7.5 Displaying

A number of options exist for displaying SNOMED CT expressions, including:

- Displaying the expression using compositional grammar in its originally authored and stored form;
- Displaying the human-readable term that was shown to the user when originally selecting the expression;
- Enhancing the compositional grammar by adding in terms that may have been omitted, or replacing the existing terms with either local-dialect Preferred Terms or Fully Specified Names;
- Enhancing the display by using different font colors for each different part of the expression (e.g. identifiers, terms, vertical bars, and operators), and by using whitespace in a way that improves the readability of the expression;
- Automatically transforming the expression into a human-readable term using a predefined algorithm. For example, a simple algorithm may just remove the concept identifiers and nesting – e.g. "fracture of bone: finding site = arm, laterality = left". More sophisticated algorithms may use pattern matching and predefined templates to construct a more natural term – e.g. "fracture of bone in left arm";
- Representing the attribute values of the expression by populating a structured form. This approach is primarily suited to expressions with a consistent template, where the form can be pre-designed. However populating dynamically-generated forms from an expression is possible.

Please note that while various options exist, care should be taken to ensure that the selected solution is medico-legally safe and acceptable.