



## Outcome of Focus Group with Implementers

### Background

On the afternoon of October 8, 2009, the Management Board and Affiliate Forum hosted an initial focus group with implementers of SNOMED CT. This informal session was designed to elicit information about current and intended future use of SNOMED CT, what the use of SNOMED CT enables for implementers, key barriers to implementation, and what IHTSDO could do to promote broader and deeper use of SNOMED CT. Representatives of 6 multi-national vendors participated in this session. Written feedback was also received from 2 additional organizations that were not able to participate in the session itself.

### Key Messages

Participants in the focus group were asked what the single most important thing that IHTSDO could do in the next 6 months to encourage implementation of SNOMED CT. Responses in rank order from those who were at the meeting and those who provided pre or post input were as follows:

- Issue clear statement about the relationship between ICD and SNOMED CT (5)
- Reimbursement map to ICD-10 (5)
- Implementation/use guidance (4)
- Increase bandwidth for communications about information regarding SNOMED CT (2)
- Improve support services timeliness (2)
- Get additional clarity on meaningful use criteria for SNOMED CT in the United States including relationship with performance metrics (1)
- Easier licensing process including making more language versions available as part of the standard international license (1)
- Get more IHTSDO members (1)
- Produce a simple version of what SNOMED CT does (0)

### Responses for the 3-5 year timeframe were as follows:

- Improve consistency/definitions of SNOMED CT (6)
- Showcase implementations (5)
- Clarify content of SNOMED CT, e.g. gaps and hierarchies, with the view that consistency and clarity is more important than completeness (4)
- Better information about who uses SNOMED CT and how, particularly showcasing the breadth of applications (4)
- Work with certification/industry groups (2)
- Make licensing models easier for multi-national vendors (1)
- Get more IHTSDO members (1)

At the November meeting, the Management Board addressed the key messages and decided upon next steps. Please do not hesitate to contact [info@ihtsdo.org](mailto:info@ihtsdo.org) if you require any additional information.