Family History

As noted above (see section 2.2.5 Participations), the HL7 "subject" participant overlaps in meaning with the SNOMED CT Subject Relationship Context.

Where a family member has a condition, regardless of whether the observation code contains an explicit Subject Relationship Context, the subject of the observation is the family member, and not the patient. Where the observation code does include an explicit Subject Relationship Context, the subject participant can also be used where needed to provide further information about the subject.

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| Example 16. Family history, with and without explicit Subject Relationship Context |
| <observation classCode="OBS" moodCode="EVN"> <code code=" 275937001"  codeSystem="2.16.840.1.113883.6.96" displayName="Family history of cancer"/> <text>Family history of cancer in father</text></observation><observation classCode="OBS" moodCode="EVN"> <code code=" 363346000"  codeSystem="2.16.840.1.113883.6.96" displayName="Cancer"/> <text>Family history of cancer in father</text> <subject typeCode="SBJ"> <relatedEntity classCode="PRS"> <code code="9947008" codeSystem="2.16.840.1.113883.6.96" displayName="Natural father"/> </relatedEntity> </subject></observation>  |

These two observations are equivalent.

The first uses an observation code with explicit Subject Relationship Context.

The second uses an observation code without explicit Subject Relationship Context, and the subject participant indicates that it is the father that has the cancer, rather than the patient.