SNOMED Clinical Terms
UK Edition
Release Notes: UK Refsets

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Purpose of this document

This document provides information relating to the Reference Sets (refsets) provided within the UK Edition of SNOMED CT\(^1\). Further information on SNOMED CT and refsets can be found at: https://hscic.kahootz.com/connect.ti/t_c_home/view?objectId=299027#299027

For a full description on the use, technical structure and implementation of SNOMED CT and refsets; please refer to the Practical Guide to Reference sets, the SNOMED International Starter Guide and the SNOMED International Technical Implementation Guide (TIG) provided within the Document Library on the SNOMED International website.

\(^1\) SNOMED\(^\circledR\) and SNOMED CT\(^\circledR\) are registered trademarks of the SNOMED International \(^\circledR\) http://www.snomed.org
1. Introduction

This document is provided for those who may wish to use the SNOMED CT refsets provided within the release files of the UK Extension; this document covers Release Format 2 (RF2). Artefacts previously referred to as subsets in RF1 are referred to as reference sets or refsets in RF2 (see Reference Set Release Files Specification for further information).

SNOMED CT refsets have a range of purposes and vary in size from a single member to ones with over 100,000 members. The common uses of refsets in systems include:

- To simplify the user interface
- To improve data quality
- To maintain consistency between different organisations
- To enable interoperability between different clinical systems
- To support statutory reporting requirements
- Any combination of the above

This release document provides a summary of the changes that can be found within the October 2018 release. A brief description of the UK refsets included in the October 2018 release of the UK Clinical Edition of SNOMED CT can now be found within the on-line Data Dictionary for Care (http://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk); information on international refsets can be found within the international release.

Refsets are a derivative of the UK Edition of SNOMED CT and should be used in conjunction with the main release files. A human readable version of the contents of most refsets are available via the NHS Digital SNOMED CT browser (https://termbrowser.nhs.uk) under the refset tab.

A human readable pack is available on TRUD that enables end users to view the concepts in a refset with the preferred term description provided. The pack will contain a member list of all refsets that are provided as part of the national release. The ‘usage category’ within the Data Dictionary for Care (http://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk) will indicate which pack(s) contains an individual refset.

1.1. Scope

The scope of this document is the SNOMED CT UK refsets (RF2) released in the UK Clinical Edition. Except where otherwise specified, all UK Edition refsets are of national use rather than local use and of potential relevance to all health professions, system suppliers, record and messaging designers.

1.2. Out of scope

The dm+d, DMD Realm, Drug, Drug Language and e-Prescribing refsets have not been included in the Biannual SNOMED CT Clinical Release since April 2010. These refsets are supplied as part of the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension and are updated and released on a 4 weekly basis. Details are found in the Data Dictionary for Care (https://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk).

1.3. Release Formats

The UK SNOMED CT Edition is now released in Release Format 2 only. Within RF2, subsets are referred to as Reference sets therefore the term used throughout this document
is Refset. Please refer to the SNOMED CT Starter Guide and the SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide by SNOMED International to aid further understanding of the structure and content of SNOMED CT and the specific detail regarding subsets and Refsets. The Refsets are provided in the Refset folder within the terminology folder in RF2.

A spreadsheet format is available for most subsets and links to the relevant packs can be found on the Data Dictionary for Care.

1.4. Management, quality assurance and validation

Many refsets are dynamic (intensional, based on a query specification) and can vary from release to release, except where specified as static (extensional, based on a specific hand-picked set of concepts). Future releases of refsets are subject to iterative refinement both as a result of end-user feedback and upon review at each subsequent SNOMED CT release in relation to the original specification. Refsets may need to change in both size and range if underpinning policy is revised or underlying SNOMED CT content changes.

Named refset owners are responsible for the quality assurance and maintenance of their refset and for managing changes to the refset which may result from the content changes in the bi-annual release. The details of who owns each refset is provided in the Data Dictionary for Care http://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk

The IReS Terminology Product Development Lifecycle is used to guide product status and notice periods. Where refsets have no current owner or specific use case defined, they are only maintained using a technical process for applying SNOMED CT content updates; i.e. there is no clinical effort applied over and above re-running the refset specification and reconciling any retirements to their replacements.

2. General information in relation to the national refsets

2.1. NHS Realm Language Refset

In an implementation using the RF2 files, the Realm Language Refset should be used to provide the UK FSN, Preferred Term and Synonyms. It should be noted that this contains content from the UK Drug Extension as well as the UK Clinical Extension. Please find further information regarding the NHS Realm Language Refset in section 2.5.2 of the SNOMED CT General Overview document (doc_UKSnomedCTGeneralOverview_Current-en-GB_GB1000000_YYYYMMDD).

2.2. Editorial policy of refsets and the use of exclusion refsets

As a matter of general policy, refsets are developed to exclude:

- Inactive content
- Default exclusion filter

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2 IReS – Information Representation Services
This default exclusion filter refset is designed for use by the refset service in the maintenance of refsets to filter concepts from refsets that are unlikely to be of utility in the health record of an individual. Typically this includes:

- Structural concepts in SNOMED CT e.g. Navigational concepts and concept modelling concepts
- Grouping concepts, e.g. finding of ability of... and ....status (but not the concepts intended for the record)
- And/or and Or concepts, where the meaning would not be clear in the record. Some exceptions exist, particularly where a concept describes an untoward incident.

There are a small number of concepts that are included from this exclusion refset for operational reasons, to suppress duplicate concepts identified during the refset development process. These will be resolved in the usual way in a later publication of the terminology.

2.3. Requests for change

Unless stated otherwise (for example where requests go through the owner of the refset), requests for changes to refsets will be handled via the Request Submission Portal. Any requests for change can be submitted to http://isd.digital.nhs.uk/rsp which is also able to handle multiple request submissions. Other enquiries in relation to refsets should be submitted to information.standards@nhs.net with the subject line ‘SNOMED CT Refset Service’.

2.4. Refsets containing UK Drug Extension members

The following refsets contain concepts from the UK Drug Extension as well as from the UK Clinical Edition; in order to use these you need to ensure you have the UK Clinical Edition as well as the UK Drug Extension.

For this bi-annual release the drug members will be from the 25.5.0 UK Drug Extension release (2018-08-08). Note: This release 25.5.0 is synchronous with the 2018-01-31 International release.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RefsetId</th>
<th>Refset Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99900040100000107</td>
<td>Device Type simple reference set</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **New in this release**

There are no new refsets for the October 2018 release.

4. **Notification of deprecation**

The following refsets have been removed from the October 2018 SNOMED CT UK Edition release:
- Allergies and Adverse Reaction Groups
- Allergy Or Adverse Reaction DE SnCT
- Allergy Or Adverse Reaction Ident SnCT
- Care Plan Agreement
- Care plan review
- Care Planning Health Objectives
- Food allergens
- Former Limited-Status Concepts Imported from Core
- Instantiable CRE (care record element) types
- Mobility Issues
- NHS CHC (continuing healthcare) acceptance message type
- NHS CHC (continuing healthcare) encounter
- NHS CHC (continuing healthcare) rejection message type
- NHS CHC (continuing healthcare) respond to document type
- Non-food substance allergens
- Ophthalmology adnexal diagnosis
- Ophthalmology cataract diagnosis
- Ophthalmology cornea diagnosis
- Ophthalmology external diagnosis
- Ophthalmology glaucoma diagnosis
- Ophthalmology medical retinal diagnosis
- Ophthalmology paediatric diagnosis
- Ophthalmology refractive diagnosis
- Ophthalmology strabismus diagnosis
- Ophthalmology vitreoretinal diagnosis
- UK Extension GB English Dialect Subset
- United Kingdom Extension Great Britain English Dialect

The following refsets are expected to be deprecated in the April 2019 release as part of ongoing clinical governance and quality improvement activity.
- Care planning needs
- Emergency admission procedures
- Finding
- Surgical Procedures
- Urology outpatient diagnosis

5. **Changes to refset distribution**

It was proposed that from October 2018, refsets will be separated from the main release. This is still under evaluation and feedback is welcomed. This proposal has been deferred to
April 2019. This is due to a change in the schedule of the development of the terminology tooling used to create the refsets.

6. **Refset list and metadata**

A full list of refsets and associated information is now published on the Data Dictionary for Care available at [https://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk](https://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk)

This information includes:

- Subset Name; Subset Original Id; Subset Type; (historical reference)
- Refset Fully Specified Name; Refset Id; Refset Type;
- Subset Description: A simple textual description
- Viewable At: A link to where the content can be viewed. By default this will be the SNOMED International web browser, using the refset Id, where the full membership list is displayed under the ‘Members’ tab
- Subset Status; Subset Status Date;
- Owner (Organisation name);
- Purpose and Scope
- Usage Description: Text description of intended use.
- Geographic Usage:
- Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria by sex and age
- Subject Category;
- Subset Release Category: (For example UK Clinical Extension, or UK Drug Extension)
- Folder Name and File Name: To assist with location within the RF1 release.

6.1. **Metadata Download**

The entire list of refsets can be downloaded as an Excel file form the Data Dictionary for Care ([https://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk](https://dd4c.digital.nhs.uk)). Select ‘Subset Metadata’ in the drop down box on the upper left of the page, then select the lower ‘SEARCH’ button. This will return a full list. The ‘Export to Excel’ button will appear at the top left of the resulting list.

For any queries relating to the Data Dictionary for Care, please use the ‘Contact Us’ link on the web pages.