



COVID-19 and Information Standards

Bi-weekly SNAP update

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.

SNOMED CT Release Changes

There have been many changes within the SNOMED CT UK Edition ® over the last financial year. These changes have been made to ensure we continue to provide a responsive service in line with the needs of all our users. To make sure that we continue to deliver a service aligned to the needs of our users a consultation was run in September 2020 to identify the preferred frequency and format for SNOMED CT UK Edition Releases moving forward. The results of this [consultation is now available on Delen](#).

SNOMED CT UK Edition - Release Schedule

As per the results of the consultation there will be seven scheduled releases of the SNOMED CT UK Clinical Edition in 2021/22.

There will be two major updates in **May and December 2021** which will include a refresh of the international data, and five minor releases which will just contain changes to UK content.

There will be sixteen releases of the SNOMED CT Drug Extension in 2021/22 on a four-weekly basis **with two major releases in May and December 2021** which will include an update to the international data.

The Full Release cycle for the SNOMED CT Clinical Edition and Drug Extension for the 2021-22 financial year is [available to view on Delen](#).

SNOMED CT Edition- Release Format.

Subscribers were previously advised that all future **production** releases of the Drug and Clinical extension content would transition from April 2020 to the BETA release bundling previously [provided as technology previews](#).

To reduce the burden on our stakeholders during the pandemic, this transition was deferred. Suppliers remain recommended to transition to consuming the BETA rather than **production** bundling, in accordance with the following revised schedule:

From the 19th May 2021 all PRODUCTION releases of UK Clinical and Drug will adopt the BETA format. All releases will then continue to be available in parallel in the older LEGACY format until the end of July 2021, after which the LEGACY encoding variant will be permanently withdrawn.

Previous Snap Updates

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

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