



Andrzej Ryś
European Commission, DG SANCO
Belgium

06 August 2014

Dear Mr Ryś

Thank you for your letter with regards to usage of SNOMED CT in cross-border eHealth services. The epSOS services are important for the use and uptake of eHealth services in Europe but mostly for the safety and care of the population. IHTSDO has been a strong supporter of this project and we welcome the collaboration discussions to allow these services to continue.

We support the way forward which has been proposed in your letter, that was a result of our previous discussions with your representatives. To ensure that IHTSDO meets the requirements of our Articles of Association we do require, as you state, that each country that is not a member of the IHTSDO, apply for an affiliate license. To ensure that these countries are being administered properly the phrase "EU epSOS agreement" needs to be recorded by the country in their application which is being done via the following link:

<https://isd.hscic.gov.uk/salsa/user/guest/group/0/home>

The license is limited to the concepts being selected for the epSOS master value catalogue (MVC), i.e. not for the whole of SNOMED CT. If a country wishes to make use of the entire terminology they are required to apply for an IHTSDO membership or a affiliate license for their implementations. We will also require a listing of all organisations within that country that will be using the epSOS (MVC) so that we may be aware of usage.

If the European Commission and IHTSDO reach an agreement before 2014-12-31, IHTSDO agrees not to apply any license fees on these countries licenses, i.e. allow cost-free use for the rest of 2014. An agreement between the European Commission and the IHTSDO for 2015 and 2016 is intended to ensure continuous use of the epSOS services in those countries which are not part of the IHTSDO community. This is an important step for cross-border patient care and IHTSDO welcomes this agreement. If there are any questions from you or your member states please direct them to our Customer Relations Lead for Europe; Anna Adelöf.

Look forward to further collaboration discussions which I hope will allow both sides to quickly reach an agreement.

Kind regards,

Don Sweete
Chief Executive Officer
IHTSDO