2. Subsets, Value Sets and Reference Sets

In this section, we define some important terms that are used throughout this guide. In particular, subset, value set and reference set.

Subset and value set are general terms that are not specific to SNOMED CT. However, it is important to understand what they mean, and how they relate to SNOMED CT reference sets.

In summary:

- A subset is a set of members all of which are members of another set (from set theory in mathematics).
- A value set is a uniquely identifiable set of valid concept representations, where any concept representation can be tested to determine whether or not it is a member of the value set.
- A reference set is a standard format for maintaining and distributing a set of references to SNOMED CT components.

In the following subsections, we describe each of these terms in more detail.

- 2.1. Subset2.2. Value Set2.3. Reference Set