



National Clinical Terminology Service – SNOMED CT-AU v20210331 Release Note

31 March 2021 v1.0
Approved for external information
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Release summary: SNOMED CT-AU 31 March 2021

Clinical Terminology v20210331

SNOMED CT-AU is the Australian extension to SNOMED CT¹, which incorporates Australian-developed terminology, including the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT), along with the core international data.

The primary distribution format for SNOMED CT-AU release files is RF2, which is a format defined by SNOMED International. The National Clinical Terminology Service (NCTS) also provides alternative access to the release as HL7™ FHIR® standard² value sets, and a tab delimited text file (TSV). All alternative distributions are derived from the primary RF2 release.

Release rationale

The purpose of each monthly terminology release is to incorporate new content, enhance existing content, and make more effective use of the existing terminology.

This release is maintained against the January 2021 SNOMED CT International Edition.

Audience

The intended audience is any NCTS-registered user with a practical interest in SNOMED CT-AU or the AMT, including: software developers, content or mapping developers, testers, information system suppliers, analysts, terminology or classification specialists, health IT professionals, and researchers.

Identifying the version of this release of SNOMED CT-AU

When using codes from this release (for example, in clinical documents, maps, or terminology servers) the following string should be used to identify the version of this release:

<http://snomed.info/sct/32506021000036107/version/20210331>

¹ “SNOMED” and “SNOMED CT” are registered trademarks of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation.

² FHIR® is a registered trade mark of Health Level Seven International.

Inclusions

This release contains the following content, accessible from the NCTS website³:

Status	Name and version
New	SNOMED CT-AU 31 March 2021 (RF2 FULL)
New	SNOMED CT-AU 31 March 2021 (RF2 SNAPSHOT)
New	SNOMED CT-AU 31 March 2021 (RF2 DELTA)
New	SNOMED CT-AU 31 March 2021 (RF2 ALL)
New	SNOMED CT-AU Release Note 31 March 2021 (this document)
New	AMT CSV 20210331*
New	FHIR Value Sets v20210331
New	TSV format reference sets v20210331

* Note: the AMT CSV file is being released to assist some specific development activities. This file will only be provided for a limited period of time and any use of it is contingent on the licensee acknowledging that it may be withdrawn with only 90 days notice. Any licensee wishing to use this file should first contact the NCTS at help@digitalhealth.gov.au for further information.

Change summary

This section summarises the changes in this release and provides notice about planned future work. Changes made to resolve data issues will be listed if the potential impact on systems or patient care exceeds a threshold determined by an internal risk matrix assessment. For more information about any of these changes, please contact help@digitalhealth.gov.au

Content

Terminology	Category/ID	Description
SNOMED CT-AU	Requested content	Request submissions for new concepts and descriptions have been added in this release from NSW Health, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS), and CSIRO.

³ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/access>

SNOMED CT-AU Content
maintenance

The core Concept, Description and Relationship files have been updated to include the January 2021 International SNOMED CT Release. Consequently, all reference sets provided in the previous release have been updated accordingly. Specific content developments and improvements have been inherited from the January 2021 SNOMED CT International Release.

COVID-19 Concepts

Further work has been done on COVID-19 concepts in addition to the September 2020 Interim release.

Clinical finding hierarchy: 6 concepts.

Pharmaceutical / biologic product: 2 concepts.

Procedure: 1 concept.

Event: 1 concept.

Content Quality Improvement

Body structure:

- 381 new concepts.
- The new anatomy concept model will be implemented over the forthcoming months. There are approximately 35,000 anatomy concepts to be modelled by different types of 'part of' relationships. The new model will enable the automatic generation of hierarchies to further improve content quality and consistency.
- The integumentary system (about 2000 concepts) has been modelled.
- For Limbs/Girdles: There is mixed-use of the pelvic girdle and pelvic ring, shoulder girdle and shoulder in relation to the free limbs, limbs, and trunk. Existing content has been reviewed with about 200 model changes and impact to over 2000 classification results.

Clinical finding:

- 1702 new concepts.
- Quality improvement (QI) tasks were deployed to improve internal structural consistency and ensure compliance with editorial policy related to the stated modelling of content. Additionally, correction or addition of defining relationships was carried out to accurately reflect current clinical knowledge and ensure the semantic reliability of descriptions associated with a concept.
- Total count of changes for the QI project:
 - Stated: A total of 9463 concepts had changes made to the Stated relationships in the model.
 - Inferred: A total of 15750 concepts affected by inferred changes.

Procedure:

- 237 new concepts.

Event:

- 29 new concepts.

Qualifier value:

- 41 new concepts.

Situation with explicit context:

- 109 new concepts.

Physical object:

- 47 new concepts.

Terminology	Category/ID	Description
		Specimen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 new concepts. Observable entity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 180 new concepts, mainly in the area of nutritional intake such as Measured quantity of fat and oil intake in 24 hours (observable entity). Organism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 164 new concepts. Substances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 103 new concepts. Complete details of changes in the International Release are available here. https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/RMT/SNOMED+CT+January+2021+International+Edition+-+SNOMED+International+Release+notes
AMT	Requested content	In addition to the modelling of new products, based on the 1 April 2021 PBS and RPBS schedule, a number of other products have been modelled in this release including those requested from NSW Health and Pfizer.

Future changes

Terminology	Category/ID	Description
SNOMED CT-AU	Original EDRS	With the release of the new Australian emergency department reference set as of January 2019, there are plans to deprecate the original Emergency Department Reference (EDRS) set in a forthcoming release. Current users of the EDRS will be consulted prior to confirming the deprecation date.

How to request changes to terminology products

The NCTS is committed to the refinement and improvement of SNOMED CT-AU and its other terminology products. In keeping with these commitments, we welcome requests for changes to existing content or new content additions via the [Online Submission Form⁴](#) on the NCTS website.

SNOMED CT International Release - Other Artefacts

The below table outlines the SNOMED CT International Release (core module) artefacts which are released as part of the SNOMED CT-AU Release. Please contact help@digitalhealth.gov.au for any further details required.

Artefact	Details
<i>Lateralisable body structure reference set</i>	This reference set includes all body structure concepts that can be lateralised. The reference set can be accessed from within the release bundle and also by selecting SNOMED CT-AU > Reference Sets .

⁴ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/request/content-requests/>

Artefact	Details
<i>ICD-O simple map reference set</i>	The SNOMED CT to ICD-O maps are released as a simple map reference set. The source domains for the maps are limited to subtypes of 400177003 Neoplasm and/or hamartoma (morphologic abnormality) and 91723000 Anatomical structure (body structure) for ICD-O Morphological codes and Topographical codes. The mapping file can only be accessed from within the release bundle.
<i>Machine readable concept model reference sets</i>	There are four reference sets that support the use of the SNOMED CT Machine Readable Concept Model specification. More information can be found here: http://snomed.org/mrcm . The reference sets can be accessed from within the release bundle.
<i>Anatomy structure and entire association reference set and Anatomy structure and part association reference set</i>	There are two reference sets that support the representation of the associations between Structure, Entire and Part concepts in the <i>Body structure</i> hierarchy. It can also be used to distinguish body structure concepts as Structure or Entire or Part concepts. The reference sets can be accessed from within the release bundle.

The following artefacts are not currently released in SNOMED CT-AU:

- GB English language reference set;
- US English language reference set;
- CTV3 simple map; and
- ICD-10 complex map reference set.

The NCTS will continue to review the above artefacts following each international release to assess their relevance and potential use case in Australia and whether they should be provided as part of the national release. Please contact us if you have any questions in relation to this.

Safety guidance

The Agency applies its clinical safety management system to SNOMED CT-AU, AMT development cycles, and reported incidents. This is to minimise the potential for clinical safety hazards to be introduced during the development of terminology.

Implementers are required to undertake their own risk assessment and risk management of their own implementations. In addition, it is expected that implementers will contact the NCTS Product Support team if they become aware of an incident related to their implementations or have any safety-related questions or concerns.

The NCTS recommends that all licence holders planning to either develop a map or undertake an implementation contact the NCTS to discuss their intended uses.⁵ This notification will allow Product Support Services to be made available.

Please note that if licence holders become aware of any errors or omissions during their development, they are obliged to notify the Agency, as per clause 2.6 of the *Australian National Terminology Licence Agreement*, which states:

“If the Licensee becomes aware of any material error or change or correction needed in the Australian National Terminology, the Licensee agrees to advise the Licensor within 30 days of such error, change or

⁵ The NCTS can be contacted via help@digitalhealth.gov.au

correction by following the Licensor's procedures for change notification that the Licensor prescribes in writing and which the Licensor notifies to the Licensee from time to time.”⁶

To report an error, incident or provide any other feedback, please email help@digitalhealth.gov.au

NCTS services

Implementation support

The NCTS provides an extensive list of [documentation](#)⁷ to support your use of our products and [tools](#).⁸ You can find out more by visiting [Learn](#)⁹ on our website.

Key guidance includes:

- [NCTS Guide for Implementers v1.2](#);
- [SNOMED CT-AU – Australian Technical Implementation Guide v2.5](#);
- [SNOMED CT-AU – Guide for Terminology Use in Prescribing v1.0](#);
- [SNOMED CT-AU - Development Approach for Reference Set v3.4](#); and
- [SNOMED CT-AU – Adverse Reactions Reference Set Implementation Guide v1.0](#).

Note: During the migration of resources from the Agency website to the NCTS Document Library, a number of documents originally prefixed by “NCTIS” or “Clinical Terminology” now appear on the website under “SNOMED CT-AU” or “NCTS” prefixes. Some of these documents have not yet been revised, and therefore carry the original name internally. These documents will be renamed accordingly during their next revision.

Our dedicated Product Support team offers tailored support and consulting services to assist licence holders in their understanding and implementation of SNOMED CT-AU. To provide feedback or request support, please complete the online [Support Request form](#)¹⁰ or email help@digitalhealth.gov.au.

Hosting reference sets developed and owned by third parties

The NCTS has initiated a service whereby reference sets that are developed and owned by licence holders can be released as part of SNOMED CT-AU. The ownership and future development of such reference sets are intended to be continued by the licence holders, and content will be released in 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@digitalhealth.gov.au.

Previous releases

Details of previous releases are available in the release notes, which can be accessed from [Recent Updates](#)¹¹ on the NCTS website.

⁶ The *Australian National Terminology Licence Agreement* is available from the [NCTS Document Library](#), at <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/document-library/>

⁷ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/document-library/>

⁸ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/tools>

⁹ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/learn>

¹⁰ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/introduction-to-help/request-for-support/>

¹¹ <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/recent-updates>

Upcoming releases

SNOMED CT-AU is made available on the [NCTS website](#)¹².

The upcoming release schedule will be as follows:

- Thursday 22 April
- Monday 24 May
- Wednesday 23 June

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¹² <https://www.healthterminologies.gov.au/access>