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# SNOMED CT<sup>®</sup> UK Drug Extension

## General Overview of UK Drug Extension Reference Sets

**Document covers data provided in Release  
Format 2 of SNOMED CT**

# Document management

## Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	October 2009	Summary of Changes not available for this version
1.1	March 2010	Summary of Changes not available for this version
2.0	October 2010	Summary of Changes not available for this version
3.0	October 2011	Summary of Changes not available for this version
4.0	February 2012	Summary of Changes not available for this version
5.0	July 2012	Summary of Changes not available for this version
6.0	26-Mar-2013	Changes from 'Core' release to 'International' release Rebranded as HSCIC
6.1	10-Oct-2013	Correction of status for UK Language subset
7.0	28-May-2014	Update to include RF2 release
8.0	17-Sep-2014	Contact details updated
9.0	07-Jan-2015	Removal of the Administrative changes section. Update of contact details
10.0	27-May-2015	Revised document format. Inclusion of new subsets
11.0	06-Jan-2016	Inclusion of new subsets
12.0	22-Jun-2016	Inclusion of new subsets
13.0	05-Aug-2016	Inclusion of new subset and name change for QOF nicotine replacement subset. Update to new corporate document format
14.0	01-Feb-2017	Inclusion of new Enhanced Services subsets
15.0	01-Apr-2018	Change UKTC to UK NRC (UK National Release Centre)
16.0	16-May-2018	Inclusion of new refsets
17.0	11-Jul-2018	Inclusion of new refsets and removal of Seasonal Flu vaccines subset
18.0	08-Aug-2018	Inclusion of new refset
19.0	01-Oct-2018	Removal of Great Britain English language subsets
20.0	31-Oct-2018	Inclusion of new refset
20.1	20-Feb-2019	Inclusion of new refsets
20.2	20-Mar-2019	Inclusion of new refsets
20.3	15-May-2019	Inclusion of new refset
20.4	04-Sep-2019	Inclusion of new dm+d Association refset
20.4	02-Oct-2019	Inclusion of new refsets
20.5	30-Oct-2019	Inclusion of new refset
20.7	19-Feb-2020	Inclusion of new refsets
20.8	15-Apr-2020	Inclusion of new COVID-19 refsets
20.9	13-May-2020	Inclusion of new refsets, title renamed from Subset to Reference Set

## Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

Reviewer name	Title / Responsibility	Date	Version
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Stuart Abbott	SABBOTT	Senior Terminology Specialist	30-Oct-2019	20.5

## Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
dm+d	NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices
IHTSDO	International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization
NHSBSA	National Health Service Business Services Authority

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## Purpose of this Document

This document provides information relating to the reference sets provided within the SNOMED CT<sup>1</sup> UK Drug Extension. Further information on SNOMED CT and reference sets can be found at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/snomed-ct>

For a full description on the use, technical structure and implementation of SNOMED CT and reference sets, please refer to the SNOMED International Starter Guide and the SNOMED International Technical Implementation Guide (TIG) provided within the Document Library on the SNOMED International website (<https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/DOC>).

## Introduction

This document is provided for those who may wish to use the SNOMED CT reference sets provided within the release files of the UK Drug Extension in Release Format 2 (RF2). Reference sets provided in RF2 are also referred to as *refsets* (see Section 3.2.1 the TIG for further information). This document uses the term 'refsets' throughout. Some refsets are also subsets of SNOMED CT components. The term subset was widely used with SNOMED CT Release Format 1 but is less commonly used in RF2.

You can find definitions for [reference set](#) and [subset](#) in the [SNOMED Glossary](#).

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 use 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

A brief description of the UK refsets included in the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension can now be found within the on-line [Data Dictionary for Care](#); information on international refsets can be found with the international release.

Refsets are a derivative of the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension and should be used in conjunction with the SNOMED CT UK Edition files. Except where otherwise specified, all refsets are of national use rather than local use and of potential relevance to all health professions, system suppliers, record and messaging designers.

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## Scope

The scope of this document is the SNOMED CT UK refsets (RF2) released in the UK Drug extension.

## Release Formats

The SNOMED CT UK Clinical Edition was previously released in 2 formats: Release Format 1 (RF1) and Release Format 2 (RF2).

From 18 April 2018 the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension is only fully supported in RF2 format.

The 1 April 2018 Edition was the final publication of the data in RF1 format.

In most cases each of the concept subsets within the RF1 release have been provided as a simple reference set in the RF2 release, and each description subset in RF1 has an equivalent language reference set in RF2. This is the delivery mechanism RF2 uses for such artefacts. RF2 has an inbuilt mechanism for managing the history of such a subset at a given point within its file structure and data. Please refer to the SNOMED International SNOMED CT Starter Guide<sup>2</sup> and the SNOMED International SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide<sup>3</sup> to aid your understanding of the structure and content of SNOMED CT and of the specific detail relating to reference sets.

The refset files are additional to the core tables included in the release and are provided in the Refset folder in RF2. Refsets of the same type in a folder are provided in a single file within that folder for ease of implementation.

## Management, Quality Assurance and Validation

Refsets are dynamic (based on a query specification) and can vary from release to release, (based on a specific hand-picked set of concepts). Future releases of refsets are subject to iterative refinement both because 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 the size and scope of the files if underpinning policy is revised or underlying SNOMED CT content changes.

Where refsets have no current owner or specific use case defined, they are only maintained using a technical process for SNOMED CT content updates; there is no clinical effort applied over and above re-running the refset specification and reconciling any retirements to their replacements.

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 or dm+d data.

Information on individual refsets including ownership, purpose, scope and status are now made available on line at the [Data Dictionary for Care](#) rather than in this document.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://snomed.org/starter>

<sup>3</sup> <http://snomed.org/tig>

## General Information in relation to refsets

### NHS Realm Language Reference set

Some domains of use require language refsets (formerly known as description subsets in RF1) to identify their preferred descriptions for use with the concepts identified by the refset (as opposed to concept based refsets where the preferred term is used for the description of the concept). Wherever possible, descriptions are harmonised with the NHS Realm Language refset, but where this is not possible a language refset enables the required synonym to be identified. As a general rule the specialist professional bodies for a given domain of use will guide the content of the NHS Realm Language reference set and thus individual language refsets will only be developed where a particular professional body identifies specific descriptions different to those in the NHS Realm Language Reference set.

In an implementation using the RF2 files, the NHS Realm Language reference set should be used to provide the UK FSN, Preferred Term and Synonyms.

### Requests for Change

Unless stated otherwise (for example where requests go through the owner of the refset), requests for changes to SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension refsets will be handled via [information.standards@nhs.net](mailto:information.standards@nhs.net) with the subject line 'SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension Refset Request'.

### Historical refsets

Refsets may be withdrawn over time for a number of reasons. This information will now be provided within the Data Dictionary for Care as part of the information held on the refset. Refsets which are no longer released will be shown with the status of "Deprecated". In RF2 the details will be available in the release of type 'Full' if the refset metadata concept remains active, but all members of the refset will be inactive.

When the refset metadata concept is made Inactive the membership of the refset will not be published in any of the data release formats (Delta, Snapshot and Full) leaving no history of the refset membership.

## List of Refsets included in the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension Release

Subset Original ID	Refset ID	Subset Name
<b>Clinical Messaging</b>		
1391000000139		Manufactured Material
<b>DMD</b>		
801000001139		NHS dm+d AMP
1001000001133		NHS dm+d AMPP
9801000001139		NHS dm+d CFC Free
9301000001130		NHS dm+d CSM Black Triangle Drug List
838401000001139		NHS dm+d Dose Form
30001000001134		NHS dm+d realm description subset
9601000001138		NHS dm+d Gluten Free
838301000001133		NHS dm+d Ingredient
9701000001134		NHS dm+d Preservative Free
9401000001136		NHS dm+d Parallel Import
9501000001137		NHS dm+d Sugar Free
	999000991000001107	NHS dm+d Unit of Measure
701000001134		NHS dm+d VMP
901000001131		NHS dm+d VMPP
601000001138		NHS dm+d VTM
	10991000001109	NHS dm+d association
<b>Drug</b>		
32901000001132		NHS dm+d TF
33001000001137		NHS dm+d TFG
716601000001132		NHS dm+d Combination VTM concepts
922301000001137		Allergy Archetypes Drug Groups
	999000901000001102	Learning Disabilities Observatory laxatives
	999000401000000107	Device type simple
	30931000001101	Allergy or adverse effect causative agent
	31491000001101	Radiotherapy units of measure
	51971000001109	Radiotherapy routes and methods of administration
	115231000001104	Vaccine route of administration
<b>EPrescribing</b>		
44601000001133		ePrescribing breath actuated inhaler marker
59701000001138		ePrescribing cements 17
44701000001137		ePrescribing co-name drugs rule 4
44801000001132		ePrescribing creams ointment and gels 6a
44901000001135		ePrescribing creams ointment and gels 6b
	999001081000001103	ePrescribing dose forms
45001000001135		ePrescribing dressings 14a
45101000001139		ePrescribing dressings 14b
45201000001132		ePrescribing dry powder inhaler marker
45301000001137		ePrescribing endotracheopulmonary 11b
45401000001131		ePrescribing enemas and rectal solutions 7a



45501000001130	ePrescribing enemas and rectal solutions 7b
45601000001134	ePrescribing enteral feeds 8
45701000001138	ePrescribing eye ear nose liquids and powders 4
45801000001133	ePrescribing foams 28
45901000001136	ePrescribing gases 25a
46001000001131	ePrescribing gases 25b
46101000001132	ePrescribing granules and powders 9a
46201000001139	ePrescribing granules and powders 9b
46301000001134	ePrescribing implants and sticks 15
46401000001135	ePrescribing infusions 22a
46501000001136	ePrescribing infusions 22b
46601000001137	ePrescribing inhalers and sprays 3
46701000001133	ePrescribing injections 20
46801000001138	ePrescribing instillations 29a
46901000001130	ePrescribing instillations 29b
47001000001134	ePrescribing insulin 21
47101000001130	ePrescribing IUDs 16
47201000001137	ePrescribing metered dose inhaler marker
49001000001138	ePrescribing modified release 12 hour
49101000001137	ePrescribing modified release 24 hour
47301000001132	ePrescribing multi-ingredient rule 1
47401000001138	ePrescribing nebuliser liquids 13a
47501000001139	ePrescribing nebuliser liquids 13b
47601000001135	ePrescribing never valid as a VMP rule 3
47701000001131	ePrescribing not recommended to prescribe as VMP bio-availability rule 5a
47801000001136	ePrescribing not recommended to prescribe as VMP patient training rule 5b
679201000001137	ePrescribing not recommended to prescribe as VMP no published specification rule 5c
841000001104	ePrescribing caution – actual medicinal product level prescribing advised rule 5d
47901000001133	ePrescribing no VTM rule 2
48001000001130	ePrescribing oral liquids 2a1
58301000001130	ePrescribing oral liquids 2a2
48101000001131	ePrescribing oral liquids 2b
48201000001138	ePrescribing oral solids 1
30101000001130	NHS e-Prescribing method subset
30201000001137	NHS e-Prescribing route of administration subset
48301000001133	ePrescribing schedule 1 to 3 rule 6
48401000001139	ePrescribing suppositories and pessaries 10
48501000001135	ePrescribing topical liquids 5a
48601000001136	ePrescribing topical liquids 5b
48701000001132	ePrescribing topical patches 12a
48801000001137	ePrescribing topical patches 12b
48901000001134	ePrescribing TPN 23
<b>NHSRealmDescription</b>	
625701000001130	NHS realm description subset (pharmacy part)
<b>QOFPrescribable</b>	

633801000001136		QOF - angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors prescribable within general practice
633901000001133		QOF - angiotensin II receptor antagonists prescribable within general practice
634901000001130		QOF - antiepileptic medication prescribable within general practice
635101000001131		QOF - beta-adrenoceptor blockers excluding those used in heart failure prescribable within general practice
633701000001131		QOF - beta-adrenoceptor blockers for use in coronary heart disease prescribable within general practice
635201000001138		QOF - beta-adrenoceptor blockers for use in heart failure prescribable within general practice
635401000001139		QOF - bone sparing agents prescribable within general practice
633001000001134		QOF - chronic asthma medication prescribable within general practice
633401000001138		QOF - clopidogrel medication prescribable within general practice
634001000001131		QOF - combined hormonal oral contraceptives prescribable within general practice
	999000961000001103	QOF - Drug Tariff appliance intra-uterine contraceptive devices prescribable within general practice
634101000001132		QOF - diaphragm contraceptive devices prescribable within general practice
633501000001139		QOF - dipyridamole medication prescribable within general practice
	999001001000001106	QOF - duloxetine medication prescribable within general practice
634301000001134		QOF - emergency hormonal contraceptives prescribable within general practice
	999001051000001107	QOF - enemas for treatment or prevention of constipation prescribable within general practice
634801000001138		QOF - influenza vaccines prescribable within general practice
635301000001133		QOF - lithium medication prescribable within general practice
	999001021000001104	QOF - nefopam medication prescribable within general practice
635001000001130		QOF - smoking pharmacotherapy
633201000001137		QOF - oral anticoagulant medication prescribable within general practice
	999001061000001105	QOF - prescription only medicines for treatment or prevention of constipation prescribable within general practice
634401000001135		QOF - progestogen only implant contraceptives prescribable within general practice
634501000001136		QOF - progestogen only intrauterine contraceptive systems prescribable within general practice
634601000001137		QOF - progestogen only oral contraceptives prescribable within general practice
634201000001139		QOF - progestogen only parenteral contraceptives prescribable within general practice
633301000001132		QOF - salicylate antiplatelet medication prescribable within general practice
633601000001135		QOF - statins prescribable within general practice
	999001031000001102	QOF - strong opioids for use in pain management prescribable within general practice
634701000001133		QOF - transdermal contraceptives prescribable within general practice
	999001011000001108	QOF - tricyclic antidepressants for use in pain management

	prescribable within general practice
999001041000001109	QOF - weaker opioids for use in pain management prescribable within general practice
999000971000001108	Indicators no longer in Quality and Outcomes Framework general practice extraction - direct renin inhibitors
999000981000001105	Indicators no longer in Quality and Outcomes Framework general practice extraction - hypothyroidism medication
<b>Enhanced Services</b>	
999000951000001101	Enhanced Services Antipsychotic drugs
999001101000001107	Enhanced Services Haemophilus type b (Hib) Meningitis C vaccines
989701000001136	Enhanced Services Meningococcal ACWY vaccines
989901000001139	Enhanced Services Meningococcal B vaccines
990001000001134	Enhanced Services Pneumococcal vaccines
999001091000001101	Enhanced Services Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines
990101000001130	Enhanced Services Diabetic drugs
990201000001137	Enhanced Services Immunosuppressant drugs
999000921000001109	Enhanced Services Seasonal Flu asthma inhaled corticosteroids
999000891000001103	Enhanced Services Seasonal Flu injectable vaccines
999000881000001100	Enhanced Services Seasonal Flu nasal spray vaccines
999000931000001106	National Diabetes Audit - Metformin
999000941000001104	National Diabetes Audit and NHS Health Checks - antihypertensive medication
115131000001105	Cardiovascular Disease Prevent general practice extraction - ezetimibe medication
115171000001107	Cardiovascular Disease Prevent general practice extraction - proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitor medication
225571000001105	COVID-19 general practice extraction - COPD medication
225581000001107	COVID-19 general practice extraction - corticosteroid medication
225681000001108	COVID-19 general practice extraction - post-transplant immunosuppressant medication
225631000001109	COVID-19 general practice extraction - prednisolone medication
225591000001109	COVID-19 general practice extraction - severe asthma medication
226281000001101	Learning Disabilities Observatory - antidepressant medication
226291000001104	Learning Disabilities Observatory - benzodiazepine and benzodiazepine related medication
226331000001109	Learning Disabilities Observatory - melatonin medication
226231000001100	National Diabetes Audit general practice extraction - flash glucose monitoring sensors
226271000001103	National Diabetes Audit general practice extraction - folic acid medication
226191000001107	National Diabetes Audit general practice extraction - glucose monitoring strips
133231000001105	Enhanced services general practice extraction - MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccines