

# Template Syntax Specification



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The *SNOMED template syntax specification* defines the formal rules for representing *slots* in SNOMED CT expressions, expression constraints or queries. A *slot* either provides information as to how the template should be processed, or represents a placeholder for a value that is not known at the time of authoring. These placeholders can be completed at a later time using data recorded elsewhere (such as in an information model or entered into a data entry form).

The *template syntax* may be used in conjunction with any of the computable SNOMED CT languages to represent templates of various kinds. For example, using the template syntax with *compositional grammar* enables the representation of *expression templates*, while using the template syntax with the *expression constraint language* enables the representation of *expression constraint templates*.

SNOMED templates can be used for a number of purposes, including to define reusable patterns for authoring and validating precoordinated concept definitions and postcoordinated expressions.

Web browsable version: <http://snomed.org/sts>

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