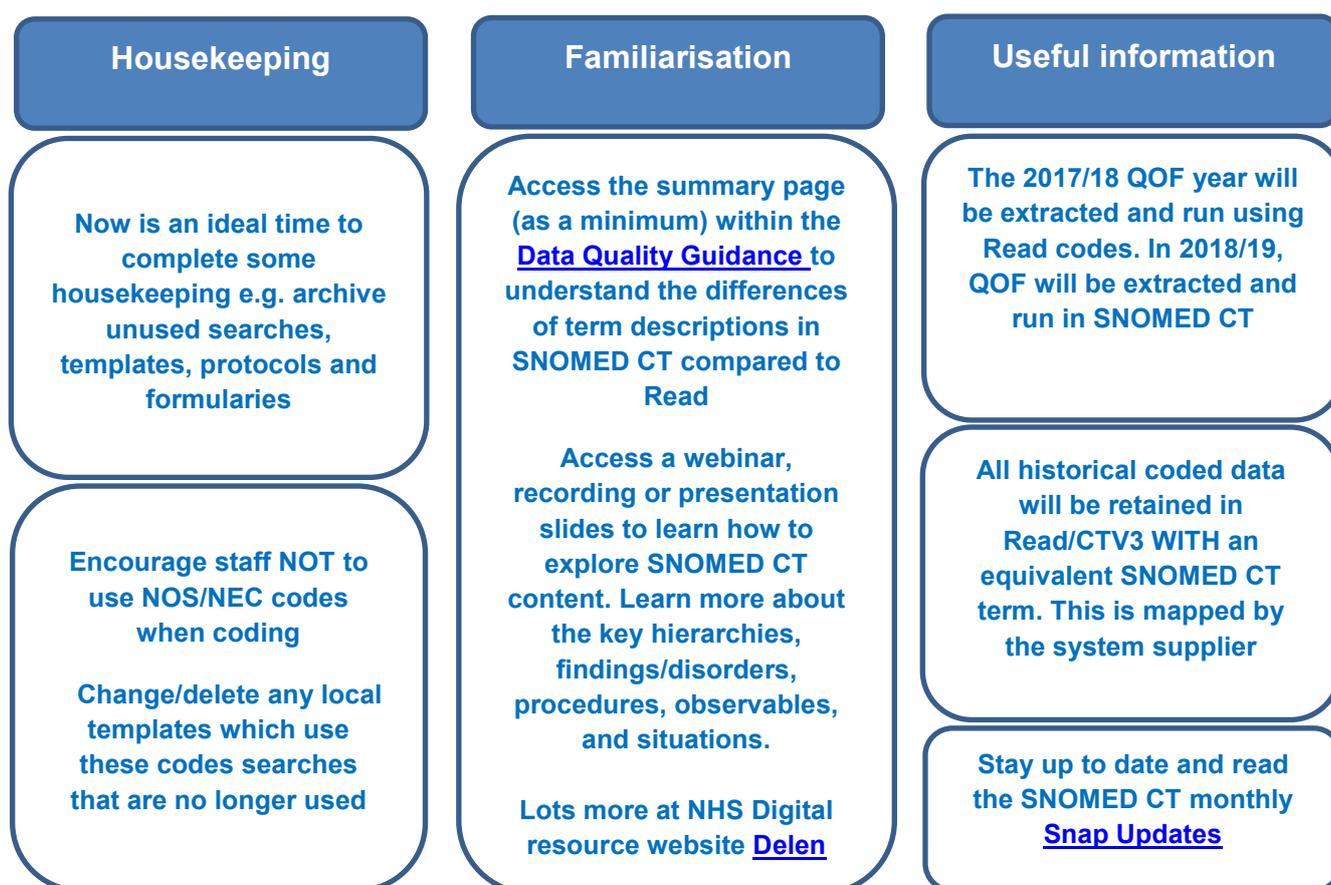


## SNOMED CT GP practices – are you prepared?

SNOMED CT is the clinical terminology chosen to replace Read codes within the NHS. Coded information that is currently received from GP systems is in Read codes; this will change to SNOMED CT. Implementation is scheduled in England from April 2018 in General Practice in a phased approach.

Below are some suggestions that GP practices can do now to prepare for transition to SNOMED CT. This list is not exhaustive; CCG leads will provide practices with local guidance and support and your clinical system supplier will provide training on the system functionality.



### Dual coding

- Existing data will be retained in Read/CTV3 and will also have an equivalent SNOMED CT term. For a limited time during the transition period, the system will generate the equivalent in Read/CTV 3 when new data is entered using SNOMED CT.
- Dual coding will give GP practices more time to transition; existing searches, templates and protocols etc will continue to work while dual coding is available. This will give users more time to update these as needed.
- There are significantly more SNOMED CT codes than Read codes, so over time it is recommended users review, amend or create their searches to reflect the greater choice of codes. Also, some codes may move positions in the SNOMED CT hierarchy, which could affect search results. However, it is expected the effect to be minimal, usually reflecting cases where the Read code hierarchy was incorrect.