Inclusion of the Nutrition Care Process Terminology in SNOMED CT

Lyn Lloyd, BHSc, RD; William I. Swan, FAND; Sandra Jent, BSc, MHumNutr.; Angela Vivanti, BSc, MAplSc, DHlthSc, FDA; and Donna G. Pertel, MEd, RD, LDN

Dietitians from all over the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Saudia Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the U.S. have worked in collaboration to ease electronic health record (EHR) documentation and exchange of nutrition care data by creating a list or reference set of nutrition problems in the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT), the largest clinical terminology in the world. The concepts in SNOMED CT are matched to defined concepts in the nutrition care process terminology (NCPT) a structured terminology created by an international volunteer committee of nutrition and dietetic professionals who maintain the nutrition care process (NCP). NCP is a person-centered nutrition care model that uses a consistent approach to providing care to improve nutrition care outcomes in settings, such as, hospitals, ambulatory care, home health, and long-term care to name a few.

In practical terms, this means that nutrition care, quality improvement, and research benefit in many ways. Examples include:

- If a person is diagnosed with malnutrition and unintended weight loss in one hospital, when the numerical reference set codes are sent to another setting for continued care, which may be in another country, in English or another language, the meaning and diagnoses remain consistent as malnutrition and unintended weight loss.

- Quality improvement initiatives, such as the Global Malnutrition Composite Score (GMCS, cdrnet.org/GMCS), stewarded by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to identify optimal nutrition care, are possible because the data can be mined using the electronic codes. While GMCS is a U.S. based clinical quality measure that can be self-selected by inpatient hospitals, any nutrition professional in the world can utilize the value sets of coded terms for quality improvement initiatives in their setting.

- A group of renal dietitians in Canada express interest in collaborating with New Zealand renal dietitians on researching the impact of kidney nutrition care in both countries. This is feasible with the use of the SNOMED CT NCPT reference set since the concepts share a common meaning between the countries.

With structured and coded terms from the SNOMED CT using NCPT concepts, barriers of country borders, languages, and/or differing electronic health record systems can be erased permitting meaningful exchange of nutrition data worldwide and bringing important recognition to the nutrition profession demonstrating its integral place in medical care.

Frequently asked questions are provided to address questions that professionals may have about the release. For further information on the NCP and NCPT, please visit cdrnet.org/nutrition-care-process-and-terminology and www.nutritioncareprocess.org.
References


The authors would like to thank the 2023-2024 SNOMED Nutrition and Dietetics Clinical Reference Group for their work on the SNOMED CT NCPT reference set: Paula Diaque Ballesteros, MS, RD, CDCES (Mexico); Nathan Billing, PG Dip, MSc, RD (New Zealand); Vanessa Cuillerier, MSc, RD (Canada); Amy Curtis-Brown, PG Dip, BSc, RD (United Kingdom); Ahlam Badreldin El Shikieri PhD, MBA, PgDip, BSc (Sudan); Alana Marrero Gonzalez, DCN, LND (Puerto Rico); Luise Persson Kopp, MSc, RDN, AP Graduate (Denmark); Sissi Stove Lorentzen, MSc (Norway); Angélique Meier, BSc, Dietitian SVDE-ASDD (Switzerland); Ylva Orrevall, PhD, RD (Sweden); Piraveena (Veena) Piremathasan, RD, CDE, CBE (Canada); Mari Rivelsrud Saric, RD, MS (Norway); Elisabet Rothenberg, PhD (Sweden); John Snyder, DTR, RD (U.S.); and Naomi Trostler, PhD, RD, FAND (Israel).

Many thanks to SNOMED International Staff Elaine Wooler, MA, GMBPsS and Jane Millar, Chartered Physiotherapist (retired) for their support of this work.

The authors would also like 2023-2024 Commission on Dietetic Registration Nutrition Care Process and Terminology Committee for its ongoing NCP and terminology update and maintenance: Stephanie Lyn Antonelli, MS, RD (U.S.); Patricia Davidson, DCN, RDN, LDN, CDCES, FAND, CHSE, FADCES (U.S.); Sandra Jent, BSc, MHumNutr. (Switzerland); Lyn Lloyd, RD (New Zealand); Christopher Messenger, PhD, MS, RD, LD, CNSC (U.S.); and Angela Vivanti, DHSc, AdvAPD (Australia). A complete list of NCP/NCPT acknowledgements is available at www.nutritioncareprocess.org.

Finally, the authors express appreciation to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Commission on Dietetic Registration Staff who reviewed this article and support the work on the nutrition care process and the SNOMED International collaboration: Michelle Ashafa, RD, LDN, CAPM, CSM; Anne Coltman, MSHA, MS, RDN, FAND, FACHE; Tamera “Tammy” Ojeda, MHSA, RDN, LD; and Constantina (Tina) Papoutsakis, PhD, RD.