

textual definition

A narrative text explanation of the meaning of a [concept](#) that may exceed the maximum permitted length for a [fully specified name](#).

Notes

- *Textual definitions* are optional and are only provided for a limited number of [concepts](#), where there is a requirement additional detail.
- *Textual definitions* are distributed as [descriptions](#) with a [description type](#) `900000000000550004 | Definition (core metadata concept)`.
- A file that conforms to the standard [description file](#) format is used to distribute *textual definitions*. However, *descriptions* in this file have a maximum permitted length of 4096 characters.



Textual definitions should not be confused with the formal logic definitions of concepts expressed using [OWL axioms](#) or [defining relationships](#).

Example

- One use of *textual definitions* is to indicate alignment of a [SNOMED CT concept](#) with a specific clinical definition of a condition. For example `11530004 | Brittle diabetes mellitus (disorder)` has the following textual definition:
 - `11530004 | Diabetes mellitus in which there are frequent, clinically significant fluctuations in blood glucose levels both above and below levels expected to be achieved by available therapies.`

Related Links

- [Term](#)
- [Fully specified name](#)
- Release File Specification
 - [4.2.2 Description File Specification](#)