



## Content Committee October 2009 Report to the General Assembly

The Content Committee met in person in April 2009 in Helsingør, and since then has also met 3 times via conference calls. Highlights of work undertaken or overseen by the committee during the period April-October 2009 include:

- **Machine- and human-readable concept model:** The project group (MRCM) submitted a report outlining work done to align the machine and human-readable specifications of the concept model, and to make these available to the community. Significant progress was also reported in making the human-readable concept model documentation available in multiple formats (html, pdf) derived automatically from the same source documents; linking to these html documents from the browser for the machine-readable concept model; cross-checking the human and machine readable forms for consistency; and revising both to move towards consistent representations.
- **Work planning and project prioritization:** The committee has worked to assign priorities for the 2009 and 2010 work plans for over 55 different projects related to content enhancement, refinement and error correction.
- **Swine flu:** Following a request by the US CDC, and after extensive discussion with several experts contributing to the organism and infectious disease project group, and in concert with naming conventions adopted by the WHO, a number of new concepts were added in order to properly represent H1N1 influenza and the virus that causes it. The committee agreed that, for now, SNOMED CT will stop at the level of subtypes (such as H1N1) and **not** attempt to represent influenza or causative viruses at the level of strains (such as Influenza strain A/California/04/2009).
- **Observables model:** A draft of the observables model has been used by both LOINC and IFCC-IUPAC, and they have submitted a set of several hundred (200 and 400 respectively) examples, and provided comments for refinement and revision of the model.
- **Pharmacy and substances redesign:** Renewed activity has occurred in these two projects, with the goal of firming up proposals for revisions to current content. These proposals would go out for broad stakeholder consultation after the Oct 2009 meetings.
- **Retiring content not wanted in the international release:** On the recommendation of the Member Operational Liaison Forum, the retirement of several thousand “Limited/Classification” codes was delayed to the January 2010 release. Other content sets, including proprietary veterinary drugs and the set of concepts starting with bracketed letters (like [D]), were retired as “moved to extension” in the July 2009 release.
- **Imaging procedures style guide update:** The committee approved a revised set of guidelines for naming and modelling imaging procedures.
- **Acronym and abbreviation policy:** The committee approved a policy regarding the use of acronyms and abbreviations.