NZHTS release note for April 2023

25 April 2023

This release note covers the third monthly release of new content to the NZ Health Terminology Service (NZHTS).

Launched in December 2022, NZHTS is the sector's one-stop source of standard terminologies and code sets for high quality digital health records and interoperability. It's a free service, available to all New Zealand health entities and their industry partners.

Learn more about NZHTS and how to use it on the [Te Whatu Ora website](#) and the [Hira marketplace](#).

The content at launch included the SNOMED CT NZ Edition and code sets supporting the National Health Index (NHI), Health Provider Index (HPI) and HL7® FHIR® NZ Base Implementation Guide.

In February 2023, we published:

- NZ Pathology Observation Code Sets (NZPOCS)
- NZ International Patient Summary (NZIPS) code sets for problems and conditions and for allergies and adverse reactions
- MedDRA pharmacovigilance codes

In the March 2023 release, we added:

- ANZSCO occupation codes
- ISO country and language codes
- DSM-IV mental health codes
- Maternity care code sets
- NZIPS medication code sets

New content for April 2023 comes from this month's release of the SNOMED CT NZ Edition, which adds over eighty reference sets in these areas:

- **Structured pathology reporting of cancer**
- **Health consumer information**
- **Family planning**
- **Minor procedures**

Each reference set is presented as an implicit value set via the NZHTS FHIR API.

Here's a description of each area of new content.

Structured pathology reporting of cancer

Te Aho o Te Kahu (Cancer Control Agency) has produced this collection of 72 SNOMED reference sets for recording, sharing and querying cancer data on the developing CanShare platform. The collection includes Anti-Cancer Therapy - Nationally Organised Workstreams (ACT-NOW) reference sets, histology reference sets for haematolymphoid tumours (based on the WHO Classification of Tumours, 5th edition), TNM cancer staging reference sets for breast and haematologic malignancies (based on the AJCC cancer staging manual, 8th edition) and general reference sets used across a range of cancer data.

Using the [New Zealand AJCC grade reference set](#) with concept ID 253251000210103 as an example, here's how to construct a FHIR API query on a reference set:

- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/ValueSet/$expand?url=http://snomed.info/sct/21000210109?fhir_vs=refset/253251000210103

Health consumer information

The new health consumer information reference set consists of common terms used on websites and in patient information leaflets to describe diseases, tests and treatments (other than medicines) in a form consumers and whānau can understand. This content has been developed in partnership with Health Navigator.

Here's a FHIR API query on [New Zealand health consumer information reference set](#):

- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/ValueSet/$expand?url=http://snomed.info/sct/21000210109?fhir_vs=refset/263301000210100

Family planning

The new family planning reference set identifies common symptoms, diagnoses and procedures that are referred to when seeing patients for their sexual and reproductive health. This content has been developed in partnership with New Zealand Family Planning.

FHIR API query on [New Zealand family planning reference set](#):

- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/ValueSet/$expand?url=http://snomed.info/sct/21000210109?fhir_vs=refset/263311000210103

Minor procedures

This collection of five reference sets has standard codes for recording minor procedures performed in outpatient clinics. Using SNOMED instead of purchase unit codes will enable more accurate counting of minor procedures.

FHIR API query on [New Zealand minor eye procedure reference set](#):

- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/ValueSet/$expand?url=http://snomed.info/sct/21000210109?fhir_vs=refset/251651000210100

Upcoming releases

New content we'll release in coming months includes:

- In May 2023, CVX vaccination codes, MedDRA 26.0, UCUM (units of measure) and the next iteration of NZIPS code sets
- In June 2023, more NZIPS code sets, clinical document metadata code sets, Read to SNOMED maps and the remaining Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) code sets
- In July 2023, NZ Medicines Terminology (NZMT) lite content and oral health code sets

News and education

Register at the links for our next two online events:

- [SNOMED NZ Open Forum, 2 May 2023](#)
- [FHIR®, SNOMED and IPS Learnathon, 15 June 2023](#)

And look out for our **Advancing SNOMED CT implementation series** with SNOMED International in the second half of the year.

Links

The FHIR API endpoint for NZHTS is https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir. You can register here

You can find all available NZHTS content listed here:

- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/CodeSystem
- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/ValueSet
- https://nzhts.digital.health.nz/fhir/ConceptMap

See our [Github repository](#) for examples of code set lookups using the API. We also have Postman collections to share.

See also our [SNOMED CT NZ Edition April 2023 release note](#)

Contact us

Please email any enquiries to standards@health.govt.nz or join us at https://forum.hinz.org.nz/c/standards