Using MetaMap to Process a List of Terms

MetaMap by default expects input records to be separated by a blank line. Many users need to process lists of short terms, e.g.,

- Written informed consent.
- Age 18 years or older.
- Male or female.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Able to give informed consent.
- Signed informed consent.
- Healthy.
- Male.
- Negative pregnancy test.
- Signed written informed consent.
- Ability to understand document.
- Measurable disease.
- ECOG performance status 0-2.
- Signed informed consent.
- Adult patients, >/= 18 years of age.
- Type 2 diabetes.
- Other protocol-defined criteria.

To process such a list of terms without inserting a blank line between each term, call MetaMap with the --sldi (Single-Line Delimited Input) option. MetaMap will then treat each phrase as a separate input record, rather than processing all the text as one monolithic block.

To ensure that each term is processed as a single phrase, and generates the best possible results, we also recommend using these options:

- `-z (--term_processing)—explained Term Processing,
- `-i (--ignore_word_order)—explained Ignore Word Order, and
- `-C (--relaxed_model)—explained Relaxed Model.

The last line of all MetaMap input files must end with a newline character!