

Information Standards Notice – Change

Following recommendation by the Standardisation Committee for Care Information (SCCI), the Department of Health has approved a change to an existing information standard formerly approved by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care (ISB), allowing publication under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

You must comply with this change by the full conformance date specified below.

Further information about SCCI is available on <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/isce> or by emailing scci@nhs.net

Standard details	
SCCI unique identifier	SCCI0034 Amd 35/2016
Name	SNOMED CT, Conversion under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and withdrawal of Release Format 1
Acceptance date	28 October 2016
Approval date	2 November 2016
Publication date	2 November 2016
Standard definition	
Description	<p>SNOMED CT was published as an information standard by the ISB in August 2011; this Notice details amendments to both the published standard and the dates for implementation.</p> <p>SNOMED CT is an international clinical terminology that provides the vocabulary for IT systems to support the direct management of the health and care of an individual. SNOMED CT also enables the representation of clinically relevant information consistently and reliably in a way that can be processed by IT systems.</p> <p>This enables IT systems to exchange data across the health and care environment; provide clinical decision support tools and undertake enhanced analytics to support effective delivery of high quality healthcare to individual people and populations.</p> <p>SNOMED CT is required to be used for communicating clinical content across health and care within the NHS standard contracts and is also stated as the required terminology to support direct management of care within the policy document published by the National Information Board (NIB): Personalised Health and Care 2020: A Framework for Action.</p>
About this Change	
Description	<p>SNOMED CT is the only current information standard for clinical terminology and this change seeks to ensure its implementation is planned to coincide with national requirements in relation to electronic records. There are three elements to the change:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation of the timescales for the cessation of SNOMED CT releases in Release Format 1 (RF1) and the subsequent move to releases only being provided in Release Format 2

	<p>(RF2). All existing users (including any social care providers) will need to change to RF2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conversion of the current information standard to align with the requirements of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. This includes the provision of Implementation Guidance. Confirmation of application of this standard in specified operational settings including implementation dates in alignment with national policy. <p>Existing users need to be aware that SNOMED CT will be required to be incorporated into any future information standards that require consistent recording and interoperability of clinically related data items.</p>
Scope (Health and Social Care Act 2012)	Health Services, NHS Services, Adult Social Care
Applies to	All organisations directly providing and/or commissioned to provide NHS, Public Health and/or Adult Social Care services
Impacts Upon	<p>Implementation of the change to this information standard applies to IT systems that relate to the direct management of the health and care of the patient and any secondary uses of such data. Suppliers of systems to the above providers and commissioners should work with their customers to determine necessary changes.</p> <p>This change also impacts any current users of the Read codes. (Please refer to the notices relating to the retirement of Read codes 1552 and 1553.)</p> <p>Use within social care is in development and future communications around expectations and timescales will be provided in due course. Social care providers can seek support and advice through the UK Terminology Centre should they want to adopt SNOMED CT. However this fundamental standard does not mandate a timetable for its use in social care,</p>
Legal authority	This information standard is published under section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Link to further documentation	<p>The key documents for this information standard are available on the NHS Digital SCCI webpages: www.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/scci0034</p> <p>Further information about SNOMED CT and implementation requirements can be found on the UK Terminology Centre website: http://systems.digital.nhs.uk/data/uktc/snomed</p>
Contacts	
Sponsor	Sean Kirwan, Department of Health
SRO	Tom Denwood, Director of National Provider Support, NHS Digital
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Dates	
Implementation dates	<p>All Current users (including any social care users) of SNOMED CT in Release Format 1 (RF1) must move to SNOMED CT in Release Format 2 (RF2) no later than 1 October 2018</p> <p>Providers of health and care are required to be paperless at the point of care before 2020: supporting IT systems must incorporate SNOMED CT as the clinical terminology.</p> <p>The following is a summary of conformance dates for appropriate implementation of SNOMED CT that all providers and standards developers must be aware of when planning new, or making changes to existing IT systems or relevant operational information standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems used by, or communicating coded clinical data to, General Practice service providers must use SNOMED CT as the clinical terminology within the system before 1 April 2018. SNOMED CT must be utilised in place of the Read codes before 1 April 2018. • Systems used within Secondary Care, Acute Care, Mental Health Services, Community Services, Dentistry and Optometry - for the direct management of care of an individual - must use SNOMED CT as the clinical terminology standard within all electronic patient level recording and communications before 1 April 2020. • Systems used by all other providers of health related services where the flow of information for the direct management of patient care comes into the NHS must use SNOMED CT by 1 April 2020. <p>Mandated dates for implementation in social care are expected to be part of a future update of the standard.</p>
Post Implementation Review date	1 April 2019

The controlled version of this Information Standards Notice is published on the NHS Digital SCCI webpages: <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/isce/publication/isn>