

May 12, 2020

Notice: Ongoing Changes to SNOMED International Service Level Agreement

Valued Stakeholders,

Maintaining the quality of SNOMED CT is of key importance and rigorously undertaken by the organization on an ongoing basis. With this in mind, SNOMED International is initiating a process to undertake a broader examination across all hierarchies. Through the Quality Initiative (QI), we will adopt a greater focus on correcting structural anomalies as well as modification of content, resulting in a higher level of clinical accuracy.

To advance this work, SNOMED International must engage in maintenance activities and defer content updates allowing us to focus on best practice methodologies and the application of corrections to improve quality. The organization's capacity to add new content will be contingent upon available resources and clinical urgency outside the scope of our QI Initiative. The impact of this maintenance will first be reflected in the January 2019 release, with continued improvements in subsequent releases. As a result, reallocation of our internal resources to support this work may impact 'business as usual' areas.

A strategy is in place to balance the work required by the QI Initiative with requested content changes. The initial QI work will focus on the Clinical findings hierarchy, identifying problems associated with cardinality, defining attributes and relationship grouping, as well as associated quality issues in the foundation hierarchies, such as anatomy and substance. The organisation will address these areas and create templates for future quality assurance.

For content change requests, priority will be given to urgent requests that have the potential to pose clinical risk. In all cases where there is a known impact to patient care, new content can continue to be submitted in line with SNOMED International's Content Request Service Guidelines and Criteria for Content Acceptance.

Please consult the below resources to stay informed of planned changes regarding this initiative, upcoming SNOMED International Releases, as well as applicable guidelines and criteria:

- [Early Visibility](#)- *Planned improvements to upcoming SNOMED International Release packages*
- [CRS Guidelines](#)- *Content Request Service guidelines on how to request, modify or make additions to SNOMED CT.*
- [Criteria for Content Acceptance](#)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these planned activities, please contact SNOMED International at info@snomed.org.

Sincerely,

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