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SNOMED CT-AU 20131130 Release

Release note

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Approved for external information

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National E-Health Transition Authority

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Document information

Key information

Owner	National Clinical Terminology and Information Service, NEHTA
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Quality reviews

dv #	Reviewer(s)	Type of review	Purpose
002	Terminology analyst, Clinical Terminology Lead	Peer review	Confirmed accuracy of updated release note.
003	Technical writer	Editorial review	To ensure that the document meets NEHTA's editorial standards

Product version history

Product version	Date	Release comments
20080829	29 Aug 2008	Initial Release
20090416	16 Apr 2009	Revised to include updated definitions and scenarios for implementation.
20091130	30 Nov 2009	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU Release 1.0
20100531	31 May 2010	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU May 2010 Release
20100731	31 Jul 2010	Publication of Emergency department reference sets
20101130	30 Nov 2010	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU November 2010 Release
20110531	31 May 2011	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU May 2011 Release
20120531	31 May 2012	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU May 2012 Release
20121130	30 Nov 2012	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU November 2012 Release
20130531	31 May 2013	Updated for SNOMED CT-AU May 2013 Release

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1 About this terminology release

1.1 SNOMED CT-AU November 2013 Release

The SNOMED CT-AU November 2013 Release is now available for download from the National Clinical Terminology and Information Service (NCTIS) site (https://nehta.org.au/aht).

The NCTIS site contains SNOMED CT®[1] and AMT resources and associated information on licensing, guides and tools.

SNOMED CT Australian Release (SNOMED CT-AU) is the Australian extension to SNOMED CT; the integrated national release of SNOMED CT for use in Australian eHealth implementations.

The resources included in this release are:

- this release note;
- a release file bundle containing terminology files, reference sets and supporting documentation;
- an MD5 file to check the integrity of the distribution bundle; and
- SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewers for Windows® and Mac OS® operating systems.

1.2 Release types

The November 2013 SNOMED CT-AU release is delivered in the following Release Format 2 (RF2) release types[2]:

Full: Contains full component history since the initial SNOMED CT-AU release, including prior SNOMED CT international history.

Snapshot: Details only the latest state of each terminology component.

Delta: Details only the components that are different in relation to the previous (SNOMED CT-AU) release. The Delta must only be used against the release for which it is intended.

SNOMED CT-AU is provided as a single bundle containing all three release types.

RF1 delivery ceased with the May 2011 release, in accordance with previously published timelines. SNOMED CT-AU is now released exclusively in RF2.

[1] This material includes SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) which is used by the permission of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO®). All rights reserved. SNOMED CT was originally created by The College of American Pathologists. IHTSDO®, SNOMED® and SNOMED CT® are registered trademarks of the IHTSDO.

[2] Information about release types is supplied in *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4]; see Section 1.8 of this document for details.

1.3 What's new in this release

1.3.1 New content additions

The following new content reference sets are included in this release:

- *Adverse reaction agent reference set*
- *Clinical manifestation reference set*

Further details of these reference sets are available in *SNOMED CT-AU Reference set library* [1] and *Development approach for reference sets: SNOMED CT-AU* [2], both of which are included in the release bundle.

1.3.2 Australian Implementation Guidance

A new document has been included in the release bundle entitled *Australian Implementation Guidance* [3]. This document provides implementation guidance, for software developers, technical consumers and the general SNOMED CT-AU community of practice. It is intended to provide practical guidance for Australian implementations and is to be used in conjunction with the IHTSDO's *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4].

1.3.3 Updated content

The core Concept, Description, and Relationship files have been updated to include the July 2013 International SNOMED CT update. Consequently, all reference sets provided in the previous release have been updated accordingly.

Additionally the following reference sets have been updated beyond the standard maintenance processes.

1.3.3.1 Australian dialect reference set

The *Australian dialect reference set* (ADRS) has been updated to accommodate new concepts and descriptions in the updated core files as well as changes based on content development, specifically for concepts used in the four Emergency department reference sets, for concepts that are targets of the AMT to SNOMED CT-AU substances map, and for the Adverse reactions reference sets that are new in this release.

1.4 New Service: Hosting of reference sets developed and owned by third parties

The NCTIS is initiating a service whereby reference sets that are developed and owned by license holders, can be released as part of SNOMED CT-AU. Ownership and future development of the reference sets are intended to be continued by the license holder and content will be released on a dedicated module within SNOMED CT-AU to indicate this. For more information or to express interest in submitting a reference set, please contact help@nehta.gov.au

1.5 Resolved issues

None for this release.

1.6 Known issues

None for this release.

1.7 Automated access to the release files

Automated access to the release file bundle is now available on the NCTIS secure website. To use this option please see following instructions:

- The URL to access the service is:
  https://nehta.org.au/aht/releases/snomed_ct-au/RELEASE
- To access the service, you must use the HTML POST method, and with the following data:

  "user=[USERNAME]&pass=[PASSWORD]"

  Where [USERNAME] is a valid username for the NCTIS website and [PASSWORD] is the password that matches that username.
- An example using the cURL command line tool (available from <http://curl.haxx.se/>) on Windows (using "cmd.exe") is:

  ```
  curl.exe --remote-header-name --remote-name --data
  "user=ausername &pass=aPassw0rd101"
  https://nehta.org.au/aht/releases/snomed_ct-au/RELEASE
  ```

Executing the previous command would result in the file "NEHTA_xxxx_yyyy_SNOMED_CT-AU_TerminologyReleaseFileBundle_nnnnnnnn.zip" being downloaded to your current folder (where xxxx is the internal NEHTA id, yyyy is the year of release and nnnnnnnn is the current release version).

Please contact help@nehta.gov.au if you have any questions about using this option.

1.8 IHTSDO documentation

In past releases various documents from the IHTSDO were re-released as part of the SNOMED CT-AU release. The following documents are now available online at:

http://www.ihtsdo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/doc/

Accordingly, these documents are no longer provided within the SNOMED CT-AU release bundle.

- *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4] (International Release) This document is produced by the IHTSDO to accompany the SNOMED CT International Release and provides guidance for SNOMED CT technical implementers such as vendors. The guide assumes information technology and software development experience. The following documents have now been incorporated into it:
  - *File naming conventions;*
  - *RF2 data specifications;*
  - *RF2 reference set specifications;* and
  - *RF2 update guide.*

- *SNOMED CT User Guide* [5] (International Release)
  This document is produced by the IHTSDO to accompany the SNOMED CT International Release and provides guidance for modellers and implementers on the content and principles used to model SNOMED CT. This guide is designed for project leaders, clinical staff, and product managers.

1.9 Questions and feedback

SNOMED CT-AU development requires the input, will and cooperation of the healthcare community so that our product reflects evolving user needs. SNOMED CT-AU is updated, verified and validated, and released twice per year to incorporate new clinical concepts, to enhance existing content and to make more effective use of the terminology. Routine updating continuously improves and extends SNOMED CT-AU's coverage of the clinical concepts used in the Australian health sector.

The NCTIS values your feedback about the usefulness of this release. We also encourage your questions, comments or suggestions about the content of the reference sets.

To provide feedback, or for further information regarding licensing, please contact us via:

email: help@nehta.gov.au.

mail: Clinical Terminology Manager,
NEHTA;
Level 25, 56 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000.

2 Terminology release contents

2.1 Release note

This *Release note* accompanies the SNOMED CT-AU terminology deliverables. The purpose of the release note is to provide a brief description of the SNOMED CT-AU terminology deliverables and their location and also to provide references to supporting documentation relevant to the release.

2.2 Release file bundle

The Release file bundle contains terminology files along with associated documentation in ZIP file format. The terminology files, reference sets and documentation are named according to the IHTSDO file naming conventions[3] for SNOMED CT release files.

2.2.1 Documentation

Along with this release note, supporting documentation is also included in the release bundle. All documents are up-to-date and complete for the current release of SNOMED CT-AU.

- *Development approach for reference sets: SNOMED CT-AU* [2]
  This document captures and describes the development approach used in creating reference sets for use by the SNOMED CT-AU community of practice. It also includes an explanation of the types of reference sets and how they are categorised for various purposes.
- *SNOMED CT-AU Reference set library* [1]
  This document is a register of the clinical reference sets for use by the SNOMED CT-AU and AMT communities of practice.
- *Australian Implementation Guidance* [3]
  This document provides implementation guidance, for software developers, technical consumers and the general SNOMED CT-AU community of practice. It is intended to provide practical guidance for Australian implementations and is to be used in conjunction with the IHTSDO's *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4].

2.2.2 RF2 Release

The RF2 Release directory in the terminology release file bundle contains separate sub-directories for each of Full, Snapshot and Delta releases:

- Full Release: containing the complete history of every component
- Snapshot Release: containing the current state of every component
- Delta Release: containing only the additions and changes since the previous release

Implementers only need to extract the release type applicable to their circumstances. The internal structure of each release directory is identical, containing **Terminology** and **Refset** sub-directories.

[3] See *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4], Section 5.3 "File Naming Conventions".

2.2.2.1 Terminology

The Terminology contains the four core tables of SNOMED CT integrated with Australian-specific terminology in Release Format 2.

Further information on release formats can be found in the IHTSDO's *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4], Chapter 5 "Release File Specifications".

2.2.2.2 Refset

In line with the IHTSDO release file structure, the reference sets included in this bundle are differentiated into four separate branches: Content, Crossmap, Language and Metadata.

- The reference sets located within the **Content** branch are two structural reference sets (*Association reference set* and *Attribute value reference set*) along with those clinical reference sets produced by the NCTIS to satisfy particular use cases. Generally they are a list of concepts that can be used in a particular clinical scenario, such as populating a particular codeable data element within a clinical information component.
- Currently there are no **Crossmap** reference sets released in SNOMED CT-AU.
- The *Australian dialect reference set* (ADRS) is located within the **Language** branch.
- The reference sets located within the **Metadata** branch may be required in implementations to fulfil technical requirements.

Further details of NCTIS-developed reference sets are available in *SNOMED CT-AU Reference set library* [1] and *Development approach for reference sets: SNOMED CT-AU* [2], both of which are included within the release bundle.

Further information on other reference sets is available in the *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide* [4]. In particular, reference set specifications are described in detail in Chapter 5.5 "Release Format 2 – Reference Sets Guide".

2.3 SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewers for Windows and Mac OS operating systems

SNOMED CT-AU terminology is also released in a SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewer which is available as a separate download on the NCTIS site. The terminology viewer enables users to browse the content of SNOMED CT-AU. The package of items within the ZIP format terminology viewer bundle consists of:

- *SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewer installation guide and user manual* (in PDF format);
- *SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewer licence* (in PDF format); and either:
  - SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewer for Windows operating system; or
  - SNOMED CT-AU terminology viewer for Mac operating system.

Appendix A Towards standards for health information exchange in Australia

A.1 National E-Health Transition Authority Limited (NEHTA)

NEHTA is a company established by the Australian, State and Territory governments in 2005 to develop better ways of electronically collecting and securely exchanging health information. As a collaborative vehicle, NEHTA has been assigned responsibility for a number of related projects, all aimed at establishing the foundations for the widespread and rapid adoption of electronic health (eHealth) across the Australian health sector.

eHealth is the electronic collection, management, use, storage and sharing of healthcare information. This information can include individual items such as test results, discharge summaries, vaccination history, medication history and diagnoses, to comprehensive medical records which keep all of this information about a person in one place. The governments of Australia recognise that eHealth and a personally controlled electronic health record (PCEHR) are vital to the achievement of major health reform in the next decade.

eHealth systems that can securely and efficiently exchange data can significantly improve how important clinical and administrative information is communicated between healthcare professionals. As a result, eHealth systems have the potential to unlock substantially greater quality, safety and efficiency benefits. eHealth has the capacity to benefit all Australians – individual consumers, healthcare providers and healthcare funders.

NEHTA will support the National E-Health Strategy within its current mandate and sets a clear vision for eHealth in Australia:

> *To enhance healthcare by enabling access to the right information, for the right person, at the right time and place.*

NEHTA's work programme has delivered and will continue to deliver key components as well as provide national infrastructure and accelerated adoption supporting this strategic direction.

A.2 National Clinical Terminology and Information Service (NCTIS)

The NCTIS, established by NEHTA, is developing the terminology and information products to support the requirements of eHealth for the Australian healthcare community.

In order for eHealth information systems to be interoperable and act intelligently, (for example, provide decision support), they must be able to record, read and interpret clinical information which is exchanged between systems (e.g. drug names, diagnoses and the like). A task for the NCTIS is therefore to identify methods of supporting the implementation of clinical terminology and clinical information standards across the Australian healthcare industry.

A.3 Clinical information

Interoperability across health sectors and geographical boundaries is a core requirement to enable information sharing across eHealth systems. Seamless flow of information across the health sector is essential to health care delivery and reform in the future. Nationally-defined clinical information standards, and their adoption within products developed by industry, will help instil confidence that products are fit for purpose, and are interoperable across healthcare providers.

The NCTIS is responsible for establishing the structure of, and data contained in, clinical communications such as referrals, discharge summaries, pathology results and prescriptions. The clinical information specifications will be standardised across all health IT systems, and will be built upon existing standards, extending these as necessary.

A.4 Clinical terminology

A clinical terminology is a structured vocabulary used in clinical practice to accurately describe the care and treatment of patients. Clinical terminology covers complex concepts such as diseases, operations, treatments and medicines. Healthcare providers need to capture and record this type of information about their patients, to provide a history of care for their own purposes and to share with other providers. Consistent and accurate articulation and interpretation of this information is critical to the process of safe exchange. For example, errors in recording the name of a medicine or transcribing from one place to another can lead to serious consequences for the patient.

A standard clinical terminology in conjunction with eHealth information systems that can intelligently interpret the clinical information being input, will significantly reduce these errors and deliver more accurate and improved recording and checking of information.

The NCTIS within NEHTA is responsible for managing, developing and distributing SNOMED CT-AU and the AMT in Australia. This responsibility extends to distributing and licensing SNOMED CT on behalf of the IHTSDO.

A.5 SNOMED CT and SNOMED CT-AU

SNOMED CT, the internationally pre-eminent clinical terminology, has been recommended by NEHTA and endorsed by the Australian, State and Territory governments as the preferred clinical terminology for Australia. SNOMED CT is considered to be the most comprehensive, multilingual clinical healthcare terminology. When implemented in software, SNOMED CT represents clinical relevant information consistently, reliably and comprehensively as an integral part of the electronic health record.

SNOMED CT-AU is the Australian extension to SNOMED CT, and includes the international resources along with all Australian developed terminology and documentation for implementation in Australian clinical IT systems. SNOMED CT-AU provides local variations and customisations of terms relevant to the Australian healthcare sector. All terminology files are prepared to a format and standard that is consistent with the IHTSDO releases.

SNOMED CT-AU is designed to:

- provide a standard clinical language to support effective health data exchange;
- represent clinically relevant information, as an integral part of producing electronic health records;
- provide a logical structure for terminology components that is simple to navigate; and
- provide integrated documentation and implementation guidance that is applicable for all released terminology components.

The SNOMED CT-AU release bundle also includes reference sets that have been developed by the NCTIS. A reference set is a restricted list of components to fulfil a particular purpose. Terms that are not relevant to the Australian healthcare sector are not included in the reference sets in SNOMED CT-AU.

A.6 Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT)

AMT delivers standardised identification of brand (trade) products and equivalent generic medicines along with associated components that are supported through standard naming conventions that accurately describe medications.

AMT has been developed to be fit for the purpose of unambiguously identifying for clinicians and computer systems all commonly-used medicines[4] in Australia and can be implemented in clinical information systems for the following activities:

- Prescribe
- Record
- Review
- Issue – including dispense
- Administer
- Transfer of information

A.7 International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)

To advance the uptake of SNOMED CT globally, NEHTA worked with nine other countries to establish the IHTSDO. The IHTSDO owns and administers the rights to SNOMED CT, and supports and works to enable the uptake and appropriate use of SNOMED CT in health systems, services and products around the world.

Further information on the IHTSDO can be found at http://www.ihtsdo.org.

[4] Currently this includes all PBS/RPBS, TGA AUST R and a range of AUST L items.

References

1. NEHTA. *Reference set library: SNOMED CT-AU*. Sydney: NEHTA; 2013. 20131130 release. Available from: https://nehta.org.au/aht/index.php.

2. NEHTA. *Development approach for reference sets: SNOMED CT-AU*. Sydney: NEHTA; 2013. 20131130 release. Available from: https://nehta.org.au/aht/index.php.

3. NEHTA. *Australian Implementation Guidance: SNOMED CT-AU*. Sydney: NEHTA; 2013. 20131130 release. Available from: https://nehta.org.au/aht/index.php.

4. IHTSDO. *SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide*. Copenhagen: IHTSDO; 2013. July 2013 release. Available from: http://www.snomed.org/doc.

5. IHTSDO. *SNOMED CT User Guide*. Copenhagen: IHTSDO; 2013. July 2013 release. Available from: http://www.snomed.org/doc.