4.1. Reference Set Types and Descriptors

SNOMED International specifies a set of reference set types, which describes its own specific properties. This means that reference sets that are developed to conform to a specified pattern will have the same release file format as other reference sets of the same type.

The pattern of a specific reference set type is described by a Descriptor Template. This means that the Descriptor Template is represented by a set of members of the 900000000000456007 | Reference set descriptor reference set (foundation metadata concept)|.

All Descriptor Templates present in the international Release of SNOMED CT can be found in the reference set Descriptor.

All reference sets that are released as part of the International Edition or from a National Release Center will have an associated Descriptor Template for the reference set. Where using a reference set for which a Descriptor Template has not been created, and additional information about the reference set is needed, the Descriptor Template of the closest ancestor of the concept describing the reference set that does have a Descriptor Template may be used. This means that a reference sets with no specified Descriptor Template inherits the Template from its supertype.

An organization that releases reference sets should only release them without Descriptor Templates if the reference set follows a predefined pattern or if it is sure that its consumers do not require the information held within the Descriptor Template. You should note that Descriptor Templates are optional for other organizations, besides from SNOMED International, that create reference sets that do not follow a predefined pattern. However, we strongly recommend to specify the reference set descriptor template in the reference set Descriptor, to support automatic processing, validation and sharing of the reference sets. The diagram below illustrates the different reference set types and highlight some of the specific reference sets that are included in the International Edition of SNOMED CT.

Reference set (foundation metadata concept) Annotation type reference set (foundation metadata concept) Association type reference set (foundation metadata concept) Reference Sets following Attribute value type reference set (foundation metadata concept) the pattern of Complex Code to expression type reference set (foundation metadata concept) map type reference set Complex map type reference set (foundation metadata concept) ICD-9-CM equivalence complex map reference set (foundation metadata concept) - International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification reimbursement complex map reference set (foundation metadata cor Reference Set International Classification of Primary Care, Second edition complex map reference set (foundation metadata concept) patterns included in Concept model reference set (foundation metadata concept) the International Description format reference set (foundation metadata concept) Edition Extended map type reference set (foundation metadata concept) Language type reference set (foundation metadata concept) English [International Organization for Standardization 639-1 code en] language reference set (foundation metadata concept) GMDN language reference set (foundation metadata concept) Spanish [International Organization for Standardization 639-1 code es] language reference set (foundation metadata concept) Map correlation and origin type reference set (foundation metadata concept) Reference Sets following Module dependency reference set (foundation metadata concept) Ordered type reference set (foundation metadata concept) the pattern of Language Query specification type reference set (foundation metadata concept) type reference set Simple query specification reference set (foundation metadata concept) Reference set descriptor reference set (foundation metadata concept) Simple map type reference set (foundation metadata concept) Simple type reference set (foundation metadata concept)

Figure 4.1-1: Reference set types and reference sets included in the International Edition of SNOMED CT