

Concept General Information

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- Guidance is available via the [QA Checklist](#) page.
- All concepts must have at least two (2) descriptions: one (1) Fully Specified Name (FSN) and one (1) Preferred Synonym (PS) (also called Preferred Term (PT)).
- The FSN is always unique in the terminology, while other descriptions may not be unique except for immunizations.
- Additional synonyms may be added to concepts.
- The format of synonyms and addition of synonyms is often driven by domain requirements.
- All synonyms of immunization concepts are unique in order to ensure patient safety.

Fully Specified Name (FSN)

- The FSN is intended to be unambiguous and unique in SNOMED CT.
- The FSN is not recommended for use at the user interface. Preferred terms and synonyms are.
- The US English dialect (spelling) is used in Canada by default (e.g. milliliter instead of millilitre).
- Restrictions in punctuation may restrict how concepts can be represented by their terms.
- Restrictions in field length may require adjustment of wording (max 255 characters).
- Refer to domain specific guidelines for specific guidance.

Preferred Term (PT)

- The PT is intended to be used at the user interface.
- The PT should be familiar to system users.
- The US English dialect (spelling) is used by default (e.g. pediatric as opposed to paediatric).
- Restrictions in punctuation may restrict how concepts can be represented by their terms.
- Refer to domain specific guidelines for specific editorial guidance.
- Restrictions in field length may require adjustment of wording.
- With the *exception of immunizations*, the PS is not always unique.

Other Acceptable Synonyms

- A concept may have one or more synonyms.
- Content developed in the Canadian Edition includes a synonym that is the FSN without the semantic tag.