



SNOMED CT

International Edition

Release Notes – Medical Devices Addition

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Version 1.0

Amendment History

Version	Date	Editor	Comments
1.0	20140919	RTU	Initial version

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1 Introduction

The SNOMED CT terminology provides a common language that enables a consistent way of indexing, storing, retrieving, and aggregating clinical data across specialties and sites of care. The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO®) maintains the SNOMED CT technical design, content architecture, SNOMED CT content and related technical documentation.

This document covers the background of medical devices in SNOMED CT and the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature (GMDN) and goes on to cover the new medical devices content in the SNOMED CT International Edition. It is not a detailed technical document of SNOMED CT, GMDN or the SNOMED CT International Medical Devices release, and nor does it seek to provide an editorial policy for medical devices.

2 Audience for this document

This document should be read by all those (National Release Centers, WHO-FIC Collaborating Centers, vendors of electronic health records, terminology developers and managers) with an interest in medical device development in SNOMED CT.

3 Background

The joint IHTSDO Management Board and General Assembly in October 2010 decided to work towards a harmonization agreement with the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature Agency (GMDNA), owners of the Global Medical Devices Nomenclature (GMDN). They intended the content of GMDN to be integrated with the basic terminological content of the medical devices component of the SNOMED CT International Edition. In April 2012 the discussions between the IHTSDO and GMDNA culminated in the signing of a harmonization agreement which permits the IHTSDO to use the content of GMDN as the basis for the medical device component of SNOMED CT, and conversely, the GMDN Agency to use SNOMED CT medical device content to inform GMDN development. The collaboration is consistent with the aims of both organizations to minimize duplication of effort and support international harmonization.

4 Release content

4.1 Overview

The medical devices content corresponds to the GMDN database as of July 31st, 2014. All components have initial states with EffectiveTime = 20140731. No historical records have been retained from Technology Previews. Therefore, this release has no delta files, and the snapshot and full files have the same set of component states.

4.2 Status of content

The medical devices content in these files is released as an addendum to the July 2014 SNOMED CT International Edition. The files in this distribution may be imported alongside the July 2014 SNOMED CT International Edition.

The content in these files will appear in the January 2015 distribution with effective times and component identifiers unchanged.

In January 2015 and in subsequent releases, medical devices content derived from GMDN will be distributed in, and at the time of, the SNOMED CT International Edition, and not separately to it.

4.3 Content detail

Under the Harmonization agreement between the IHTSDO and the GMDNA, active GMDN Preferred Terms were considered for inclusion in the SNOMED CT International Edition (22,500 terms). Of these approximately 14,500 were In Vitro Diagnostic medical device (IVD) terms. IVD terms were authored to a different level of granularity than the rest of the GMDN content. The increased level of detail was discussed and the IHTSDO decided not to include them in SNOMED CT until a compelling use case for the IVD terms was identified.

The number of medical devices concepts added to the SNOMED CT International Edition was 10088, plus 3 metadata concepts.

Each new SNOMED CT concept has at least 2 descriptions (Fully Specified Name and Synonym(s)). Following International Edition editorial policies, GB and US spelling variants were generated as necessary and the preferences reflected in the corresponding language reference sets.

A simple map reference set (467614008|GMDN simple map reference set) is included, to enable the tracking of the relationship between SNOMED CT concepts and GMDN terms across releases.