

2.3 Concept Definitions

Prior to the 31 July 2018 release, documentation about [concept definitions](#) focused on the central role of [defining relationships](#). Updates to enable the use of more advanced [description logic](#) features mean that some aspects of concept definitions cannot be fully represented by [defining relationships](#). Therefore, this section introduces and adopts a new focus on [concept definitions](#) and the assertions (or [axioms](#)) that form the building blocks of these definitions.

- On completion of the updates, the [stated relationship file](#) will be deprecated. From that point forward the [OWL axiom reference set file](#) will be the standard distribution file for the [stated view](#) of [concept definitions](#).
- The [relationship file](#) will continue to be used to distribute the [inferred view](#) of [concept definitions](#).



Glossary Definition

A [concept definition](#) is a set of one or more [axioms](#) that partially or sufficiently specify the meaning of a [SNOMED CT concept](#).

This section outlines some of the features of concept definitions and the impact of different ways of representing concept definitions on the precision and completeness of those definitions. This section has been kept as brief as possible and is only intended to raise awareness of the changes. For those interested in understanding more about each of the topics mentioned, a more detailed appendix is provided which illustrates each of the points made in this section.

Overview of this Section	Overview of Supporting Appendix
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.3.1 Stated and Inferred Concept Definitions• 2.3.2 Necessary Conditions and Sufficient Definitions• 2.3.3 Additional Logic Features• 2.3.4 Representing Concept Definitions	Appendix D: Concept Definition Illustrations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D.1 Stated and Inferred Definitions - Examples• D.2 Necessary and Sufficient - Examples