



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

2 March 2016

**New Global Licensing Agreement for SNOMED CT Code Inclusion in the DICOM Standard**

*Collaboration between the most comprehensive, multilingual clinical healthcare terminology and the most widely deployed digital medical imaging standard will benefit users worldwide*

Rosslyn, Virginia and London, UK—The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) and the DICOM Standards Committee today announced a new global licensing agreement for SNOMED CT codes and descriptions to be used in the Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standard.

The SNOMED CT terminology supports the development of comprehensive, high-quality clinical content in health records. It provides a standardized way to represent clinical phrases captured by the clinician and enables computer interpretation of those phrases.

DICOM, the international standard for medical imaging and related information, supports the exchange and management of images and image-based findings. It enables image sharing both within a radiology department and for worldwide clinical consultation.

“The importance of imaging to a wide variety of diagnostic and therapeutic tasks makes standard terminology critical to integrated workflows,” said Harry Solomon, co-chair of the DICOM Standards Committee. “The use of SNOMED CT in DICOM allows clinicians using imaging devices and software to identify the anatomy and findings of interest using globally consistent terminology.”

“The DICOM agreement is an excellent demonstration of our commitment to working with other standards development organizations to make SNOMED CT accessible to clinicians and other users,” said IHTSDO CEO Don Sweete. “The coordination of SNOMED CT and DICOM supports both organizations' drive for interoperability of the electronic health record across multiple applications and domains. We are excited to work with DICOM in this capacity.”

The renewable five-year licensing agreement between IHTSDO and DICOM continues the long-standing DICOM policy of using SNOMED terminology, previously established with the SNOMED DICOM Microglossary of 1997 and an agreement with the College of American Pathologists.

The SNOMED CT licensing agreement covers the use of a subset of 7,314 SNOMED CT codes and descriptions, including all current SNOMED CT concepts used in the DICOM standard. Other key points from the agreement include the following:

- The agreed SNOMED CT subset will be updated after each biannual SNOMED CT international release, taking into account changes to SNOMED CT and requests from the DICOM Standards Committee to use additional concepts.

- The agreed SNOMED CT subset is free for use, both for publication in DICOM as well as by implementers and users of DICOM-compliant products and software globally, without restriction to IHTSDO member countries.
- If implementers use additional SNOMED CT codes (beyond the scope of the agreed subset), they are subject to SNOMED CT licensing arrangements that may incur a fee in IHTSDO non-member countries.
- The DICOM standard will be updated to retire and replace concepts that have been inactivated in SNOMED CT.

For more details on the agreement please visit the [IHTSDO](#) and [DICOM](#) websites.

#### **About IHTSDO:**

The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) is owned and governed by 28 international members. We are a not-for-profit organization that works on behalf of the healthcare system and provides full support to our global members and licensees, ensuring that our combined resources achieve significant shared benefits that resonate around the world.

We own, administer and develop SNOMED CT, a commercial product that enables us to establish semantically accurate clinical terminologies for consistent use across all health systems, services, and products in the world.

We strive to improve the health of humankind and are constantly seeking to determine global standards for health terms. We believe that the global healthcare community must safely, accurately, and effectively exchange health information in order to help patients everywhere.

#### **About DICOM:**

Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) is the international standard for medical images and related information (NEMA PS3/ISO 12052). With hundreds of thousands of imaging devices and billions of DICOM images in clinical use, DICOM is one of the most widely deployed healthcare interoperability standards in the world. Since its first publication in 1993, DICOM has revolutionized the practice of radiology, allowing a fully digital workflow that has changed the face of clinical medicine.

The DICOM Standards Committee (DSC) is an independent, international standards development organization comprising biomedical professional societies whose specialties include the use of medical imaging, manufacturers of medical imaging equipment and related information systems, and government agencies, trade associations, and other organizations with an interest in standardization of medical imaging information. The Secretariat of the DSC is the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and its Medical Imaging and Technology Alliance (MITA) division.

#### **About NEMA:**

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) represents nearly 400 electrical and medical imaging manufacturers on the forefront of electrical safety, reliability, resilience, efficiency, and energy security. Our combined industries account for more than 400,000 American jobs and more than 7,000 facilities across the U.S. Domestic production exceeds \$117 billion per year.

**Media Contacts:**

**IHTSDO:**

Alison Delle  
Communications Manager

(e) [ade@ihtsdo.org](mailto:ade@ihtsdo.org)

(t) +14168042424

(t) +233207020745

**DICOM/NEMA:**

Stephen Vastagh  
General Secretary, DICOM

(e) [svastagh@medicalimaging.org](mailto:svastagh@medicalimaging.org)

(t) +1-703-475-9217

Tracy Cullen

Senior Director Communications, NEMA

(e) [Press@nema.org](mailto:Press@nema.org)

(t) +1-703-841-3282