

4.2.4 Identifier File Specification

Important Note

The Identifier File does not contain any data in the SNOMED CT International Release

The file structure is documented here only as a point of reference for others who may be using the files in an extension release.

This file provides a standardized way of associating alternative [Identifiers](#) from various schemes with [SNOMED CT components](#).

At any point in time, an alternative [Identifier](#) within a particular scheme will be associated with one and only one [SNOMED CT component](#). A [SNOMED CT component](#) may be associated with zero or more alternative [Identifiers](#) within a single scheme.

It is important to note that the [SNOMED CT component](#) and its alternative [Identifiers](#) all identify precisely the same real-world object.

Note: The Identifier file is not currently used in the [SNOMED CT International Release](#) as use of the more flexible [Simple map type references set](#) structure is preferred for links to alternative codes. The only known current use of this file is for internal identification of components during the content development process.

Table 4.2.4-1: Identifier file - Detailed Specification

Field	Data type	Purpose	Mandatory	Part of Primary Key
identifierSchemeId	SC TID	Identifier of the concept enumeration value from the Metadata hierarchy that represents the scheme to which the Identifier value belongs. Set to a descendant of 900000000000453004 Identifier scheme within the metadata hierarchy .	NO	YES (Full /Snapshot)
alternateIdentifier	String	String representation of the alternative Identifier in its native scheme.	NO	YES (Full /Snapshot)
effectiveTime	Time	Specifies the inclusive date at which the alternative Identifier was associated with the SNOMED CT component .	YES	YES (Full) Optional (Snapshot)
active	Boolean	Specifies whether the association was active or inactive from the point in time specified by the effectiveTime .	YES	NO
moduleId	SC TID	Identifies the source module that this association was created in. Set to a child of 900000000000443000 Module within the metadata hierarchy .	YES	NO
referencedComponentId	SC TID	Uniquely identifies the SNOMED CT component with which the alternative Identifier is associated.	NO	NO

Only one record with the same [identifierSchemeId](#) and [alternateIdentifier](#) fields will be current at any point in time. The current record will be the one with the most recent [effectiveTime](#) before or equal to the point in time under consideration.

If the [active](#) field of this record is false ('0'), then the association is [inactive](#) at that point in time. If the [active](#) field is true ('1'), then there is an identity at that point in time between the [referencedComponentId](#) (a [SNOMED CT component](#)) and the [alternateIdentifier](#) in the scheme identified by [identifierSchemeId](#).