New concept proposal

Department

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Project	General interest	Contact	DCC
Dataset release	2024.1	Consulted expert	Pierre Chodanowski, Katie Kalt

1   Rationale

In the context of data provenance, the information provided by the concept Data provider Institute may not feature sufficient granularity. Hospitals or other institutions are often divided into departments or divisions which means there is more than a single point of exit for data export. In a hospital context, this could for example represent (research) data from a department for clinical research or (routine) data from a clinical data warehouse which may imply different liabilities or accreditation levels.

2   Comparison to other standards/data models

2.1   SNOMED CT

SNOMED CT features the term "Hospital department (environment)" (SNOMED CT: 284548004 | Hospital department (environment)). It has 15 direct descendants including "Accident and Emergency department (environment)" (225728007), Medical department (309912009), or Surgical department (309967005), many of which in turn have descendants (28 in total). These terms refer to departments as their physical locations (environments) within a hospital rather than organizational subunits.

2.2   NCIT

NCIT defines the term "Department" as "A specialized division of a large organization." (C42671), thereby being more general than the SNOMED CT: 284548004 (Hospital department (environment)).

3   Concept information

Concept or concept compositions or inherited	General concept name	General description	Contextualized concept name	Contextualized description	Type	Standard	Value set or subset	Meaning binding	Cardinality for composed Of
Concept	Department	dedicated division of an organization	Department	dedicated division of an organization				NCIT:C42671 |Department|	
composedOf	name	name associated to the concept	department name	name of the department within an organization	string				1:1

Concept cardinalities:

General concept name	cardinality for concept to Administrative Case	cardinality for concept to Data Provider	cardinality for concept to Subject Pseudo Identifier	cardinality for concept to Source System
Department				

Leave field(s) empty if not applicable.

4 Impact on the SPHN Dataset

Optional (if existing concepts need to be adapted because of this new concept, state here the currently released version of the existing concept and the proposed adapted version)

The new concept Department will be incorporated into the concept Data Provider, an extension to the existing Data Provider Institute (by change request).

5 Discussion

The concept Department is rather minimalistic in its currently proposed form, only holding a name, so in principle it would be possible to add it to Data Provider as a composedOf. As departments themselves have additional properties which may be of interest in the future, for example, an address, Department is proposed as a concept rather than a property of a Data Provider. This renders it more flexible for future (re-)use.

An additional composedOf 'code' for the 'Department' concept has been considered initially. Such codes, however, would most likely be locally used abbreviations or codes not adding to interoperability. Given that it is unlikely that there are suitable standards this idea has been dropped.

The preferred language for values of the composedOf 'name' is English, it should be used whenever applicable and possible to increase accessibility across regions and language boundaries.

Currently, the concept 'Department' is only used in the context of the concept 'Data Provider' (release 2024.1). As 'Data Provider' features a composedOf 'department', a "cardinality for the concept to Data Provider" is not specified (see 3. Concept information).

6 Example

6.1 Example 1

Department
    name: Department für Klinische Forschung (DKF) *[=Department for Clinical Research)]*

6.2 Example 2

Department
    name: Universitätsinstitut für Klinische Chemie (UKC) *[=Department of Clinical Chemistry)]*

6.3 Example 3

Department
    name: Zentrum für Labormedizin (ZLM) *[= Center for Laboratory Medicine]*