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Lithuania

National snomed ct terminology management centre established

The new National SNOMED CT Terminology Management Centre at the Lithuanian Medical Library officially commenced activities in early January.

The introduction of standardised clinical languages for medical information systems is a step forward in improving healthcare quality and safety. More and more countries are giving priority to implementing SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine-Clinical Terms), the most comprehensive terminology and classification system in the medico-clinical field worldwide.

SNOMED CT consists of a systematically organised computer processable collection of medical terminology for diseases, procedures, lab tests, medicines, micro-organisms, diet, topographic, geographic, environmental and social factors, and other aspects of medical codification.

The National SNOMED CT Terminology Centre project team will translate the SNOMED CT terminology sets in Lithuanian, so as to use them in national information systems, in line with Lithuanian eHealth priorities. A pilot integration of these terms in a Medical Dictionary will also be conducted. The Lithuanian Medical Library prepared a draft 'uniform classification of medical terms for the creation of quality eServices in healthcare' under the eHealth System Development Programme 2009-2015. Funding for eHealth projects comes under the Operational Programme 'Eco- nomic Growth', priority 'Information Society for All'.

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