



## COVID-19 and Information Standards

### Bi-weekly SNAP update

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#### **Purpose of this update:**

This update is to provide a current summary of activity relating to COVID-19 in relation to products and services under the remit of the Terminology and Classifications Service within NHS Digital.

An update will normally be provided every alternate Friday during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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#### **SNOMED CT Releases**

The **SNOMED CT UK Clinical Edition, RF2** for 17 June 2020 is now available for [download on TRUD](#).

#### **Important changes and information regarding this release:**

This is the fifth emergency COVID-19 “microrelease.” Changes are restricted to coding expressivity improvements urgently needed to manage the current pandemic. This very narrowed scope should reduce the “content update penalty” on product consumers, and so reduce barriers to the urgent deployment of the new content to the clinical frontline.

For a full list of the codes released in the latest release, refer to [SNAP update 5](#). For a full list of all SNOMED CT COVID-19 codes released, view the [COVID-19 Information Standards Delen website](#).

### SNOMED CT UK Edition (Clinical) Future release schedule

Following a [formal consultation with stakeholders](#), a schedule of releases for the remainder of the current calendar year is now agreed, including two much larger releases of non-COVID-19 content on 12 August and 7 October. Between them, these two major releases will enable the publication of all new UK content deferred from the original 1 April release candidate, some of the backlog of other new UK content requests unrelated to COVID-19, and - critically - all newer versions of SNOMED International content released since July 2018. The Results of the formal consultation on the SNOMED CT UK Edition Release schedule are available on [Delen](#).

The 8-weekly timetable for these major releases through to the end of 2020 will therefore be scheduled as follows:

12 August	<p>TRUD Version 30.0.0 effectiveTime 20200805</p> <p>Base content: <b>July 2019</b> International Edition</p> <p>New content: All UK content deferred from the 1 April release</p> <p>Some additional non-COVID-19 content for the UK Any requested new COVID-19 content (as per a microrelease) Full ICD10 and OPCS maps covering above new content “Light touch” update of refsets to align with new content</p>
7 October	<p>TRUD Version 31.0.0 effectiveTime 20200930</p> <p>Base content: <b>July 2020</b> International Edition</p> <p>New content: Additional routine non-COVID-19 content for the UK Any requested new COVID-19 content (as per a micro-release) Full ICD10 and OPCS maps covering above new content Full update of refsets to align with new content</p>
2 December	<p>TRUD Version 31.2.0 effectiveTime 20201125</p>

Base content: July 2020 International Edition
New content: Additional routine non-COVID-19 content for the UK Any requested new COVID-19 content (as per a micro-release) ICD10 and OPCS map updates covering above new content Full update of refsets to align with new content

**NB** the opportunity and need for further emergency unscheduled micro-releases of COVID-19 specific content *in addition to the above* is **not** excluded by the above schedule: they could still occur, though would always coincide with an already scheduled 4-weekly releases of the UK SNOMED CT Drug Extension. Thus, in 2020, the only possible remaining dates for further micro-releases are now 15 July, 9 September, 4 November and 30 December.

The subsequent timetable of scheduled releases into 2021 and beyond is not yet agreed – a further consultation on this will occur later in Autumn 2020. Our current preferred option is to continue indefinitely with scheduled releases occurring every 8 weeks, with *ad hoc* micro-releases also able to occur at the 4-weekly mid-point in between those 8-weekly scheduled releases, but with all releases always coinciding with a 4-weekly release of the UK drug extension.

### **SNOMED CT COVID-19 codes now flowing from the National Pathology Exchange (NPEX) to NHS Digital and Public Health England (PHE)**

We can confirm that NPEX (the digital exchange service designed to connect all pathology laboratories across the UK), is now successfully mapping laboratory output test results into SNOMED CT codes. The codes are being received by NHS Digital and PHE's Surveillance System (SGSS), the latter of which includes full SNOMED CT COVID-19 codes.

### **SNOMED Pathology terms: unknown and indeterminate**

We have received a couple of queries with reference to the difference between 'unknown' and 'indeterminate' SNOMED CT Pathology terms. As such, the below summary differentiates between the two:

**UNKNOWN** relates to when the test procedure was never completed and therefore no result was produced at all, of any kind. Examples where this could occur include if the specimen was mislabelled, lost or the analyser broke.

**INDETERMINATE** relates to when the complete test protocol was undertaken, but the specimen was possibly inadequate or there was a technical problem. A result / number was obtained but cannot be identified as accurate and so was not recorded.

From the receiving clinician at the end of this communication, both of the above mean another sample will have to be obtained and request sent.

### **Previous Snap Updates**

SNAP updates, including previous issues, are also available on the [COVID-19 Information standards Delen page](#).

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