

Specimen

Definition	Examples
Entities that are obtained (usually from patients) for examination or analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 384744003 Lymph node from sentinel lymph node dissection and axillary dissection (specimen) • 122880004 Urine specimen obtained by clean catch procedure (specimen)

Specimen concepts can be defined by attributes which specify the:

- Normal or abnormal body structure from which they are obtained
- Procedure used to collect the specimen
- Source from which it was collected
- Substance of which it is comprised

Specimen not sample in FSN

The Fully Specified Name for Specimen concepts should include the term *specimen*, not *sample*. Because of the differentiation between specimen and sample in some domains (e.g. biobanking), an additional description using the word *sample* should not be added to the specimen concept.



Legacy concepts exist in SNOMED CT that contain both *specimen* and *sample* in descriptions. Those are being retained for historical purposes.

Combined specimens and pooled specimens

A *combined specimen* refers to more than one specimen taken from the same subject and combined in a single container to form a single specimen. A *pooled specimen* refers to specimens taken from multiple subjects and pooled (mixed) together into a single container. SNOMED CT concepts will include the appropriate term in the FSN and will not treat *combined specimen* and *pooled specimen* as synonymous.