Dr Adriana Velazquez  
Senior Adviser  
Policy Access and Use  
Essential Medicines and Health Products Department  
WHO  

12 September 2018  

Dear Dr Velazquez  

Re Request for input and collaboration towards international 2 classification, coding and nomenclature of medical devices – Thirteenth version concept note (24 July, 2018)  

At SNOMED International we were last week made aware by colleagues at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US of the above request, with the objective of:  

‘To identify an international classification, coding and nomenclature system of Medical Devices 5 (ICMD) to support the access to medical devices for better health care delivery in line with the 6 Sustainable Development Goal #3 and the WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (2019-7 2023), including universal health coverage, response to health emergencies and better health and 8 wellbeing’.  

SNOMED International is a not for profit organisation (based in UK) with currently 35 Member countries globally moving to use SNOMED CT for use in their Electronic Health Records. The content of SNOMED CT covers all aspects of healthcare including diagnoses, interventions, tests and results, functioning etc and specifically includes Medical Devices to support capture in the clinical record of all aspects as applied and given to the individual. SNOMED CT is already mapped to ICD-10 to enable our Member countries to provide the necessary statistical information required by WHO.  

You reference in the Concept Note the importance of having a consistent nomenclature with which we are in total agreement; and what is emerging with regulators globally is the potential to improve the quality of medical device data by drawing it directly from the patient record. SNOMED International was asked by the European Commission to submit a proposal to be considered as the Medical device nomenclature to support their new Regulations (as referenced in your Concept Note). This we have done and are waiting to hear of the next steps.  

Given the increasing global requirements to have a common nomenclature for medical devices, we would be keen to discuss further with yourselves how SNOMED International might be able to support the European Commission on this initiative.  

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contribute to the effort, given that the Principles you set out in your paper are those we apply to the development and ongoing maintenance of SNOMED CT and have done for many years. Such discussions will include flexible options for the use of SNOMED CT in SNOMED International non-Member countries.

I look forward to hearing from you and the opportunity to explore further how we might be able to contribute to this effort, given our experience with working successfully with partners at all levels to ensure timely delivery to agreed requirements.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

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