Representation class - Value Domain

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# Representation class - Value Domain

The following information is applicable to value domains only.

## Definition

The class of representation of a value domain (e.g. 'Code' or 'Total').

## Obligation

Mandatory completion.

## Development rules

Valid representation classes are presented in Table 1.

The representation class reflects the main structure of the value domain, not supplementary code(s) such as '99 - not stated/inadequately described'. For example, the representation class for a value domain permitting a measured value (e.g. 5 centimetres) or a '99.9 - not able to be measured' code is*Total*, not *Code*.

A value domain that is of representation class *Ratio* consists of measures of at least two distinct concepts, each of which may be collected in its own right e.g. body mass index is calculated from measures of a person’s body weight and body height. In contrast, a value domain that is of representation class *Total* is either an absolute count of something, reported in one or more units (e.g. Australian currency), or one measure, expressed as a proportionate quantity (e.g. milligrams per litre).

Sub-type classes of the *Total* representation class are available for optional use (i.e. *Count*, *Currency* and *Quantity*).

**Table 1: Valid representation class values and their associated meanings**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Value** | **Meaning** |
| Average | A numeric value representing an arithmetic mean. |
| Code | A system of valid symbols that substitute for longer values. |
| Date | A numeric value representing a calendar date (i.e. day, month and year) or recognised part of a calendar date (i.e. day, month, and/or year). |
| Identifier | A value which establishes identity. |
| Percentage | Parts per hundred. |
| Ratio | An expression of the quantity of one substance or entity in relation to that of another (Dorlands, 2003: 1586). |
| Text | An unformatted, descriptive value. |
| Time | A numeric value representing a specific instance in time. |
| Total | A numeric value representing the sum of a set of values or an entire quantity (including monetary). |
| Count | A numeric value representing a non-monetary numeric value arrived at by counting. |
| Currency | A numeric value representing a monetary value. |
| Quantity | A numeric value representing a continuous number such as the linear dimensions, capacity/amount (non-monetary) of an object. |