

Appendix A – Concept Definition and Expression Relationship Statements

SNOMED CT Compositional Grammar is a syntax for representing SNOMED CT expressions. SNOMED CT expressions are a structured combination of one or more concept identifiers used to express a clinical idea. When documenting a full concept definition or an expression relationship statement, which asserts the relationship between two expressions, it is often useful to use a syntax that is consistent with SNOMED CT Compositional Grammar. For these purposes, the following ABNF syntax extension may be used:

```
statement = ws "(" ws subExpression ws ")" ws definitionStatus ws "(" ws subExpression ws ")" ws
```

where 'subExpression' and 'definitionStatus' are defined as per SNOMED CT Compositional Grammar.

For example, the following statement documents the definition of the fully defined concept 95617006 |Neonatal cyanosis|.

```
( 95617006 |Neonatal cyanosis| ) ===
( 3415004 |Cyanosis| + 363696006 |Neonatal cardiovascular disorder| :
  246454002 |Occurrence| = 255407002 |Neonatal| ,
  363698007 |Finding site| = 113257007 |Structure of cardiovascular system| )
```

Figure 6 illustrates this concept definition using the SNOMED CT Diagramming Guideline.

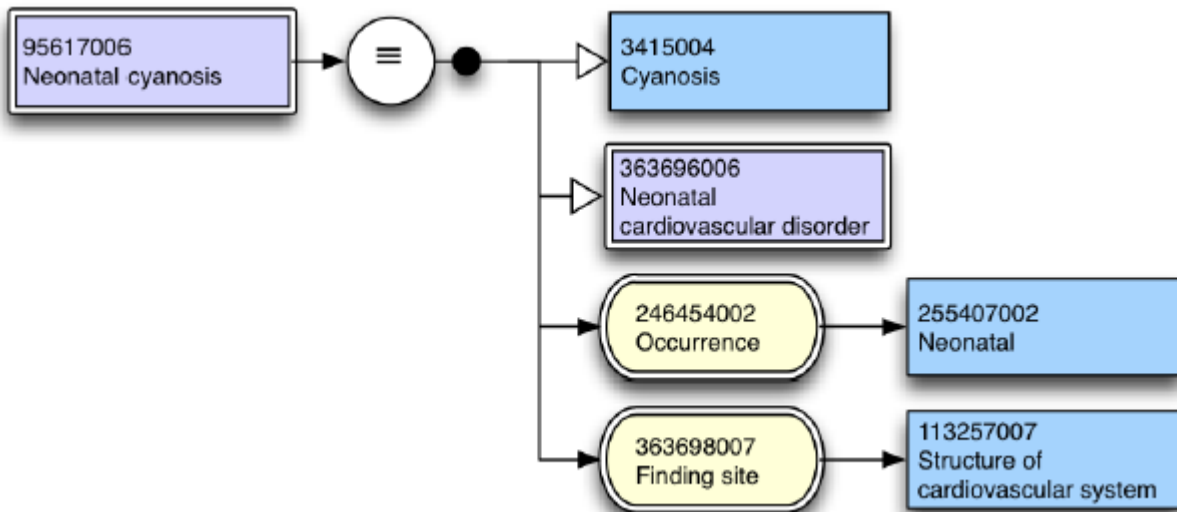


Figure 6: Concept definition diagram for Neonatal cyanosis

In this second example, the definition of the primitive concept 144008 |Normal peripheral vision| is shown:

```
( 144008 |Normal peripheral vision| ) <<< ( 301980006 |Finding of visual field| :
  363698007 |Finding site| = 49549006 |Structure of visual system| )
```

Figure 7 illustrates this concept definition using the SNOMED CT Diagramming Guideline.

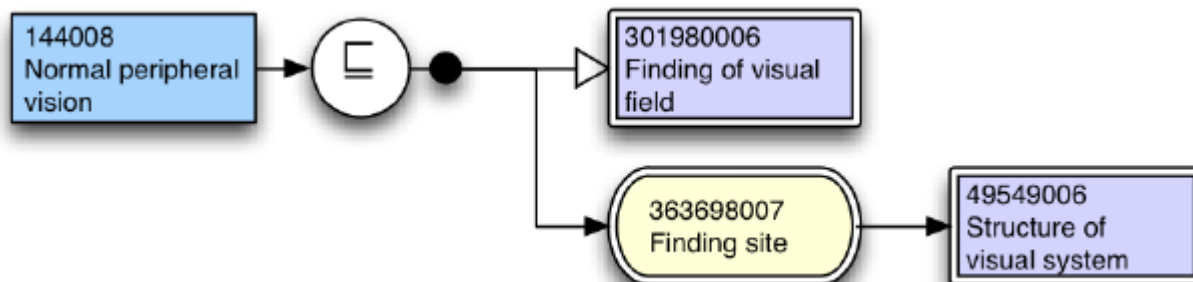


Figure 7: Concept definition diagram for Normal peripheral vision

In this last example, the equivalence of two expressions is defined (as illustrated in Figure 8):

(49601007 |Disorder of cardiovascular system| : 246454002 |Occurrence| = 255407002 |Neonatal|)
=== (64572001 |Disease| : 246454002 |Occurrence| = 255407002 |Neonatal| ,
363698007 |Finding site| = 113257007 |Structure of cardiovascular system|)

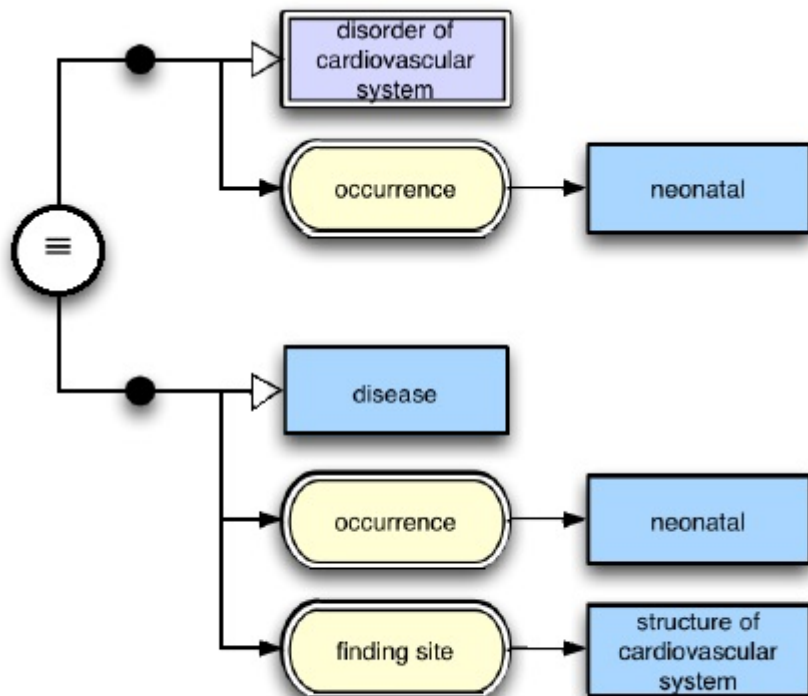


Figure 8: Diagram showing the equivalence of two expressions