Qualifying Characteristics

A qualifying characteristic is expressed by an attribute-value pair. The attribute may have one value, from a range of values, based on the domain's Concept Model. If a particular qualifying characteristic is applied to a concept, the resulting expression represents a more tightly defined subtype of that concept.

Clinical expressions using SNOMED CT concepts can be of two types: precoordinated expressions, which use a single SNOMED CT concept identifier; and postcoordinated expressions, which contain more than one SNOMED CT concept identifier.

For example,

- It might be possible to qualify a disorder such as 53084003 Bacterial pneumonia (disorder) according to its clinical course (373933 003 Acute onset (qualifier value)) or severity (90734009 Chronic (qualifier value)) or severity (255604002 Mild (qualifier value)), 6736007 Moderate (severity modifier) (qualifier value), or 24484000 Severe (severity modifier) (qualifier value))

- 125605004 Fracture of bone (disorder) can be refined by qualifying it with 12611008 Bone structure of tibia (body structure) to represent the concept 31978002 Fracture of tibia (disorder)