

meaning binding

A [terminology binding](#) that represents the clinical meaning of a data item or collection of data items.

Notes

- A *meaning binding* associates a clinical meaning with either a [data entry context](#) or a defined collection of data items in an [electronic health record](#) information model. The clinical meaning of an instance of a data item with a *meaning binding* is determined by applying the *meaning binding* to the value or set of values in that instance.
- SNOMED CT *meaning bindings* should be represented by [expression templates](#) containing one or more [template slots](#) that can be replaced by concepts entered or stored in a particular context.

Example

- An application that manages surgical procedure requests could identify requested procedures using concepts that are subtypes of [387713003 |Surgical procedure|](#). In this case, the data item in which that *concept* is recorded should have a *meaning binding* that explicitly indicates that this is a request for that procedure. The *expression template* below represents this *meaning binding*. It indicates that the procedure selected should replace the "@procedure" [template slot](#), resulting in an [expression](#) that means procedure has been requested, rather than suggesting incorrectly, that it has been done.

```
/* Expression Template */

400999005 |Procedure requested (situation)| :
  { 363589002 |Associated procedure (attribute)| = [[ +id < 387713003 |Surgical procedure| @procedure ]] }

/* Resulting Expression if "38102005 Cholecystectomy (procedure)" is entered */

400999005 |Procedure requested (situation)| :
  { 363589002 |Associated procedure (attribute)| = 38102005 |Cholecystectomy (procedure)| }
```

Alternative

- **Semantic binding**

Related Links

- **Glossary**
 - [terminology binding](#)
 - [value set binding](#)
 - [data entry context](#)
 - [expression](#)
 - [expression template](#)
- **Specifications**
 - [Template Syntax Specification](#)
 - [Expression Template Examples](#)