Term Processing

MetaMap was originally developed to process articles in the biomedical literature, and by default chunks its input into phrases (noun phrases, prepositional phrases, etc.), each of which is analyzed separately. When running MetaMap on short snippets of text or List of Terms, each term will be analyzed as a single phrase, and not chunked into separate components. The `--term_processing` (`-z`) options provides this functionality.

In order to generate the best possible results, we recommend using `--term_processing` in conjunction with the two options

- Ignore Word Order (`--ignore_word_order`; `-i`), and

- Relaxed Model (`--relaxed_model`; `-C`).

For example, the following terms will be correctly mapped to a single concept only with `--term_processing` and, in some cases, `--relaxed_model`.

`antibody treated bone marrow transplant` (C0279022)

`back supports` (C0183687)

`caffeine and sodium benzoate` (C0544336)

`calcium adjusted calculation` (C0546740)

`canker complete oral cream product` (C3467370)

`cluttered living space` (C0237147)

We recommend that Term Processing be used only to process lists of short terms, and that

- the terms in the input file are separated by blank lines, or

- MetaMap is invoked with either `--sldi` or `--sldiID`.