

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ADA and IHTSDO Agree to Licensing Arrangements**

**CHICAGO, May 22, 2012** – The oldest and largest national dentist society in the world, the American Dental Association (ADA), and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO), the leading provider of standardized clinical terminology (SNOMED CT), are pleased to announce that they have entered into a licensing agreement permitting the IHTSDO to incorporate the ADA's dental diagnostic codes into the IHTSDO's SNOMED CT medical code set.

By incorporating SNODENT, ADA's Systematized Nomenclature of Dentistry, terms within the SNOMED CT International Release, SNODENT will be available for use by dental professionals around the world. As part of this agreement, an International Dentistry Specialty Interest Group (Dental SIG) will be set up and overseen by the IHTSDO's Content Committee. The primary purpose of this Dental SIG will be to:

- Provide new, as well as updated dentistry content to the SNOMED CT Core
- Offer proposals of project groups to the Content Committee in development of the annual work plan
- Opportunities to improve organizational efficiencies

John van Beek, Chair of the IHTSDO Management Board, said, "I'm delighted with this cooperation arrangement. It will make it possible to incorporate the extensive dental codes of SNODENT into SNOMED CT for the benefit of all SNOMED CT users."

Dr. William R. Calnon, president of the ADA, added "the agreement will make SNODENT content more widely available for the ultimate benefit of patients and global health. Both parties have also committed to identify if there are ways of working more closely together to deliver further benefits."

For more information please visit: [www.ihtsdo.org](http://www.ihtsdo.org)

***Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to follow ADA media relations on Twitter @ADAmidiapr***

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#### **About the American Dental Association**

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 157,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly *The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)* is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit the Association's website at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

#### **About IHTSDO**

The IHTSDO (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) and its current 19 Members seek to improve the health of humankind by fostering the development and use of suitable standardized clinical terminologies, notably SNOMED CT, in order to support the safe, accurate, and effective exchange of health information. IHTSDO's governance structure allows Members to control and guide the development of SNOMED CT, to ensure it meets both their joint needs and the specific needs of their individual countries. SNOMED Clinical Terms™ (SNOMED CT™) is a standardized terminology that can be used as the foundation for electronic health records and other applications. SNOMED CT contains more than 310,000 unique concepts and more than 1.3 million links or relationships between them that ensure that this information is captured consistently, accurately, and reliably across health systems. The terminology is in use in more than fifty countries around the world. SNOMED CT was originally created by the College of American Pathologists by combining SNOMED RT and a computer-based nomenclature and classification known as Clinical Terms Version 3, formerly known as Read Codes Version 3.