

## SNOMED CT-AU

# Reference Set Implementation Process and Guidance for Healthcare Organisations v1.0

## Purpose

This document provides an overview for healthcare organisations and SNOMED CT<sup>1</sup> implementers of the steps required to integrate SNOMED CT-AU reference sets within their products and clinical systems.

## Scope

This guidance is applicable to the following types of implementations:

- Greenfields CIS implementations
- Existing CIS implementations
- Single vendor environments
- Multiple vendor environments
- Data management and mapping ownership:
  - Localisation by vendor
  - Localisation by healthcare organisation
  - Localisation by agency

<sup>1</sup> IHTSDO®, SNOMED® and SNOMED CT® are registered trademarks of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation.

## Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
CDA	Clinical Document Architecture
CIS	Clinical information system
IHTSDO	International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation
NCTIS	National Clinical Terminology and Information Service
SNOMED CT	Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine, Clinical Terms
SNOMED CT-AU	SNOMED CT, Australian release

## Implementation process overview

1. Understand the business driver	2. Obtain a licence & SNOMED CT-AU data	3. Determine requirements
<p>The decision to implement SNOMED CT-AU will be influenced by an understanding of relevant business drivers.</p> <p>These may include external factors such as interoperability to support sending and receiving clinical information for national e-health programmes or internal factors relating to product development to support the required CIS functionality.</p> <p>If needed, specific information and education sessions can be arranged with a representative from the NCTIS.</p>	<p>Access to SNOMED CT-AU data requires a current <a href="#">SNOMED CT Affiliate License</a> [1] and <a href="#">Australian National Terminology Release Licence</a> [2].</p> <p>If an organisation develops SNOMED CT-AU integrated products, the organisation must comply with the obligations stated within these licence agreements.</p> <p>SNOMED CT-AU data is structured according to the IHTSDO Release Format 2 specification. It is provided to users within the following text files:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts</li> <li>• Identifiers</li> <li>• Descriptions</li> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Reference sets</li> </ul>	<p>A decision to implement SNOMED CT-AU requires an understanding of SNOMED CT and its role within existing data structures and CIS application functionality.</p> <p>There is also a need to understand SNOMED CT-AU's product coverage to support system interoperability, including CDA and non-CDA information exchanges within clinical messaging.</p> <p>By defining your business drivers you can develop specific requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interoperability with SNOMED CT-AU and non-SNOMED CT-AU content within vendor solutions.</li> <li>• Exchanging SNOMED CT-AU coded information within CDA documents and the PCEHR.</li> <li>• Change management.</li> <li>• Reporting and statistical data requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Starter Guide</a> [3]</p> <p><a href="#">IHTSDO Frequently Asked Questions</a> [4]</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Australian Implementation Guidance</a> [5]</p> <p><a href="#">Registering for a License</a> [6]</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Editorial Guide</a> [7]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide</a> [8]</p> <p><a href="#">NCTIS Reference Set Library</a> [9]</p>

4. Implementation planning	5. Implementation & vendor considerations	6. Data maintenance requirements
<p>When designing your applications to use SNOMED CT-AU and enable the transfer of SNOMED CT-AU coded messages, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis to identify gaps between required terminology functionality and what SNOMED CT-AU can provide.</li> <li>• Development of local extensions of SNOMED CT-AU to support identified gaps.</li> <li>• Use of NEHTA-developed guidelines and NCTIS guidance to assist in identifying local clinical data dictionary items in SNOMED CT-AU.</li> </ul>	<p>Options for SNOMED CT-AU implementers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping local clinical terms to SNOMED CT-AU</li> <li>• Direct (native) implementation of SNOMED CT-AU</li> <li>• Hybrid (mapped and native) implementation of SNOMED CT-AU</li> </ul> <p>System requirements will determine the most appropriate option. The advantages and disadvantages of how a vendor has implemented SNOMED CT-AU will need to be considered and vendor capabilities understood.</p> <p>Healthcare organisations need to understand the possible types of SNOMED CT-AU implementations within a CIS and associated implications.</p> <p>When procuring a vendor, you should consider whether the SNOMED CT-AU implementation adopts the published clinical terminology guidance.</p>	<p>SNOMED CT-AU data is released bi-annually. Licence holders are notified at the time of a new release.</p> <p>Release documentation includes information on relevant issues and key changes to SNOMED CT-AU.</p> <p>Ideally, application data should be updated as soon as possible after a SNOMED CT-AU release to ensure information is current.</p> <p>If a mapping is to be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial cost and effort will be influenced by the number of entries to be mapped and the complexity of the dataset.</li> <li>• Maintenance may be required each time the source or target systems are updated.</li> </ul> <p>Viewers are available for browsing SNOMED CT-AU content. See the <a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Release Note</a> [10] for details.</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Australian Implementation Guidance</a> [5]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide</a> [8]</p> <p><a href="#">NCTIS Reference Set Library</a> [9]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Development Approach for Reference Sets</a> [11]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Reference Set Implementation Toolkit</a> [12]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Mapping Guidelines</a> [13]</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Implementation Guidance</a> [5]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Reference Set Implementation Toolkit</a> [12]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide</a> [8]</p> <p><a href="#">NEHTA Clinical Documents</a> [14]</p> <p><a href="#">ISO: Principles of mapping between terminological systems</a> [15]</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Release File Bundle</a> [16]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Implementation Guidance</a> [5]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide</a> [8]</p>

7. Terminology requirements	8. Deployment & change management
<p>NEHTA has developed terminology requirements for healthcare organisations adopting healthcare software systems integrated with SNOMED CT-AU in the form of guidance documentation.</p> <p>These requirements deal with the business processes, documentation and personnel needed to enable access, recording, storing and displaying terminology in healthcare software systems in a manner that minimises risks to patient safety, and maximises the benefits associated with using SNOMED CT-AU.</p> <p>Requirements have also been developed in relation to data maintenance for SNOMED CT-AU.</p>	<p>Implementation of SNOMED CT-AU via a mapped approach should have no day-to-day impact to CIS users.</p> <p>Users of the CIS will interact with the same local/ proprietary terms used within their current system.</p> <p>Mappings to SNOMED CT-AU will mainly support clinical messaging.</p> <p>Minimal training for CIS users will be required for a mapped implementation.</p> <p>A decision to separate or include legacy data is required by the implementer.</p> <p>If a mapping is done by a healthcare organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNOMED CT-AU concepts, terms and key editorial rules will need to be understood.</li> <li>• Numerous rules and exceptions may need to be developed and adhered to during maintenance.</li> </ul> <p>If a mapping is done via a third party, implementers may need clinical resources to validate the mapping.</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">Clinical Terminology - Guidance for People and Processes</a> [17]</p> <p><a href="#">Clinical Terminology - Guidance for Use in Healthcare Software</a> [18]</p> <p><a href="#">Clinical Terminology - Test Cases for Software and Messaging</a> [19]</p> <p><a href="#">Clinical Terminology - Use of Medical Nomenclatures in Information Exchange</a> [20]</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide</a> [8]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT Editorial Guide</a> [7]</p> <p><a href="#">SNOMED CT-AU Mapping Guidelines</a> [13]</p>

## 9. Content support

Content support for SNOMED CT-AU reference set implementers is available through the NEHTA Help Centre, via email ([help@nehta.gov.au](mailto:help@nehta.gov.au)) or telephone (1300 901 001).

Issues with data content can also be logged through the Help Centre. Issues are prioritised for resolution by the SNOMED CT-AU team.

FAQs covering SNOMED CT-AU are available on the NEHTA website.

Additional content can be requested via a submission process accessed on the NEHTA website.

If required, specific information and education sessions can be arranged with an NCTIS representative.

### Resources

[SNOMED CT FAQs](#) [21]

[SNOMED CT Content Release Notes](#) [22]

[SNOMED CT Editorial Guide](#) [7]

## 10. Technical support

For technical issues, contact your CIS vendor, via your existing support desk procedures.

### Resources

[SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide](#) [8]

## Contact

Email [help@nehta.gov.au](mailto:help@nehta.gov.au) for further information, or to arrange a session with an NCTIS representative to discuss your organisation's requirements.

## References

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[foundations/snomed-ct-au](http://www.foundations/snomed-ct-au).

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**Contact for enquiries**

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