

# Introduction to Reference Sets

## Presenters

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## Audience

SNOMED CT National Release Centers (NRCs), clinicians, developers, vendors and data analysts.

## Abstract

SNOMED CT reference sets provide a standard way of representing a set of references to SNOMED CT components. Reference sets are used to customize the terminology to meet a wide range of practical requirements, including constraining a search to a specific subset of SNOMED CT, or performing a map from a local code system to SNOMED CT.

This tutorial provides an introduction to SNOMED CT reference sets, and explains the purpose and design of a range of different types of reference sets. The reference set development process, and implementation considerations are also explored.

## Objectives

After attending this tutorial, the participant should be able to:

- Explain the difference between a subset, a value set, and a references set
- Describe the purposes for which reference sets may be used
- Summarize the different types of reference sets and provide example use cases for each
- Describe the phases of reference set development and implementation

## References

- Practical Guide to Reference Sets - <http://snomed.org/refsetpg>
- Release File Specification (Reference Set Specification) - [http://snomed.org/rfs-refset\\_files](http://snomed.org/rfs-refset_files)
- IHTSDO Refset Management & Translation Tool - <https://refset.ihtsdotools.org>

## Tutorial Handout



SnomedCtExpo\_Refsets\_20181018.pdf