

Reconciliation Between International Release and National Extension content

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Everything changes – all of the time

“If you want to truly understand something, try to change it”.

Kurt Lewin

Overview

The UK have been managing a National extension since 2001

The International edition is released biannually on Jan 30th and July 30th each year

The UK edition is released biannually on Apr 1st and Oct 1st each year – to coincide with financial year policy changes

The UK edition is fully synchronised with the Read codes and UK classifications at release

Requests for change are received into both products and related artefacts continuously

The objective is to accommodate these changes in a timely fashion to optimal quality

Accommodation of changes

From UK originating perspective, there are 3 main variants, all dealt with differently:

- Changes to existing 'Core' content
- Addition of new 'Core' type content
 - Combined SNOMED and Read
 - SNOMED only
- Addition of UK extension only content (not further discussed)
 - Combined SNOMED and Read
 - SNOMED only
- Note, there are also (potentially huge) changes to the 'Core' originating elsewhere – eg IHTSDO

Submissions

There is an IHTSDO submission mechanism

There is a UK submission mechanism

- Both accommodate single and bulk requests for change
- All UK originating requests for change are expected to come through UKTC in order for them to be channelled correctly (ie which category)

Changes to existing 'Core' content

The UK cannot (currently) make changes to
'Core' concepts

These are submitted (usually) in small numbers
periodically to IHTSDO via SIRS mechanism

First reviewed by UK senior authors

‘Core’ type Changes to Read and SNOMED

Added to UK extension first to enable rapid accommodation and synchronisation with Read

Added with status ‘pending move’

These are submitted at end of UK release process once full QA has been undertaken

Bulk submission in order of 750-1000 concepts

Upon subsequent International release, IHTSDO provides summary report of outcome of submission (enables tracking)

‘Core’ type changes to SNOMED only

Added to UK extension first to enable rapid accommodation

Added with status ‘pending move’

Submitted as smaller batches at more frequent intervals via IHTSDO bulk submission process

Timed to coincide with IHTSDO baseline updates

Spreads workload for IHTSDO support organisation

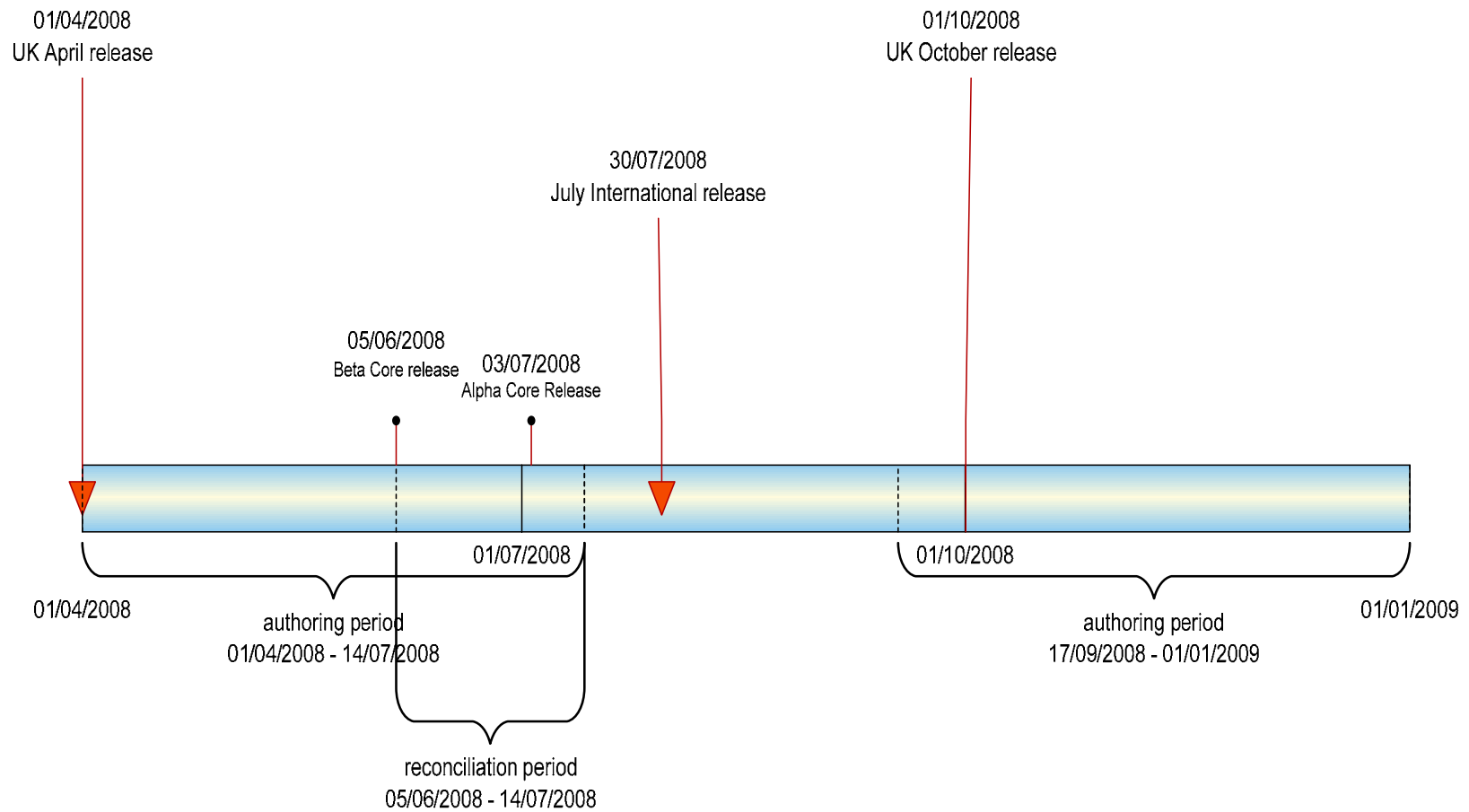
Timing

Both editions feature authoring period and technical processing period

There are cut-off dates after which submissions will not be considered

The changes to the International edition must be reflected in the UK edition

UK reconciliation timeline



Reconciliation process

- Author review of feedback from IHTSDO regarding submissions
- Load testing/evaluation of International Edition beta release
- Load testing/evaluation of International Edition beta release
- Re-run complete QA against the combined data (x2, beta and alpha)
- Review of automated QA errors and fixing of anomalies by technical and authoring staff
- Clinical author review of changes to be made, may identify additional errors
- Early site of changes helps (beta release)
- Process is mainly automated, but still has a human component

Key dates for International release (Jan 2009)

September 24, 2008 – Batch Request Close: batch requests submitted before this date will be reviewed, and *may be* resolved (in whole or in part), for the January 2009 release; batch requests submitted after this date *will not be* considered for the January 2009 release.

October 8, 2008 – Request Submission Close: individual requests submitted before this date will be reviewed, and *may be* resolved, for the January 2009 release; individual requests submitted after this date *will not be* considered for the January 2009 release.

November 5, 2008 – Content Database Close: all content development ends for the January 2009 International Release.

December 31, 2008 – IHTSDO Distribution: the January 2009 International Release becomes available to the IHTSDO and its Members' National Release Centers.

January 30, 2009 – Public Distribution: the January 2009 International Release becomes available to IHTSDO Affiliate Licensees.

Additional notes on international submission process

SIRS for single/small number submissions

Access database for large submissions

Incremental submissions aligned to internal
CAP-STS baseline process

Incremental baseline submissions

July 23, 2008 (Submission by July 18)

None

August 13, 2008 (Submission by August 6)

900 submissions

September 3, 2008 (Submission by August 27)

200 submissions

October 1, 2008 (Submission by September 24)

200 submissions

Bulk submission feedback received in database format

Unique UUID

Submitter and modeller

Clarifications

Rejections

See [NHSBatchNewAug11_2008_RejectedBatch_2.mdb](#)

And [NHSBatchNewNov28_2008_Iteration_1.mdb](#)

Reconciliation efforts

UK originating submissions (depending on outcome and timing)

Changing status from pending move for UK extension concept

Managing changes to International edition including identification of duplicates

Managing consequences for UK-specific content

Managing derivative products, esp subsets and mappings

General issues

- SNOMED CT is complex
- SNOMED CT is formed of a number separate but linked complex artefacts
- Change is inevitable
- Any change results in a number of complex issues to ensure all product sets remain aligned
- Every release is going to require reconciliation which is a complex process
- Every release brings a different set of issues
- This will be more difficult when multiple national extensions are in existence

Some practical points

- Submitted pending move concepts may be added to the International Edition, and also may not
- If they are not added, the status in the extension needs to change to current
- Where concepts are added, they may be added in an alternate form. How do you know two concepts with different term strings are identical ?

Recent enhancements

Submissions tracked at item level and structured feedback provided

Improved editorial guidance and inclusion criteria for International

Improved communication

Incremental submissions

Clear escalation process

Further enhancements

‘More’ improved communication

‘More’ comprehensive editorial guidance

Agreed service levels for feedback

Direct authoring into International edition

New tooling will allow view of ‘work in progress’

Note - The more entities submitting, the more complex the processes and the scarcer central resources become