NCI Metathesaurus (NCIm)

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Overview of the NCI Metathesaurus (NCIm)

NCI Metathesaurus (NCIm) (download) is a wide-ranging biomedical terminology database that covers most terminologies used by NCI for clinical care, translational and basic research, and public information and administrative activities.

The database contains 3,653,463 concepts mapped to 8,015,800 terms with 24,060,058 relationships with 106 sources. NCIm contains most public domain vocabularies from the National Library of Medicine's UMLS Metathesaurus, as well as many other biomedical vocabularies. Some propriety vocabularies are included, and have restrictions on their use.

NCIm is intended to provide rich synonymy and is useful in mapping among the codes and terms used in various biomedical vocabularies. In contrast the NCI Thesaurus (NCIt) is the NCI reference vocabulary that provides the concepts used in caCORE and caBIG® to establish data semantics.

NCIm is registered in the HL7 OID Registry 🔗 as 2.16.840.1.113883.3.26.1.2 .

NCIm is updated monthly. The monthly updates correspond to minor software releases. They contain new or modified concepts, spelling corrections and other minor changes.

EVS produces two or three "builds" of NCIm each year, each roughly corresponding to a major release of a software product. Each build is created using the most recent release of the UMLS Metathesaurus, dropping some old and restricted sources, adding many NCI-specific sources, and following NCI editorial policies. The availability of new builds, and the differences between builds, are announced on the NCI EVS list server.

In addition to the NCIm and the NCIt, the EVS servers provide access to a variety of other vocabulary products such as MedDRA, CTCAE, GO, ICD-9-CM, RadLex, SNOMED CT, LOINC and NDF-RT.

Additional Information

NCI Metathesaurus FAQ

How to Provide Comments and Suggestions

Comments and suggestions may be emailed to the NCIm team at NCIMetathesaurus@mail.nih.gov.