

## MedDRA Literature Commentary

Subject of commentary:

Henegar, C, Bousquet, C, Lillo-Le Louet, A, Degoulet, P and Jaulent, M-C.  
Building an ontology of adverse drug reactions for automated signal detection in pharmacovigilance. *Comput Biol Med.* 2005 Sep 23; [Epub ahead of print]

Commentary:

This article describes the application of an ontology of MedDRA terms in improving the performance of automated signal detection algorithms for pharmacovigilance purposes. The authors provide further details on the construction of a formal ontology providing semantic definitions of MedDRA terms that had been described previously.<sup>1</sup> They note that the addition of terminological reasoning techniques significantly improved the signal generation performance; however, this advantage must be balanced against the considerable amount of time required for ontological modeling. In this case, the definition of 530 MedDRA terms took 300 hours to complete. For further information, readers can reference the authors' previous articles and the accompanying MSSO commentaries on the MSSO web site.

1. Bousquet, C, Henegar, C, Lillo-Le Louet, A, Degoulet, P and Jaulent, MC.  
Implementation of automated signal generation in pharmacovigilance using a knowledge-based approach. *International Journal of Medical Informatics* (2005) 74, 563-571.