

6.2 Hierarchical Navigation

This section of the guide describes the [Terminology services](#) that are likely to be required to navigate [SNOMED CT](#) hierarchies.

One of the key strengths of [SNOMED CT](#) is a rich set of [relationships](#) that connect the [concepts](#) within the terminology. The primary use of these [relationships](#) is to facilitate selective retrieval. However, some of these [relationships](#) are arranged in hierarchies that can be navigated using an appropriate user-interface control. For example, the [subtype hierarchy](#) formed by the [is a](#) [relationships](#) can be used to navigate from a selected [concept](#) to another [concept](#) that has a more specific or less specific meaning.

[SNOMED CT](#) also specifies standard ways to represent multiple [navigation](#) hierarchies that can be designed to meet different requirements. Unlike [relationship](#) based hierarchies, [navigation](#) hierarchies convey no semantic information but are intended to be used to enhance the user experience when navigating through the terminology.