



SNOMED CT – Supporting Meaningful Use

Introduction

SNOMED CT® is a comprehensive clinical terminology that is freely available for use in the U.S. through the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Meaningful Use Stage 2 Rules

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and CMS have adopted SNOMED CT as one of the key vocabularies for Meaningful Use Stage 2, EHR certification, and health information exchange.

SNOMED CT has been specified in the federal regulations published in September 2012 (see Federal Register Vol. 77, No. 171), in which it is recommended for documenting patient problems, encounter diagnosis, procedures, family health history, and smoking status.

Meaningful Use Objectives Supported

1. Maintain an up-to-date problem list of current and active diagnoses
2. Record patient family health history as structure data
3. Identify and report cancer cases to a State cancer registry
4. Record and chart changes in vital signs
5. Record smoking status
6. Provide a summary care record for each transition of care

Mapping local and user interface terms to SNOMED CT builds a solid foundation that supports a long-term strategy. It allows a smoother transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM, through the use of maps from the SNOMED CT codes to the ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM codes (see over).

SNOMED CT provides the clinical detail and terminological sophistication necessary for more effective use of clinical data to support timely, effective and high quality care.

Comprehensive Coverage

Can you find and record the diagnosis code you are looking for, even if it is relatively obscure? If you are limited to ICD-9-CM the answer is often “no”. Failed searches mean extra time, user frustration, and – most important – lack of specificity. For example, “persistent asthma” is not available as a code in ICD-9-CM, but is in SNOMED CT.

Resources for Implementation of SNOMED CT – encoded problem lists

There is no need to fret at the size and comprehensiveness of the entire terminology – but you should know about some key resources that are designed to help with implementation. These include subsets that identify the most commonly-used codes and terms; mappings to ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM; and browsers that assist in finding other codes for local customization.

Subsets

Several subsets are available:

CORE Problem List of SNOMED CT: A subset developed by the CORE project (CORE stands for Clinical Observations Recording and Encoding), identifies codes most useful for documentation and encoding of clinical information at a summary level, such as problem list, discharge diagnosis or reason for encounter. Terms in the subset were selected based on their actual frequency of usage in clinical databases.

Nursing Problem List Subset of SNOMED CT: Intended to facilitate the use of SNOMED CT as the primary coding terminology for nursing problems used in care planning, problem lists or other summary level clinical documentation.

Convergent Medical Terminology Subsets (Kaiser CMT): In September 2010, Kaiser Permanente donated their CMT content and tooling to the IHTSDO. The CMT subset is a set of over 75,000 clinician and patient-friendly medical concepts that are linked to US and international interoperability standards. Individual subsets have been identified in the clinical areas of cardiovascular disease, mental health, neurology, musculoskeletal disorders, ophthalmology, hematology/oncology, endocrine disease, urology, ear/nose/throat, gastroenterology, infectious disease, dermatology, respiratory medicine, and orthopedics.

SNOMED CT Route of Administration Subset: The Route of Administration subset of SNOMED CT is a listing of the current set of terms related to the location of administration for clinical therapeutics.



Resources available from NLM:

Tools related to SNOMED CT and other vocabularies for EHR Certification and Meaningful Use are available from NLM at: www.nlm.nih.gov/healthit/meaningful_use.html

Resources include:

- SNOMED CT International Release (in English & Spanish)
- SNOMED CT web browser
- CORE problem list subset
- Nursing problem list subset
- Lexical matching tools for uncontrolled/local vocabularies
- KP Convergent Medical Terminology (CMT) problem subsets
- US SNOMED CT Content Request System
- Links to helpful publications, subsets and mappings

About SNOMED CT

SNOMED CT is a standard clinical terminology with specific support for multi-lingual translation. It is in use in more than fifty countries. SNOMED CT is owned, maintained and distributed by IHTSDO.

IHTSDO and its National Members

IHTSDO is a not-for-profit association that is owned and governed by its national Members. More than twenty-five countries are Members of IHTSDO, and more join every year.

The National Library of Medicine is the U.S. Member of IHTSDO.



Maps from/to SNOMED CT

Helpful Mappings available from NLM:

- SNOMED CT to ICD-9-CM Reimbursement Map
- SNOMED CT to ICD-10-CM Map
- ICD-9-CM Diagnostic Codes to SNOMED CT Map
- ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes to SNOMED CT Map

Working with WHO to map to ICD-10

IHTSDO has a formal working arrangement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop and assure maps and linkages between SNOMED CT and WHO Classifications.

They have jointly developed a rule-based approach to mapping from SNOMED CT to ICD-10. Maps for the most common problem codes were released in 2013 and the plan is to complete the international maps to ICD-10 in 2014.

In the US the NLM has adopted the same approach for development of its maps from SNOMED CT to ICD-10-CM. These maps build on and extend the international maps developed centrally by IHTSDO to meet U.S. requirements.

For further information and free access to the mapping files, visit: www.ihtsdo.org/nlm/snomedct_icd10cm.html

Affiliate Licensees

The IHTSDO has a growing community of Affiliate Licensees consisting of hundreds of software developers, vendors, healthcare providers and academic bodies. SNOMED CT is available free for use by Affiliates and their sub-licensees in IHTSDO Member countries. Use in other countries is subject to openly published licensing fees that are designed to be affordable. Reduced fees, in a few cases free, apply in lower income countries.

Further Information

More information about SNOMED CT is available from www.snomed.org. This includes up-to-date copies of this information sheet and others including:

- SNOMED CT - Adding Value to the EHR
- Cooperation with other Standards Organizations
- Learning about SNOMED CT.

For further information about IHTSDO please see www.ihtsdo.org or contact us at info@ihtsdo.org.