

6.1 Text Searches

Effective implementation of [SNOMED CT](#) depends on the speed and simplicity with which users can locate the [term](#) and [concepts](#) that they wish to use. A busy clinical user may become frustrated if the content they need cannot be quickly located when they search using familiar words or phrases. For this reason an efficient search strategy should address the following issues:

- Speed of search:
 - Search speed should be optimized by use of appropriate indexes.
- Search should not be too sensitive to word [order](#) or exact phrasing:
 - Search should be insensitive to word - [order](#) variants:
 - For example, "head pain" for [25064002 |pain in head|](#)
 - Allow use of acronyms or abbreviations for frequently used [term](#):
 - For example, "MI" for "myocardial infarction" or "mitral incompetence".
 - Search should take account of word form variants:
 - For example, "inflamed", "inflammatory", "inflammation".
- Excessive search results should not hinder selection of the required [concept](#):
 - When several [synonyms](#) of the same [concept](#) match the search key, only one should be displayed.

The purpose of this section of the implementation guide is to describe strategies a developer might use to implement the search requirements outlined above.