



## The Benefits of Membership in IHTSDO

Around the world, there is increasing recognition that electronic health records can foster improvements in health outcomes and in the efficiency of health services. Patients can benefit, as can health care providers and health systems. These gains depend on the safe exchange of clinical information. Standardized clinical terminology is a key to moving forward.

### IHTSDO

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National Members of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) share an interest in collective progress in this domain. Together, they have committed to jointly govern SNOMED CT™ and to influence its ongoing further development. SNOMED CT currently contains more than 311,000 unique concepts, 800,000 descriptions, and 1.3 million semantic relationships. This multi-lingual, multi-cultural terminology, is the outcome of hundreds of thousands of hours of work by clinicians and other experts from around the world.

The rights and responsibilities of Members are outlined in Schedule 3 of the IHTSDO *Articles of Association*. As an IHTSDO Member, you join a global community with shared assets, common needs, and a commitment to exchanging experiences and working together on shared priorities. In doing so, you can leverage your investment in a robust, sustainable, and standardized health terminology, thereby reducing potential long-term risks associated with implementing electronic health records.

Other benefits of membership include:

- Free use of SNOMED CT within the Member's territory. Members manage the release, distribution, and sub-licensing of SNOMED CT and other products of the Association within their Territory.
- Twice-yearly updates of the international release of SNOMED CT
- Ability to create national extensions of SNOMED CT and to apply to translate the standard into national language(s).
- Free access to SNOMED CT resources within the Member's territory, including:
  - SNOMED CT User Guide
  - SNOMED CT Technical Reference Guide
  - SNOMED CT Technical Implementation Guide

- SNOMED CT Translation Guides (in progress)
- SNOMED CT Namespace Identifier Guide
- SNOMED CT Developer Toolkit Guide
- Cross-maps to selected international classifications
- Ability to suggest the addition of new concepts, or changes to current concepts and relationships, in the international release.
- Representation on the IHTSDO General Assembly, the peak governance body of the Association.
- Opportunity to nominate candidates for membership on IHTSDO's Management Board and Standing Committees.
- National delegates invited to participate in IHTSDO's twice-yearly Working Group meetings, Special Interest Groups, Project Groups, and other bodies of the organization.
- Access to forums and networks to share, and learn from, implementation and other experiences with using the terminology
- Dedicated hours of help from our contracted support organization to address your national needs. These hours can be used based on your priorities (e.g. for education or for development of reference sets of the terminology).

In addition, you will also gain access to new resources and tools as they are developed by IHTSDO.