Dear Colleague

**SNOMED-CT**

As you are aware the UK Terminology Centre will be removing all support for Read terminology codes from April 2020. In my new role as Deputy Director for Digital Health and Care, I will be prioritising and moving forward with a clear programme of work to support our strategic intention of moving to SNOMED-CT in Scotland.

I fully acknowledge the significant work undertaken to date by NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and the Working Group of the Clinical Change Leadership Group (CCLG). This work has produced a high level analysis of the issues that need considered by the withdrawal of Read and the potential adoption of SNOMED-CT by NHS Scotland. Given the lapse in time from the original publication of this work I recognise that this work needs to be refreshed as a first step.

It is essential that we make preparations for this change, therefore work will be prioritised for quarter one of 2020 to understand the current position for NHS Scotland, including the identification of implications, options and prioritisation of work to implement SNOMED-CT. This work will provide recommendations to the Digital H&C Strategic Portfolio Board for their assurance and endorsement of the next steps.

**Immediate actions include:**

- Establish a national and coordinated programme of work to develop costed plans and approaches to the delivery of SNOMED-CT across primary and secondary care.

- Working with the NSS Clinical Safety team, produce a clinical risk analysis associated with not implementing SNOMED-CT which will be shared with CCLG and appropriate eHealth governance groups for comment and endorsement.
• Engage with current procurement exercises and programmes (e.g. GP IT re-provisioning, Vaccination Transformation Programme (VTP), CHI and Child Health Transformation) to understand how SNOMED-CT is handled in their current and future requirements.

• Engage with NHS Digital and learn from their programme of work to adopt SNOMED-CT in NHS England.

• Appoint a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) to lead the national delivery programme for SNOMED-CT.

I hope this update is helpful but if you have any feedback or queries please contact Francis or Ian in the first instance at: Francis.Santos@gov.scot or Ian.Thompson@gov.scot.

Yours sincerely

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