

Quality - a UK perspective

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General Overview

- UKTC product set
 - ✓ SCT
 - ✓ Read
 - ✓ dm+d
 - ✓ cross-maps
- Quality underpins all activities
- Quality strategy in place
- Quality framework – to be finalised and agreed

Quality is central

- Reactive approach
- Proactive approach
- UKTC Quality Officer
 - ✓ UKTC Governance Board member
 - ✓ UKTC Management Team member
 - ✓ UKTC Edition Committee member

Governance structures

- UKTC Governance Board
 - ✓ Assure that the UKTC maintains compliance with the IHTSDO Articles of Association
 - ✓ Govern the business of the UKTC
- UKTC management team
 - ✓ Day-to-day business
- UKTC UK edition Committee

UKTC UK Edition committee

The key activities of the UKTC UK Edition Committee:

- Assure the fitness for purpose and usability of all UKTC and IHTSDO Standards related to UK Edition
- Actively engage with all appropriate levels within the IHTSDO
- Make recommendations to the UKTC Governance Board on all issues and policies related to the UK Edition of SNOMED CT
- Ensure appropriate clinical validation takes place
- Assist with the prioritisation of major work items from the national centre, Home Countries and working groups
- Establish working groups to deliver identified appropriate work packages

The day job . . .

What do we do with the terminology stuff ?

*N.b. Focus of session is on SNOMED, but
similar systems run in parallel for Read codes*

Fundamental approach

- **Coverage of quality**
 - ✓ Integrated approach
 - Technical
 - Clinical
- Core set of SQL rules based on the available guidance at the time, and on experience from developing SQL rules for read codes
- Continued to grow reactively over-time
 - We have a problem + new QA (SQL) rule = no more problem

Authoring QA

- Authors – all clinicians (clinical and pharmacy)
- External expert advice
- Author inspections of all additions
- Internal clinical validation
- Authoring guidance – general IHTSDO
- Authoring guidance – specific to UK
- Authoring and inspection all done through the same tooling (SCT & Read)
- Technical QA support for authoring QA

Technical QA

- Suite of technical QA rules (errors and warnings)
- Core rules based on SNOMED CT technical guidance
- Retrospectively developed overtime – based on experience from Read codes
- Some constraints built into authoring tool
- Continues to develop in response to changing guidance

Lexical checks

- Lexicon – UK English and US English
- Historically spell check – can be problematic
 - Includes acronyms, geographical place names
 - Example: Acton v Action
- Combined approach using a lexicon and also CUT (Common Terminology Usage) tool

Release QA

- Standard technical QA - SQL database queries
- Tests the technical integrity of files
- Load testing – loading data into a schema
 - ✓ Assure integrity of release files
 - ✓ Pick up integrity flaws with the files which otherwise maybe missed by normal QA checks
 - ✓ “Make sure it does what it says on the box”
- Acceptance test log – ability to audit the release process

Documentation Internal

- Documentation review
 - Ensure we have the necessary documentation coverage (internal and external)
- Internal requirements
 - Authoring guidance – continues to develop proactively
 - Internal processes – review/change as part of the new workbench implementation
- External requirements
 - “The implementation agenda”

External Documentation

- External publication via web-site
 - How do we communicate with our customers ?
 - What do we communicate to customers ?
- What messages are we sending out ?
 - Standardisation
 - Integration with other standards

UK Extension Review

Purpose:

To review the UK extension content

Reason

- To ensure our own data is in line with our own and IHTSDO guidance
- To identify any areas where the data is at variance (correct or notify)
- To ensure the data is predictable – crucial for implementation
- To continuously assure and develop our products

UK Extension Review

The why . . .

- The UK extension has continued to grow over time (data is not static)
- Authoring guidance/rules have changed
- Less strict QA in the past – term construction, Read early version legacy

Review guidance

- Detailed guidance for the reviewers to assist in consistency
- Team review for conflict resolution
- Targeted areas where we know there are issues – abbreviations/acronyms, modelling consistency
- Two author check of all content
- Detailed agreed plan for review
 - Review of content
 - Analysis of findings
 - Plan for implementation of changes

UK Extension Review

The how . . .

- Review all content against agreed guidance
- Review of all existing QA rules
- Identification of duplication
- Identification of areas of omission

Outcome

- Increased confidence in assurance processes
- Express all QA rules in plain English
- Formulation of core list of mandatory QA rules to published as part of the release

The future landscape

- Confidence in the integrity of data
- Established metrics and reporting
- Open and transparent QA processes for external users
- Ability to report on terminologies with confidence to Governance structures
- Improved communication with customers, with the ability to give detailed advice on specific implementation issues relating to individual releases

Questions ?

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