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SCCI0034 SNOMED CT

Change Document

Document management

Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
0.1	10/09/2016	Document Creation
0.2	12/09/2016	Amends to reflect review comments
0.3	14/10/2016	Amends to incorporate comments from ISAS review
1.0	17/10/ 2016	Publication copy
1.1	25/02/2020	Update to reflect that implementation dates have now passed
2.0	07/05/2020	Final version, taking account of reviewer comments

Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

Reviewer name	Title / Responsibility	Date	Version
Ian Spiers	Terminology Implementation Specialist	10/09/2016	0.1
		17/10/2016	0.3
Pete Turnbull	Principal Terminology Implementation Specialist	18/03/2020	1.1
Data Coordination Board publication	Final review	21/04/2020	2.0

Approved by

This document must be approved by the following people:

Name	Signature	Title	Date	Version
Lynn Bracewell		Head of Terminology and Classifications Development Service	18/03/2020	2.0



This information standard (SCCI0034) has been approved for publication by the Department of Health under [section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012](#).

Assurance that this information standard meets the requirements of the Act and is appropriate for the use specified in the specification document has been provided by the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI), a sub-group of the National Information Board.

This information standard comprises the following documents:

- Requirements Specification
- Implementation Guidance
- Change Specification.

An Information Standards Notice (SCCI0034 Amd 35/2016) has been issued as a notification of use and implementation timescales. Please read this alongside the documents for the standard.

The controlled copies of these documents can be found on the [NHS Digital website](#). Any copies held outside of that area, in whatever format (e.g. paper, email attachment), are considered to have passed out of control and should be checked for currency and validity.

Date of publication: 7 May 2020

NOTE: From 1 February 2023, Delen - the information sharing and collaboration platform for Terminology and Classifications products, has migrated from <https://hscic.kahootz.com> to <https://nhsengland.kahootz.com>. URLs in this document have been corrected to ensure continuity of access. No other changes have been made.



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Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
CTV3	Clinical Terms version 3; also known as Read v3. CTV3 was developed as part of the clinical terms project and extended the content in Read v2. This is a clinical terminology that provides the vocabulary for electronic record systems. CTV3 provided over 60% of the original SNOMED CT content.
DCB	Data Coordination Board, DCB is the current body that approves data collections and information standards and issues ISNs (information standards notices)
IHTSDO	International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization. IHTSDO is a not-for-profit organization that owns, administers and develops SNOMED CT; the UK is a member of the IHTSDO. IHTSDO now operates under SNOMED International .
QOF	Quality Outcomes Framework : Disease prevalence and care quality achievement rates. Measures, called indicators are agreed as part of the GP contract negotiations every year. These indicators have points attached that are given to GP practices based on how they are doing against these measures.
Read Codes	Refers to Read v2 and CTV3.
Read v2	Read v2 is the terminology developed in the UK for primary care systems; it provides a clinical vocabulary for electronic systems.
RF1	Release Format 1. The file structure specified by the IHTSDO for the files used to distribute SNOMED CT content in 2002.
RF2	Release Format 2. The file structure specified by the IHTSDO for files used to distribute SNOMED CT content from 2011.
SCCI	Standardisation Committee for Care Information , SCCI replaced the previous Information Standards Board ISB and issues ISNs (information standard notices)
SNOMED CT	SNOMED CT is the clinical vocabulary for use in electronic record solutions in health and care. SNOMED CT has been adopted as the standard clinical terminology for the NHS in England. A standard clinical terminology is essential for the interoperability of electronic health records. Earlier legacy terminologies in use are The Read Codes Version 2 and Clinical Terms Version 3 (The Read Codes)
TRUD	Technology Reference data Update Distribution site ; the distribution site for NHS Digital which provides the SNOMED CT release files as well as SNOMED CT derivative products and tools.
UKTC	The UK Terminology Centre. This Centre is now known as the Terminology and Classifications Service within NHS Digital and it manages, maintains and provides guidance on the use of terminology within the UK.

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1 Introduction

Purpose of Document

This document highlights the changes to the existing Standard: SCCI0034 SNOMED CT to enable the reader to quickly understand the differences between this and the previous version of the standard.

Why has this document been updated?

The requirement to enable all health and care systems to use SNOMED CT by 1st April 2020, as specified in SCCI0034, has not changed. The ability to flow patient data electronically and safely between health and care systems remains a high priority. Since December 2019, this objective has been achieved in General Practice. However, the requirement to enable SNOMED CT content in Secondary, Dentistry and Optometry care systems by 1st April 2020 is still be fully achieved; although we appreciate many providers have SNOMED CT enabled EPR systems in place.

Recognising this is the case, the NHS Digital Terminologies Delivery Service has gained approval from the Data Coordination Board, supported by NHSX, to provide an uplift to the key and supporting documentation to enable further progress of SNOMED CT implementation across health and care systems.

The information in this document has been refreshed to ensure links to current guidance and information is correct; clarifications have been made based on feedback from those systems that have adopted SNOMED CT; additional advice, where necessary, has been provided on the support available to help implementation.

It is expected that all secondary, optometry and dentistry service providers will have detailed plans in place with an associated implementation schedule for SNOMED CT **by December 31st 2020.** These will be required by NHSX/NHS England and NHS Improvement as part of provider planning activity.

Overview of changes

The changes to the SCCI0034 SNOMED CT standard are:

- Additional implementation guidance for both users and system suppliers.
- Further clarification to help individuals determine how they meet the requirements of the standard.
- Guidance to those in social care who share data with health care services that they should start alerting all suppliers of electronic solutions related to the care of the individual to begin integrating SNOMED CT into their solutions.

There are no fundamental changes to the standard itself.

Note: SNOMED CT is the only current standard for clinical terminology within the NHS in England.

Scope

SNOMED CT is a fundamental standard; it provides the vocabulary to be used for recording structured data in healthcare electronic systems. As a fundamental standard it is used by other standards when they need to utilise clinical terminology; its use is therefore wide ranging and account of the standard will be needed in **all** systems that are used in the direct management of an individual's care.

This document should therefore be read in conjunction with:

- dataset collections applicable to that care setting;
- other information standards that use clinical terminology;
- national clinical guidance such as NICE and professional guidance;
- interoperability standards.

For example FHIR specifications will reference SNOMED CT; eDischarge specifications will reference any specific requirements in relation to SNOMED CT; national dataset collections will specify SNOMED CT for the submission of clinical data.

As guiding principles, SNOMED CT is required:

- wherever clinical data is recorded that needs to be transmitted outside of the care organisation. For example a diagnosis; a reason for referral.
- For data items that are required to be submitted for analysis to a national or regional dataset. For example interventions; outcome measures.
- To enable recording of information related to the clinical care process in accordance with national guidelines. For example CBT has been delivered, a vaccination was declined, a vaccination was administered.

Note. SNOMED CT is not necessarily a replacement for data dictionary codes or ICD-10/OPCS-4 which are classifications. However, where appropriate, the requirement for data dictionary codes is diminishing as data is accepted in SNOMED CT and any categorisation required is undertaken by the data receiver.

Implementation Dates

SNOMED CT is now a required standard for all NHS healthcare organisations that record structured clinical data in electronic patient record systems in relation to a patient's care.

Extensive effort has been undertaken since the last version of this document. All GP systems now process QOF and national enhanced services using national SNOMED specifications, a number of the national calculators such as risk assessments are specified in the single terminology of SNOMED CT and all GP data can be provided in SNOMED CT; in addition over 96% of the GP estate are now using systems with SNOMED CT available to end users at the point of data entry.

It is therefore a requirement that clinical data extracted from or flowed to GP systems **must** be in SNOMED CT, and that specifications **must** be in SNOMED CT and no longer use Read codes.

A number of national datasets are now flowing SNOMED CT thus removing the need for local providers to categorise data before submission. Many of the secondary care systems now have a SNOMED enabled system available.

The primary focus for attention over the coming year is interoperability and increasing the data items that can be extracted direct from the system for national datasets, thus removing the additional step to categorise the information to pre-defined national categories.

It is therefore a requirement that any clinical data extracted from or flowed between systems used in the management of an individual's care in the NHS **must** be in SNOMED CT.

Systems used by all providers of other health related services where the flow of information for the direct management of patient care comes into the NHS must use SNOMED CT.

Mandated dates for implementation in social care are expected to be part of a future update of the standard; however providers should start to build the requirement for SNOMED CT into forthcoming contracts so that any data shared about the care of the individual can flow to health providers in SNOMED CT.

2 Implications for existing users of the standard

There are no fundamental changes to the standard within this update. However, users of the standard should ensure they:

- have registered for the release of SNOMED CT on TRUD; this will ensure they receive email updates around any changes to release dates and are alerted to important information in relation to SNOMED CT. The product support page also provides useful information and any known issues with the data files.
- keep updated with other standards such as national data collections, information standards, national extract specifications that use SNOMED CT.
- keep updated with national policy and professional guidance which may specify requirements in SNOMED CT such as 'stop the clock' on waiting times.
- Review the updated implementation guidance which seeks to give further information based on the extensive implementation work undertaken in General Practice and Mental Health since the last publication of the standard.

3 Implications for new users of the standard

To implement the standard requires SNOMED CT to be used as the vocabulary within electronic systems that are used in relation to the direct management of care of an individual:

- if the system is provided by a vendor then SNOMED CT needs to be specified as a contractual requirement of the system;
- if the system is in-house, the internal development team needs to utilise SNOMED CT in the solution;

this may either be the full set of SNOMED CT or a subset of SNOMED CT content depending on the scope of the application. It is expected that general patient record systems, such as those used by the whole organisation, will incorporate the full set of clinical terms provided within SNOMED CT.

As a fundamental standard, SNOMED CT will be required in other approved information standards as well as clinical terms being specified in local commissioning, national policy and professional guidelines. New standards such as data collections, message specifications and information standards will have to use SNOMED CT where appropriate as the source content for data items that relate to the direct management of care of an individual.

The use of SNOMED CT across solutions within the health and care environment is a key action for Paperless 2020 and is highlighted in the '[Personalised Health and Care 2020: Framework for Action](#)' to enable interoperability.

Mandated dates for implementation in social care are expected to be part of a future update of the standard; however providers should start to build the requirement for SNOMED CT into forthcoming contracts so that any data shared about the care of the individual can flow to health providers in SNOMED CT.

4 Funding

The use of SNOMED CT within the UK is free of charge. The national services that actively maintain the UK Edition of SNOMED CT provide additional free products such as cross-maps to the classifications ICD-10 and OPCS-4 and terminology maps from the Read codes to SNOMED CT, as well as providing implementation advice and support to organisations planning to and using SNOMED CT.

The provision of SNOMED CT within systems must be specified via individual organisation contracts; new and updated information standards must use SNOMED CT for clinical data. There is no additional funding for SNOMED CT adoption other than through the various national initiatives to achieve digital maturity.

Notice for adoption of SNOMED CT was first issued by the Department of Health in 2001; an ISN was issued in 2011 indicating that national standards would start to require SNOMED CT; an updated ISN was issued in November 2016 with required implementation dates across the NHS. Systems procured as part of the National Programme for IT were required to use SNOMED CT. Funding for major system changes has been available through national Technology Funds; within these is a requirement to adopt national standards including SNOMED CT.