

File contents

The file *SNOMED Organism Lists.xls* contains three spreadsheet tables:

1. **Organism List to Condition** – Mappings of Organism Lists to notifiable conditions.
2. **SNOMED to Organism List** – This table contains all of the Organism Lists, and all of the SNOMED organisms in each list.
3. **SNOMED to Condition** – This table is derived from the other two tables. It is a listing of every SNOMED organism that can be mapped to the notifiable conditions in the PHIN Notifiable Condition Mapping Tables (PHIN NCMTs).

About the Organism Lists

Organism Lists are lists of SNOMED organism names and codes. Most of these lists contain 5-10 organisms. The Babesia list is shown below.

SNOMED organism name	SNOMED ID	SNOMED code
Babesia	35029001	L-52B00
Babesia divergens	86432002	L-52B06
Babesia microti	76828008	L-52B02
Babesia species	372376003	L-52B0A

The *Babesia Organism List* is composed of the four organisms in SNOMED that can cause babesiosis. Specifying Organism Lists in this way makes it easier to describe the reporting criteria for cultures and microscopic exams.

Example: Reporting results of tests that identify organisms

- A lab uses SNOMED to code organisms.
- The lab performs LOINC test 33271-8, which is a microscopic exam of a malaria thin smear.
- The test is positive – Babesia organisms are seen.

The lab report will contain two codes:

- The LOINC code of the test performed (33271-8)
- The SNOMED code of the organism that was identified by the lab.

There are only four SNOMED organism codes that could be used in this situation. SNOMED contains 26 Babesia species but only two cause human disease: B. microti and B. divergens. So the test result could be:

- L-52B02 (Babesia microti)
- L-52B06 (Babesia divergens)
- If the lab wasn't sure about the species, the result could be L-52B00 (Babesia) or L-52B0A (Babesia species).

Once the Babesia Organism List has been specified as consisting of these four SNOMED organisms the reporting criteria for LOINC code 33271-8 can be described simply as "Babesia Organism List." There is at least one Organism List in the PHIN NCMTs for every notifiable infectious disease.

Some Organism Lists are more selective than the Babesia list. For example, Campylobacter has three lists because some species only cause intestinal infections while other species can cause non-intestinal infections.

Organism List	Condition
Campylobacter list	Campylobacteriosis
Campylobacter, enteric list	Campylobacteriosis
Campylobacter, extraintestinal list	Campylobacteriosis

This is useful because some LOINC tests for Campylobacter are for non-intestinal infections. Having three lists makes it possible to map LOINC tests to smaller, more specific lists:

LOINC Num	LOINC Test	Organism List
602-3	Microorganism identified : Bone : Aerobic Culture	Campylobacter, extraintestinal list
625-4	Microorganism identified : Stool : Stool Culture	Campylobacter, enteric list
11475-1	Microorganism identified : System specified in message : Culture	Campylobacter list

About SNOMED Identifiers and Codes

When SNOMED CT was in the planning stages a new system of codes was devised to make SNOMED fully computable. Everything in SNOMED got a new code – concepts, terms, relationships between concepts, the status of terms and concepts, etc. These new codes, called SNOMED Identifiers, are 7-9 digit numbers.

Previously only SNOMED concepts had codes, which consisted of 1-2 letters followed by a hyphen and a string of five characters (numbers and letters). When SNOMED CT was released the old SNOMED codes were retained for backward compatibility. This means everything in SNOMED CT has a new SNOMED Identifier and concepts have both an Identifier and an old SNOMED code.

Currently the PHIN NCMTs only use SNOMED for organism names and codes. For this purpose either the old SNOMED codes or the new SNOMED Identifiers can be used. Both are included in the PHIN Notifiable Condition Mapping Tables. Many people prefer the old SNOMED codes because they are easier to read and remember. For computing purposes, however, the new SNOMED Identifiers are better.

SNOMED Version

The January 2004 release of SNOMED CT was used for the Organism Lists in May 2004 release of the PHIN Notifiable Condition Mapping Tables.