

SNOMED Codes

Supporting you to understand what interventions are being delivered.



What is a SNOMED Code?

- SNOMED stands for Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT)
- It is an international standard “vocabulary” to describe interventions being delivered in clinical services.
- Every type of assessment, intervention, therapy etc should have a corresponding SNOMED code.
- SNOMED codes are collected in electronic notes and often sit behind drop down boxes of activities that clinicians can select when recording what they’ve done e.g. CBT, assessments etc.
- Most clinicians won’t ever see the codes themselves, but they will be using them if they are reporting on their clinical activities.
- Some Trusts are flowing SNOMED Data and some aren’t doing this yet.

Why do we use SNOMED codes?

- SNOMED codes allow services and systems to understand what assessments, interventions and treatments are being delivered in services.
- Trusts are expected to flow SNOMED data to MHSDS (the national Mental Health Services Data Set)
- SNOMED data can be analysed locally or nationally to understand what is happening in services.
- As we move to a more *quality* focused approach - there is greater interest in what is being done (SNOMED data) and not merely whether people are being seen or not.
- The new waiting time metric is about timely access to meaningful interventions (i.e. linked to particular SNOMED codes).
- Recent SNOMED data suggests that very few people are getting access to evidence based psychological therapies.