Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care

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Dictionary of Medicines and Devices- Glossary 1.0

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Approvals:

Name	Organisation	Version	Date
Jo Goulding	Information Standards Delivery, Health and Social Care Information Centre	1.0	03/07/2013
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1 Glossary of Terms:

Term	Acronym	Definition
Actual Medicinal Product	AMP	An Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) is a single dose unit of a finished dose form (unless the product is presented as a continuous dosage form), attributable to an identified supplier that contains a specified amount of an ingredient substance. It describes an actual product which is known to have been available linked to the name of a particular supplier, for example 'Aspirin 300mg caplets (The Boots Company Plc) '.
Actual Medicinal Product Pack	AMPP	An Actual Medicinal Product Pack (AMPP) is the packaged product that is supplied for direct patient use or from which AMPs are supplied for direct patient use. The AMPP describes an actual product which is known to have been available linked to both the name of a particular supplier and information on the pack size of the product, for example 'Aspirin 300mg caplets (The Boots Company Plc) 32 tablet'. It may contain multiple components each of which may or may not be an AMPP in their own right.
Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification	ATC	The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System is used for the classification of drugs and is controlled by the WHO (World Health Organisation) Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (WHOCC). The main purpose of the ATC system is as a tool for capturing and presenting drug utilisation statistics with the aim of improving drug use both nationally and internationally. Other uses of the ATC classification system are not endorsed.
Arm's Length Body	ALB	Arm's-length bodies are public bodies established to carry out specific central government functions at arm's length from ministers.

Term	Acronym	Definition
British National Formulary	BNF	The British National Formulary (BNF) is a joint publication of the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The BNF aims to provide a quick reference for key information on the selection, prescribing, dispensing and administration of medicines. Medicines generally prescribed in the UK are covered. Little or no information is included on medicines promoted for purchase by the public.
Commission on Human Medicines	CHM	An advisory body that provides advice to ministers and licensing authorities on matters relating to human medicinal products. This body combines the responsibilities previously met by the Committee on Safety of Medicines and Medicines Commission
Commercial Medicines Unit	CMU	The Commercial Medicines Unit is part of the Procurement Investment and Commercial Division of the Department of Health. The focus of the work of the CMU is on strategic supply management and procurement of medicines for use in secondary care.
Commercial off the shelf product	COTS	In this instance a commercially available product that may be purchased from a licensed company with maintenance and support options available compared to an in-house development.
Defined Daily Dose	DDD	The basic definition of the defined daily dose (DDD) is: The DDD is the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used for its main indication in adults. A DDD will only be assigned for drugs that already have an ATC code.
dictionary of medicines and devices	dm+d	A terminological resource containing unique identifiers and associated textual descriptions for representing medicines and medical devices used within the UK.
dm+d identifier namespace		Namespace – is a number that is issued to an IHTSDO (owners of SNOMED CT) Member or Affiliate that can be used to create new and unique SNOMED CT identifiers in that realm. Each Member or Affiliate may have one or more namespaces. The namespace allocated to the UK (through the member organisation UKTC) for use for medicines and medicines related components is

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		100001. This number then forms part of the SNOMED CT Concept identifier to denote provenance of that component.
Dosage instructions		The information supporting the prescribed product in order for it to be correctly administered, for example the dose, the route, frequency of administration and duration of treatment.
Dose-based prescribing		In this type of prescribing, the prescriber does not select a product but rather a generic substance (e.g. paracetamol) equivalent to a VTM, together with a dose (1000 mg), route (oral) and frequency of administration (4 times a day) to produce an instruction to administer a drug to a patient. In most cases where dose-based prescribing is done, the instruction will be carried out by a healthcare professional, typically a nurse, who will select and prepare the medicinal product to be administered, thereby selecting a form and strength appropriate to the patient's conditions (e.g. to choose a suspension rather than tablets if the patient is having difficulty swallowing). Dose based prescribing is typically undertaken in secondary care.
Drug Tariff		The Drug Tariff provides information on what will be paid to contractors for NHS Services including both reimbursement (e.g. the cost of drugs and appliances supplied against an NHS Prescription form) and remuneration (e.g. professional fees/allowances which are paid as part of the NHS pharmacy contract). It is produced monthly by the Pharmaceutical Directorate of the NHS Business Services Authority, NHS Prescription Services on behalf of the Department of Health. Paperback copies are supplied primarily to pharmacists and doctors surgeries. It is also available in electronic format.
European Medicines Agency	EMA	The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is a European Union agency for the evaluation of medicinal products.

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Electronic Prescription Service	EPS	A service used in England that enables prescribers in primary care such as GPs to send prescriptions electronically to a dispenser (such as a pharmacy) of the patient's choice. The system also supports electronic reimbursement of prescriptions. For the prescribing, dispensing and reimbursement of primary care medicines, EPS uses dm+d identifiers and descriptions.
Global Trade Item Number	GTIN	An identifier for trade items developed by GS1. Such identifiers are used to look up product information in a database (often by inputting the number through a bar code scanner pointed at an actual product). The uniqueness and universality of the identifier is useful in establishing which product in one database corresponds to which product in another database, especially across organizational boundaries.
GS1UK		GS1 Is the independent Not for profit organisation that sets and maintains the GTIN standard and other supply chain standards. GS1 UK represents UK interests
Health and care organisations		Organisations involved in the delivery of health and care, including Arm's Length Bodies.
Health and Social Care Information Centre	HSCIC	In this context, organization assuming the responsibility for former NHS Connecting for Health products and services.
International Healthcare Terminology Standards Development Organisation	IHTSDO	IHTSDO is the not for profit organisation that owns and maintains SNOMED CT®
International Non-proprietary Name	INN	International Non-proprietary Names are selected in close collaboration with national nomenclature commissions to provide a unique name that is published by the World Heath Organisation
Medical Devices		From the MHRA – Definitions used within Medicines Legislation and Medicines Devices Regulations, a medical device is: Any instrument, apparatus, appliance, material or other article, whether used alone or in combination, including the software necessary for its proper application intended by the manufacturer to be used

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		for humans beings for the purpose of: 1. Diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease; 2. Diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of or compensation for an injury or handicap; 3. Investigation, replacement or modification of the anatomy or of a physiological process; 4. Control of contraception. and which does not achieve its principal intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means, but which may be assisted in its function by such means.
Medicine		From the MHRA – Definitions used within Medicines Legislation and Medicines Devices Regulations, a medicine is: 1. Any substance or combination of substances presented as having properties for treating or preventing disease in human beings; or 2. Any substance or combination of substances which may be used in or administered to human beings either with a view to restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions by exerting a pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action, or to making a medical diagnosis.
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	MHRA	The government agency which is responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices work, and are acceptably safe. The MHRA is an executive agency of the Department of Health.
NHS Business Services Authority	BSA	The BSA works in partnership with the HSCIC (formerly NHS CFH) in populating and maintaining dm+d. It is also the organisation responsible for the reimbursement of medicines prescribed in primary care.
National Patient Safety Agency	NPSA	An Arm's Length Body of the Department of Health who's remit was to identify patient safety issues and find appropriate solutions. The key functions of this organisation were transferred to the NHS Commissioning Board (now called NHS England) in June 2012

Term	Acronym	Definition
Product-based prescribing		In this type of prescribing, prescriptions are created by selecting a single medicinal product (equivalent to VMP or AMP) and with the rest of the prescription then expressed in terms of that product, e.g. paracetamol *500mg tablets 2* to be taken orally 4 times a day. In this case the instruction cannot be varied in favour of a suspension by the pharmacist. Product based prescribing is typically (but not exclusively) undertaken in primary care.
Specials		Specials are individually prepared unlicensed formulations of existing drugs made for a specific patient. Medicines legislation requires that medicinal products are licensed before they are marketed in the UK. However, some patients may have special clinical needs that cannot be met by licensed medicinal products. So that these special needs may be met, the law allows manufacture and supply of unlicensed medicinal products (commonly known as 'specials') subject to certain conditions.
Summary Care Record	SCR	The SCR is designed to provide a summary of clinical information which would be deemed useful in the event of urgent or emergency care for a patient, particularly when other sources of information may not be readily available. A patient's SCR contains details of medications, adverse reactions and allergies. Where the medications are provided in coded format, they are given dm+d identifiers.
Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms	SNOMED CT®	SNOMED CT® is a comprehensive international healthcare terminology. SNOMED CT® has been adopted as the standard clinical terminology for the NHS in England. SNOMED CT® is managed and maintained internationally by the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) and in the UK by the UK Terminology Centre (UKTC).

Term	Acronym	Definition
Technology Reference-data Update Distribution Service	TRUD	The Technology Reference-data Update Distribution Service provides a mechanism to distribute reference-data including dm+ d to interested parties. This is the preferred distribution method and is hosted by the DHID. All registration requests for the TRUD Service should be done through https://www.uktcregistration.nss.cfh.nhs.uk/trud3/user/guest/group/0/home .
United Kingdom Terminology Centre	UKTC	The UK Terminology Centre is responsible for the UK management of SNOMED CT, Read codes and other healthcare terminology products and clinical classifications. http://www.ihtsdo.org/members/uk00
Virtual Medicinal Product	VMP	A Virtual Medicinal Product (VMP) is an abstract concept representing the properties of one or more clinically equivalent Actual Medicinal Products, where clinical is defined as relating to the course of a disease. The Virtual Medicinal Product describes the generic title for a product including the form and strength, for example 'Aspirin 300mg tablets'.
Virtual Medicinal Product Pack	VMPP	A Virtual Medicinal Product Pack (VMPP) is an abstract concept representing the properties of one or more quantitatively equivalent AMPPs. It describes the generic title for a generic or proprietary product pack which is known to have been available. The description includes the pack size, for example 'Aspirin 300mg tablets 32 tablet'.

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Virtual Therapeutic Moiety	VTM	A Virtual Therapeutic Moiety (VTM) is the abstract representation of the substance(s), formulated as a medicinal product, intended by an authorising health care professional for use in the treatment of the patient. Examples of Virtual Therapeutic Moieties: Aspirin Atenolol Co-amoxiclav Doxorubicin Fluoruracil Paracetamol + Metoclopramide Moiety is often used synonymously with the chemical term 'functional group' but there are subtle differences in meaning which are explained here.
World Health Organisation	WHO	The World Health Organisation is the directing and coordinating authority for public health within the United Nations system.
World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology	WHOCC	The Centre's main activities are development and maintenance of the ATC/DDD system, including: • To classify drugs according to the ATC system. • To establish DDDs for drugs which have been assigned an ATC code. • To review and revise as necessary the ATC classification system and DDDs. • To provide technical support to countries in setting up their national medicines classification systems and build capacity in the use of medicines consumption information.

