

Benefits of SNOMED CT

In essence, recording of clinical data using SNOMED CT will enable consistent communication of patient data across different healthcare systems.

In addition, data collated from the same or across different systems can be consistently retrieved and analysed to support evidenced based care and service improvement.

- It provides for the capture of clinical information at the different levels required by different healthcare professions.
- Through sharing data in a common form it can dramatically reduce the need to repeat health history at each new encounter with a healthcare professional.
- Information can be recorded by different people in different locations and combined into simple information views within the patient record.
- Use of a common terminology decreases the potential for differing interpretation of the same information.
- Electronic recording in a consistent way reduces errors and can help to ensure record completeness.
- A clinical terminology allows identification of patients based on specified information, to effectively manage screening, treatments and follow up.

Help and guidance with SNOMED CT

The UK Terminology Centre (UKTC) develops and distributes the content within SNOMED CT along with other products that support its implementation in systems.

The UKTC also provides a range of user and technical guidance, webinars, eLearning, case studies, presentations and videos which can be found at:

systems.digital.nhs.uk/data/uktc/training

Helpdesk
information.standards@nhs.net

Find out more

Visit: systems.digital.nhs.uk/data/uktc

Email: snomedtraining@nhs.net

Other SNOMED links

Distribution site for SNOMED CT
isd.digital.nhs.uk/trud3

SNOMED community on NHS Networks
www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/snomed-ct

dm+d (NHS dictionary of medicines and devices)
www.dmd.nhs.uk

SNOMED CT

Providing the content
for clinical data in patient
records across all healthcare



Information and technology
for better health and care

What is SNOMED CT?

SNOMED Clinical Terms (CT) is a national vocabulary of clinical phrases for use within health and care systems.

When used in patient health records this provides for consistent recording across all healthcare domains. Data captured using SNOMED CT also allows such data to be transferred seamlessly between systems and enables features such as decision support and clinical alerts.

SNOMED CT has been chosen as the single terminology for use across the NHS in England.

A common terminology can support improvement to patient care by enabling reliable electronic communications and processing of data within and across different systems.

SNOMED CT complements the classifications already in use within healthcare; such as OPCS-4 and ICD-10.

Classifications are used to categorise episodes of care to support the identification of patient groups for activities such as clinical audit, business planning, and epidemiology.

SNOMED CT is used to record clinical details of individuals in electronic patient records and supports informed decision making and record based analysis.

How much do you know?

SNOMED CT is short for 'Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms'

It covers diseases, symptoms, operations, observations, treatments, devices and drugs.

All organisations are expected to be using SNOMED CT in patient records by 2020; primary care is planned to have moved to SNOMED CT by April 2018.

It is expected that everyone will use SNOMED CT if they are involved with:

- recording clinical information
- reporting across patient data
- retrieval and analysis of patient records.

Those entering or reading clinical data will benefit from a basic understanding of SNOMED CT.

Those involved with the classifications coding or information analysis will benefit from a more detailed understanding of SNOMED CT.

SNOMED CT is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual, clinical healthcare terminology in the world.

Why SNOMED CT?

All healthcare, all clinical specialties

It provides content for all healthcare professions and clinical specialties. It's dynamic so it continues to support today's clinical practice.

Improved expressivity

SNOMED CT provides the different levels of detail in clinical phrases required by both clinical specialities and general practitioners. For example, microbiology and radiography are more extensively represented in SNOMED CT than in Read v2.

International

It is an international terminology, which can support cross-border data communications and language translation; while providing a more efficient market for systems development and technology offerings.

Supports logical analysis of data

The features within SNOMED CT provide a wide range of analysis techniques to support clinical audit and research work.

Today's technology, an evolution

It has been developed with the knowledge of previous terminologies, while embracing the requirements of today's technologies to ensure it can support features such as decision support, clinical alerts and knowledge base enquiries.