

723. Concepts vs. Modifiers

Modifiers allow to express that a fact is not a statement about a patient, but about another fact. They supplement the expressibility of CONCEPTs. The usage of modifiers is advised when:

1. Statements are an **extension** to a repeatable statement (location, cuff size for blood pressure)
2. Modifiers can be **reused** in many other parts of the ontology (degree of severity, level of expertise, measurement methods). One example is to differ between primary and secondary diagnose by 2 modifiers that are inherited to the whole diagnosis tree.
3. Modifiers are used already, e.g. in a biomaterial setting: if modifiers are used for *tracking number*, *kind of material*, *drawn_by*, and so on, one would of course model *pathogen* as a modifier as well.