context

The circumstances that form the setting in which a concept can be appropriately interpreted.

Notes

- Clear recording and appropriate interpretation of context is essential for safe use and accurate analysis of electronic health records.
- The context in which a concept is used can be represented in various ways. Some of the possible representations are shown in the examples section below.
- Appropriate interpretation of different representations of context can be facilitated by terminology binding techniques that resolve multiple models of use into a common model of meaning.

Examples

- A disease such as "asthma" might be referred to in various contexts:
  - A current presenting problem needing treatment
  - A past history recorded during assessment for treatment of another condition
  - A family history recorded routinely during a consultation
- Family history of asthma can be recorded using SNOMED CT in several ways three of which are illustrated here.
  - Use of a single concept from the situation with explicit context domain:

```
160377001 | Family history: Asthma (situation) |
```

- Application of a context wrapper to the concept 195967001 | Asthma (disorder):

```
57177007 | Family history with explicit context (situation) : 
{ 246090004 | Associated finding (attribute) = 195967001 | Asthma (disorder) } |
```

- Use of features of an electronic health record model, such as separate record sections for information with different contexts:

```
Family History Record Section
195967001 | Asthma (disorder) |
```

- Based on the definitions of these concepts, a description logic classifier will infer that first two representations above have precisely the same meaning. The third representation can be similarly resolved if the "Family History Record Section" has a model of meaning binding to the 57177007 | Family history with explicit context (situation) | wrapper.

Related Links

- Situation with explicit context
- Context wrapper
- Domain
- Terminology binding
- Model of use
- Model of meaning
- Safely representing the context of recorded codes