SNOMED CT

Jason Bradley provides details about a one day conference and Tim Benson suggests how you decide which of the SNOMED conferences is appropriate for you.

SNOMED CT and Interoperable Healthcare

NHS Connecting for Health will host a conference looking at the importance to patient care of using the standard clinical terminology ‘SNOMED Clinical Terms’ (SNOMED CT) as part of an overall technical solution to support the delivery of health care.

The event at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham on 2nd July 2008 will provide a forum for users to consider the impacts and benefits of moving from note taking for local use to that required for a national shared electronic record and to help share with the wider community some of the early experiences. The event will also help to identify support mechanisms being put in place and allow health care professionals to network and consider the next steps.

SNOMED CT aims to improve and safeguard patient care through the use of agreed clinical terminology. Using standard language enables communications between health care professionals to be conducted in clear and unambiguous terms.

In April 2007 the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) acquired the intellectual property rights of SNOMED CT and assumed responsibility for its ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution.

NHS Connecting for Health is the host of the UK Terminology Centre (UKTC) and functions as the central point for managing, distributing, supporting and controlling the use of SNOMED CT and associated products such as ICD-10, OPCS-4, cross maps, and Dictionary of Medicines and Devices throughout the UK. It forms the official release centre for the IHTSDO in the UK, and is one of the leading centres worldwide in terms of terminology development and business support.

Interoperability, a core aspect of the National Programme for IT (NPfIT), means that relevant patient information can be delivered to clinicians whenever and wherever it is needed, safely and securely. The quality of patient care is dependent on the quality of the information that authorised health care professionals can access. SNOMED CT is a key enabler, alongside other standards such as HL7 V3 messaging, Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) and the Common User Interface (CUI).

The purpose of the conference is to consider interoperability issues and
implications from both a clinical and technical perspective. The aim of this will be to develop understanding that the terminology can and should only be introduced on the basis that it supports and benefits clinical process.

The conference will bring together healthcare and IT professionals to explore and share experiences in the use of SNOMED CT and related standards in supporting the benefits sought from interoperability. It will enable clinicians to understand the scope and capabilities of terminology-enabled healthcare solutions, and will enable IT developers and system providers to discover the state-of-the-art terminology solutions.

In addition to sharing experiences, delegates will see presentations from:

- Jennifer Zelmer, Chief Executive Officer, International Health Standards Development Organisation
- Dr Mark P Davies, National Clinical Director, NHS Connecting for Health
- Dr Paul Jones, Chief Technology Officer, NHS Connecting for Health
- representatives from UK and International organisations that are already using SNOMED CT.

Updates on the creation of a common user interface will also be given and a number of suppliers and specialist organisations will be exhibiting.

This event forms part of a week long international event bringing together the central IHTSDO and member countries.

A number of tutorials will be held prior to the conference on Tuesday 1st of July. Further details on these tutorials will be made available shortly

An online booking facility for `SNOMED CT AND INTEROPERABLE HEALTHCARE` is available on the NHS Connecting for Health website [http://etdevents.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/all/1638](http://etdevents.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/all/1638)

Suppliers wishing to exhibit at the conference should email davidcorbett@nhs.net

For further information on SNOMED CT see [http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/terminology/snomed](http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/terminology/snomed)

For further details on the conference contact David Crook email: david.crook@nhs.net or David Corbett email: davidcorbett@nhs.net

*Jason Bradley with acknowledgement to the CfH web site*

Select the right SNOMED Event for you
Three important SNOMED events are being held in the UK this summer, each aimed at rather different audiences. You may wish to attend all three, but whatever you do, don't miss out by not knowing about them or choosing the wrong one for your needs.

The first event is the annual Implementing SNOMED CT on 10-11 June at Earls Court. This is a practical conference concerned with how to design, implement, deploy, migrate, support and evolve computer applications that use SNOMED CT. It is aimed primarily at healthcare IT professionals working with suppliers and healthcare organisations involved in the practicalities of implementing SNOMED CT. Implementing SNOMED CT 2008 is sponsored by BT Health, CareCom A/S, Health Language Inc, Ocean Informatics and SNOMED Terminology Solutions. It is being held in association with Smart Healthcare EXPO 2008. The early-bird-cut off date has been extended to Friday 9 May, 2008. Registration details on www.abies.co.uk.

The IHTSDO 2008 Summer Conference: Community of Practice Meetings is at Birmingham NEC from 29 June to 4 July. This six-day international working conference is being hosted by NHS Connecting for Health to bring together IHTSDO's working group and project group members and members of National Release Centres from across the Globe, to progress the quality and development of SNOMED Clinical Terms, to discuss the enhanced release format and to look at better working practice in a volunteer community. This is primarily for clinical terminologists to contribute to the future development of SNOMED CT itself. Details are at http://etdevents.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/1629.

SNOMED CT and Interoperable Healthcare on 2 July is a one-day conference organised by the UK Terminology Centre, as part of the IHTSDO Summer Conference, to raise awareness in both Clinicians and IT professionals about the benefits (such as reduced errors) of using SNOMED CT to support interoperability, based on UK and international experience. Details at: http://etdevents.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/all/1638.


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