



IHTSDO

(aka “SNOMED SDO”)

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About IHTSDO

- International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization
- Formed in Denmark, 23rd March 2007
 - 7 months old
- Area of standardization:
 - Terminology for interoperability of electronic health information



The purpose of the IHTSDO

- To acquire, own and administer the rights to SNOMED CT and other relevant assets (collectively, the "**Terminology Products**");
- To develop, maintain, promote and enable the uptake and correct use of its Terminology Products around the world;
- To undertake activities required to achieve these purposes



Status of the IHTSDO

- The IHTSDO is a Danish Association
- The Association is a registered not-for-profit entity in Denmark [23rd March 2007]
- Articles of Association detail the who, what, where and how of the Association
 - <http://www.ihtsdo.org/about-us/governance/>
- The Association owns the intellectual property
- Intellectual property in SNOMED CT and antecedent works (SNOMED 3.5, RT etc.) transferred to the IHTSDO [26th April 2007]



Status of the IHTSDO

- Members are countries
 - Eligible Members are all voting members of the United Nations
- The Members control the organization and the Articles of Association; [subject to Danish Law]
- Nine Charter [initial] Members:
Australia, Canada, Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America



Status of the IHTSDO

- Physical office in the IT University in Copenhagen
 - Web site www.ihtsdo.org
- Three year support contract with the College of American Pathologists [First IHTSDO Release July 2007]
- New roles within the IHTSDO [at outset interim]; recruiting permanent posts
- At outset:
 - Chief Executive Officer [Ulrich Andersen]
 - Chief Terminologist [Kent Spackman]
 - Chief Quality Officer [Ed Cheetham]
 - Small number of administrative staff



What's different now?

- Articles of association
- **2.3 Principles**
 - **2.3.1** The Association will seek to govern itself and conduct all of its activities in accordance with principles of openness, fairness, transparency and accountability to its Members.



What's different now?

- Open collaborative working
- For access to IHTSDO committee documents, work groups, project groups and discussion forums:
 - Send email to support@ihtsdo.org



What's different now?

- The Association's work is funded by annual Membership fees paid by the Member nations
 - “Fair share” is determined by World Bank GNI Atlas
- Use in Member territories does not carry an IHTSDO fee
- Use in non-Member territories comes under a single world-wide license (called an “affiliate license”) [more on licensing later]
- SNOMED CT is much more available (no fees for evaluation or for qualifying research projects)



What's different now?

- Genuine and increased intensity of efforts to cooperate and harmonize with other standards bodies
- Active discussions are ongoing with:
 - HL7, LOINC, IUPAC, WHO, WONCA
- Other contacts have been made or are planned between IHTSDO and:
 - CEN, ISO, IHE, openEHR, RadLex, & others



What's different now?

- Role of the College of American Pathologists
 - Support Organization, by contract (3 years)
 - Perform maintenance and release
 - No governance responsibility
 - Name change to reflect changed role and status
 - SNOMED Terminology Solutions (CAP STS)



IHTSDO Organizational Structure

