

# HTA Policies and Guidance - Licensing

## 1 External Code System Licensing

### 1.1 SNOMED CT

For the purpose of HL7 international standards development, HL7 members (working groups) may use SNOMED CT under the HL7 International Collaboration Agreement with IHTSDO through a 'Development License' – copy available from HL7 International.

HL7 International:

- Publication of SNOMED CT in standards and implementation guides and availability through repositories of
  - o codes and descriptions from SNOMED CT – available to HL7 members around the world for use when contributing to the development of International HL7 products.
  - o statements for creation of value set content.
- Requests from HL7 International (Universal realm) for content additions / modifications are made to IHTSDO ( including extension content which is required for products in the Universal realm) (Note - HTA to manage these requests through the IHTSDO Request submission process)

#### HL7 Affiliate in a National Member Country of IHTSDO

Any HL7 Affiliate specific content developed and published must be done under a license (i.e. you must have a license or obtain a license). The HL7 Affiliate must have a license for use of SNOMED CT in that member country. This license is obtained from your SNOMED CT National Release Centre and is free.

The license ensures - that you are made aware of any changes to SNOMED CT and have access to all products.

- o e.g. USA – some US Realm specific content (not intended for international use) is produced through International workgroups. In this case the US HL7 Affiliate must have a license for use of SNOMED CT.

Once a license has been obtained this work is covered as below:

- o The publication is intended for use only within that HL7 Affiliate nation (i.e. in a national member country of IHTSDO)
  - all users of the standard are required to have a license and the HL7 Affiliate must include statements to that effect in their publication.
- o Content requests
  - With content required only for this use case (this HL7 Affiliate nation) should be submitted to the National Release Centre of the IHTSDO member country. There is no assumption that this content will be promoted to the International Release of SNOMED CT.
  - If realm specific content is considered of internationally relevant, the content request should be submitted to the HTA for consideration for submission to IHTSDO for inclusion in the International Release.

### **HL7 Affiliate in a Non - National Member Country of IHTSDO**

Any HL7 Affiliate specific content developed and published must be done under a license (i.e. you must have a license or obtain a license). The license ensures - that you are made aware of any changes to SNOMED CT and have access to all products.

Note: there is currently no agreement between HL7 and IHTSDO to provide development licenses to HL7 Affiliates in Non-National Member Countries free of charge.

Once a license has been obtained this work is covered as below:

- If the publication is intended for use only within that Affiliate nation (i.e. in a non-national member country of IHTSDO)
  - o all users of the standard are required to have a license and the Affiliate must include statements to that effect in their publication.
- Content requests
  - o With content required only for this use case (this HL7 Affiliate nation) should be submitted to the International Release of SNOMED CT.
  - o If realm specific content is considered of relevance internationally it should be submitted to the HTA for consideration.

### **HL7 Affiliates working together to develop standards (groups of National Member Countries of IHTSDO and Non-National Member Countries of IHTSDO)**

HL7 Affiliates often work together to develop and publish a standard. In Europe and other places it is common that some of the HL7 Affiliates are from National Member Countries of IHTSDO and others are not, for example: joint standards developed in Europe.

IHTSDO has not provided guidance on how this scenario is to operate.

## **2 Derivatives of HL7 international publications**

### **2.1 SNOMED CT**

If operating in an IHTSDO member country and additions or modifications to SNOMED CT derivative content is needed – contact your National Release Centre. This includes translations as well as changes to content.

In non-member IHTSDO countries, no SNOMED CT license is required if the HL7 User is simply removing the SNOMED CT content in HL7 international publications and replacing it with local content. The method used to develop the local content and its relationship to the content published in HL7 international publications is up to the HL7 Affiliate. If a map is published, please see the Mapping section.

## 3 Requesting a license

### 3.1 1.3.1 Requesting a license for SNOMED CT

#### International Standards Development

IHTSDO has provided a free license to HL7 International for the development of International products. Licensing ensures that you will be notified of releases, advances, and events as well as ensuring that you will know of any issues which may impact the safe use of the terminology. No license request is needed.

#### If you are an HL7 Affiliate in a Member Country of IHTSDO

You must have or obtain a license which will be provided free of charge by your [National Release Centre](#).

#### If you are an HL7 Affiliate in a non Member Country of IHTSDO

If you are an HL7 Affiliate in an IHTSDO Non-Member country you must provide details of your intended use to HL7 International (via a portal or other mechanism).

If the HL7 Affiliate requires SNOMED CT for publication in local HL7 publications, this should be discussed with IHTSDO. Getting a license for implementation of non-international product development

To obtain a license or contact the [IHTSDO Member Licensing and Distribution Service](#)

You should have thought about the following prior to contacting IHTSDO.

Affiliate identifying information including:

- Affiliate Name

- Country

- Contact Name - you will need to decide who will lead this activity in your HL7 Affiliate.

- Contact email

- Expected use - e.g. standards development, including production of maps to local code systems vice versa.

## 4 Translation of value set content and mapping value sets

In this context we include:

- **Human language translations** e.g. English – Japanese
- **Translation of value set content** from one code system to another is referred to as a **Map**.

### 4.1 Translation

There are different kinds of value sets HL7 defined tables and user defined tables.

HL7 defined tables can best be translated under quality control of an HL7 Affiliate.

User defined tables can best be translated by domain specialists and should also be offered for quality control to an HL7 National Affiliate.

The HL7 Affiliate should establish quality control processes which can be applied to all value set content, including that of SNOMED CT.

#### 4.1.1 Translation of SNOMED CT

##### HL7 Affiliate in a National Member Country of IHTSDO

(Assuming you have a SNOMED CT affiliate license and all work is completed in accordance with that license - See above).

Human Language translations are exclusively managed by your National Release Centre.

If the language you wish to use is the language defined for use in your national extension of SNOMED CT (e.g. the natural language of the country of which you are an HL7 Affiliate)

- If the term is in your national release translation – use the translation
- If the term required is not yet translated – make a request directly to your national release centre to discuss the process to be used.

If the language you wish to use is not maintained or available in your country

- If it is in the SNOMED CT international release or available through the IHTSDO Browser, it is recommended that you contact the SNOMED CT National Release Centre of the country which maintains the translation as they can assist you and also may have additional licensing requirements. Contact [info@ihtsdo.org](mailto:info@ihtsdo.org) for any queries
- If not  
The mechanism for maintenance and distribution of SNOMED CT is through National Release Centres and not all languages are available. Translation may be undertaken in collaboration with your National Release Centre who should be contacted to discuss the process to be used.

If you are an Affiliate of HL7 operating in a non-member country of IHTSDO (with an IHTSDO Affiliate License)

- if the language you wish to use is defined and available through the IHTSDO Browser within a national extension you must contact that IHTSDO member country National Release Centre to discuss use of translated terms.
- if the language you wish to use is not available
  - you should contact the HTA for guidance. HTA will discuss with IHTSDO.

## 4.2 Maps

### 4.2.1 SNOMED CT

(Assuming you have a SNOMED CT affiliate license and all work is completed in accordance with that license - See above).

In non-English speaking countries, it is not unusual to have tables and value sets in your own language. These are very common and in use in information systems. To keep those descriptions and to use concepts from SNOMED CT in HL7 standards as well, you have to create maps.

It is possible to have maps from local, regional or national value sets to SNOMED CT and vice versa and use those in HL7 standards. This demands more skills and cooperation compared to direct use of SNOMED CT concepts in HL7.

Maps are easiest managed and maintained where there is an excellent cooperation between the IHTSDO National Release Center and the HL7 Affiliate organization. Maps originate from many sources, including the National Release Centres, but also from Government, ICT industry and Clinical domains, HL7 Affiliates are only one of the groups contributing to work in this area.

### 4.2.2 Other Terminology Resources

Instructions regarding maps in, to and from other terminology resources will be included as they are negotiated and confirmed.

## 5 Compatibility

Whatever solutions that can be chosen from it is always advisable to check the compatibility between that solution and the normative HL7 standards as well as the international release of SNOMED CT. HL7 International is establishing quality control harmonization processes for all HL7 products. It is recommended that HL7 Affiliates consider similar processes.