

Action Verbs

Action verbs should be written in noun form within SNOMED CT descriptions. This most often means the verb will end with a suffix of –tion, -sion, -ment, -al, -ence, or -ance.

For example,

- *Destruction* instead of destroy
- *Incision* instead of incise
- *Replacement* instead of replace
- *Removal* instead of remove
- *Maintenance* instead of maintain

However, the root form of the verb may be used when it does not make a word when ending in noun suffixes.

For example,

- *Control*
- *Release*
- *Care*

Lastly, the verb with a suffix of –ing may be used when the root form of the verb may cause ambiguity in the meaning, i.e. the root form of the verb could also be a physical object.

For example,

- *Wiring* instead of wire
- *Suturing* instead of suture
- *Splinting* instead of splint
- *Mapping* instead of map
- *Grafting* instead of graft

Exceptions,

Common usage may dictate some exceptions.

For example,

- *Repair* instead of repairment

Although 'repairment' may be considered a valid word, its use has fallen out of common usage in comparison to 'repair'.



Check for approved and unapproved naming patterns in the [Precoordination Naming Pattern Project](#).

Past tense

A past tense verbal phrase should not be used to name a procedure, since it indicates that the procedure was done in the past.

Unacceptable example,

- *Hand tendon ganglion excised* indicates the procedure was done, as a past tense declarative statement.

However, the following is an acceptable example using a noun phrase,

- 11227005 | Excision of ganglion of tendon sheath of hand (procedure)|



Situation hierarchy

Existing descriptions containing past tense verbs should be moved to the 243796009 | Situation with explicit context (situation)| hierarchy.