E,1 | C,4 | C,4 | C,3 | C,3 |
|  | G,2 | F,2 | D,1 | D,1 | C,4 | C,4 |
|  |     | F,3 | E,1 | E,1 | C,6 | C,6 |
|  |     | G,2 | F,2 | F,2 | D,1 | D,1 |
|  |     | H,3 | F,3 | F,3 | E,1 | E,1 |
|  |     |     | G,2 | G,2 | F,2 | F,2 |
|  |     |     | H,3 | H,3 | F,3 | F,3 |
|  |     |     | I,4 | I,4 | G,2 | G,2 |
|  |     |     |     | J,5 | H,3 | H,3 |
|  |     |     |     |     | H,6 | H,6 |
|  |     |     |     |     | I,4 | H,7 |
|  |     |     |     |     | J,5 | I,4 |
|  |     |     |     |     |     | J,5 |
|  |     |     |     |     |     | K,7 |

Figure 2.1.1-1: Full release illustration

| <i>Earlier</i> <-- DELTA RELEASES FOR SEVEN RELEASE CYCLES --> <i>Later</i> |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| A,1   |     |     | A,4 |     |     |     |
| B,1   | B,2 |     |     |     | B,6 |     |
| C,1   |     | C,3 | C,4 |     | C,6 |     |
| D,1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| E,1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|   | F,2 | F,3 |     |     |     |     |
|   | G,2 |     |     |     |     |     |
|   |     | H,3 |     |     | H,6 | H,7 |
|   |     |     | I,4 |     |     |     |
|   |     |     |     | J,5 |     |     |
|   |     |     |     |     |     | K,7 |

Figure 2.1.1-2: Delta release illustration

| <i>Earlier</i> <-- SNAPSHOT RELEASES FOR SEVEN RELEASE CYCLES --> <i>Later</i> |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1  | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| A,1  | A,1 | A,1 | A,4 | A,4 | A,4 | A,4 |
| B,1  | B,2 | B,2 | B,2 | B,2 | B,6 | B,6 |
| C,1  | C,1 | C,3 | C,4 | C,4 | C,6 | C,6 |
| D,1  | D,1 | D,1 | D,1 | D,1 | D,1 | D,1 |
| E,1  | E,1 | E,1 | E,1 | E,1 | E,1 | E,1 |
|  | F,2 | F,3 | F,3 | F,3 | F,3 | F,3 |
|  | G,2 | G,2 | G,2 | G,2 | G,2 | G,2 |
|  |     | H,3 | H,3 | H,3 | H,6 | H,7 |
|  |     |     | I,4 | I,4 | I,4 | I,4 |
|  |     |     |     | J,5 | J,5 | J,5 |
|  |     |     |     |     |     | K,7 |

Figure 2.1.1-3: Snapshot release illustration

Note: In a real [SNOMED CT release](#) each of the letters A-K would be replaced by a [component id](#) (a [SNOMED CT identifier](#)) and each of the release cycle numbers 1-7 would be replaced by the [effectiveTime](#) of a [release version](#) .