4.2 Descriptions

SNOMED CT descriptions link appropriate human readable terms to concepts. Each concept can have many descriptions, which represent different synonymous ways of referring to the same clinical meaning. Each description is written in a specific language, and new descriptions can be created to support a variety of languages. Like concepts, descriptions also have a permanent unique identifier.

The richness of description content assists the process of searching and finding concepts using user interfaces or database queries. It may also be used to enhance string-matching in natural language processing applications, including analytics over multi-lingual data.