

DICOM Change Proposal

STATUS	Letter Ballot
Date of Last Update	2026-01-28
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Submission Date	2025-07-23

Change Number	CP-2564
Log Summary: Completeness of PS3.16 L-5 Pairedness vs. L-1 Body Part Examined	
Name of Standard	PS3.16
<p>Rationale for Change:</p> <p>CP 1695 added Table L-5 as an indication of whether concepts are paired or not, as a guide to whether or not a laterality modifier may be necessary, rather than depending on out-of-band knowledge of anatomy.</p> <p>It may be unclear how to use it to determine when the laterality-related Attributes Values are required, particularly when the anatomic site is specified as a string Value of Body Part Examined.</p> <p>The need for laterality may be derived in some cases using the PS3.16 Annex L tables that map strings to SNOMED CT codes and then to known paired structures.</p> <p>Validator tools may then be able to derive and check pairedness and whether laterality-related Attributes need to be present with a value.</p> <p>Add an informative description of how to perform this.</p> <p>This way is currently incomplete because Some entries in L-1 have "Body Part Examined" filled, but there is no entry for "Code Value". It is suggested to add at least a note, that this omission is intentional.</p> <p>Some SNOMED Code Values listed in Table L-1 are not yet listed in Table L-5; add them.</p>	
Change Wording:	

Change PS3.16, Chapter L, as:

L Correspondence of Anatomic Region Codes and Body Part Examined Defined Terms

10 This Annex defines a correspondence between the codes used in Context Groups for Anatomic Region Sequence (0008,2218) and Body Part Examined (0018,0015), as well as providing a list of the Defined Terms for Body Part Examined (0018,0015), for human use in [Table L-1](#) and for large animal use in [Table L-2](#) and for small animal use in [Table L-3](#). In addition, [Table L-5](#) summarizes whether or not
15 selected anatomic concepts need a laterality modifier (as opposed to being unpaired, or already incorporating laterality as a precoordinated concept).

Notes:

1. The tables in this Annex contain the union of a large variety of codes suitable for different applications and modalities, including cross-sectional, projectional and visible light. as such, only a subset will be appropriate for any specific application.

20 **The tables are not complete. For example, some entries for Body Part Examined (0018,0015) (FETALARM, FETALDIGIT, FETALHEART, FETALLEG, FETALPOLE) do not have equivalent Coded Concepts in SNOMED CT. They remain in these tables since they have been defined in the Standard in the past. Many SNOMED CT anatomical structure concepts used elsewhere in the Standard, such as in Context Groups, do not have entries for Body Part Examined (0018,0015), since they are expected to be used in place of, rather than in addition to, the string-valued Attribute.**

2. Values for Body Part Examined are limited by the CS VR length restriction to 16 characters in length and hence are somewhat contrived. Some inconsistency in abbreviations may be apparent but this largely reflects historical usage or clinically well recognized usage. No spaces or
30 underscores are used, and singular rather than plural forms are used.

3. **To determine if the Body Part Examined (0018,0015) or Anatomic Region Sequence (0008,2218) or Primary Anatomic Structure Sequence (0008,2228) SQ is a paired structure, the following approach may be used:**
 - a) **If the anatomic site is specified by a string in the value of (0018,0015) Body Part Examined, find it in one of the tables**
 - [Table L-1. Corresponding Codes and Terms for Human Use, or](#)
 - [Table L-2. Corresponding Codes and Terms for Large Animals](#)**and extract the SNOMED CT Code from the column "Code Value".**
 - b) **Search for the SNOMED CT Code in [Table L-5. Pairedness of Anatomic Concepts](#).**
 - c) **Use the value from column "Paired Structure":**
 - N = It is not a paired structure; the laterality-related Attributes will not be required.**
 - Y = It is a paired structure; one of the laterality-related Attributes will be required, depending on the IOD.**

The laterality-related Attributes are:

- **Laterality (0020,0060)**
 - **Image Laterality (0020,0062)**
 - **Frame Laterality (0020,9072)**
 - **Measurement Laterality (0024,0113).**

Change PS3.16, Table L-5. Pairedness of Anatomic Concepts, add the following entries:

Table L-5. Pairedness of Anatomic Concepts

SNOMED Code Value	Code Meaning	Paired Structure
...		
113257007	<u>Cardiovascular system</u>	<u>N</u>
43799004	<u>Chest</u>	<u>N</u>
87342007	<u>Fibula</u>	<u>Y</u>
61685007	<u>Lower limb</u>	<u>Y</u>
63337009	<u>Lower trunk</u>	<u>N</u>
706342009	<u>Phantom</u>	<u>N</u>
43799004	<u>Thorax</u>	<u>N</u>
22943007	<u>Trunk</u>	<u>N</u>
53120007	<u>Upper limb</u>	<u>Y</u>
67734004	<u>Upper trunk</u>	<u>N</u>