



Uppsala
Monitoring
Centre

– Building a global safety culture

2021

What's New in WHODrug

March 1, 2021

Contents

What's New in WHODrug March 1, 2021	3
WHODrug Global	3
Sunset of WHODrug Enhanced	3
WHODrug Link Korea	3
WHODrug Koda news	3
Access Manager	4
New substances	4
New Umbrella records	4
ATC assignments	5
Annual ATC revision	5
New ATC codes	5
L01E Protein kinase inhibitors replacing L01XE	5
ATC code name change	5
Additional ATC assignments	5
New WHODrug Standardized Drug Groupings (SDGs)	5
Change Request	6
Online training updates	6
Questions?	6

What's New in WHODrug March 1, 2021

Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) is constantly developing the WHODrug portfolio, to meet the needs of users and to ensure regulatory compliance. This document outlines the most important recent developments, with a short explanation of why they have been made and how they will affect WHODrug users. It also covers some of the revisions to the content of WHODrug.

The scope of WHODrug increases continually, and the March 1, 2021 release includes more than 550,000 unique product names, and over three million medical products, from 152 countries.

Descriptions of the core concepts of WHODrug, such as Drug Code and ATC classification, can be found in the [WHODrug User guide](#), available on the UMC website.

WHODrug Global

To facilitate the use of WHODrug Global, the licence not only includes the entire dictionary of drugs (available in both English and in Chinese), but also WHODrug Insight, WHODrug Change Analysis Tool (CAT), WHODrug Change Request, WHODrug Standardised Drug Groupings (SDGs), and Access Manager.

as an add-on to WHODrug Global. Read more [here](#) and [contact UMC](#) for questions or to request access.

Sunset of WHODrug Enhanced

WHODrug Enhanced is now officially discontinued and will no longer be produced. The dictionary has been available to users since 2005 and was last released on 1 September 2020. From 1 March 2021 WHODrug Global is the only dictionary available. WHODrug Global is the most comprehensive and standardised drug dictionary and contains all the information found in WHODrug Enhanced plus herbal medications.

More information about how to move from WHODrug Enhanced to WHODrug Global is available [here](#).

WHODrug Koda news

New company specific setting for country

It's now possible to make use of country information in the Koda web application to solve non-unique cases in WHODrug. An additional column is provided in the import file where the country for each verbatim can be uploaded.

Improvement of coding rule

In cases where verbatim doesn't include trade name information, Koda logic has been improved to identify ingredient information. Koda then codes to the most appropriate generic record in WHODrug.

Statistics Report

It's now possible to generate a statistics report in Koda. This report will show information such as how many drug names have been coded with higher or lower certainty, koda intelligence vs direct hits, and much more!

Re-training

Koda has been re-trained to be compliant with the March 1, 2021 version of WHODrug. All disagree cases from users have been included in the re-training model to improve Koda logic.

WHODrug Link Korea

WHODrug Link Korea is the latest addition to the WHODrug portfolio, facilitating E2B(R3) ICSR reporting for the Republic of Korea. From 2021, local Korean code identifiers must be included when reporting domestic Korean adverse drug reaction (ADR) cases. Developed in response to the Republic of Korea's new regulations, WHODrug Link Korea converts codes from WHODrug Global to local Korean codes, making the regulatory submission process easier and more efficient for WHODrug users. WHODrug Link Korea can support users of both the B3 and the C3 format and is released for the first time on 1 March 2021. In future, WHODrug Link Korea will be made available on a biannual basis, alongside the release of WHODrug Global. WHODrug Link Korea comes

Access Manager

A new WHODrug self-service function has been launched and made available to all companies with a WHODrug Global License. Appointed persons (so-called Access Managers) can manage their WHODrug accounts themselves, which results in quicker WHODrug access.

The key functionalities in Access Manager are:

- Get a detailed WHODrug Global License overview
- Create new WHODrug accounts with three different levels of access, according to your WHODrug License.
- Search, edit or delete existing accounts.
- Prepare for pending WHODrug accounts.

If you want to know who is the Access Manager at your company, or if you want to be one yourself, please contact subscription@who-umc.org

New substances

To keep WHODrug current and comprehensive and to meet the demands of WHODrug users, the dictionary is continually updated with new substances, for example by monitoring the International Nonproprietary Names (INNs) lists of new drugs.

The substances are generally added with a globally recognised non-proprietary name, and herbal substances with their accepted scientific name, and are assigned at least one ATC code as are all records in WHODrug Global.

New Umbrella records

Umbrella records represent defined groups of drugs rather than specific drug names. Umbrella records are used for coding imprecise verbatim when coding to specific drug names is not possible.

Based on requests from WHODrug users, and new third and fourth ATC levels from the official ATC index, several Umbrella records have been included in WHODrug over the last year.

Table 1. Umbrella records included in WHODrug during 2020.

Drug Code	Umbrella record	ATC
90154601001	Anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) inhibitors	Lo1ED
90153901001	Ataxia telangiectasia and Rad3-related (ATR) inhibitors	Lo1EX
90154301001	BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitors	Lo1EA

90154501001	B-Raf serine-threonine kinase (BRAF) inhibitors	Lo1EC
90155201001	Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors	Lo1EL
90156001001	CA19-9 inhibitors	Lo1XC
90120101001	Combinations of various lipid modifying agents	C10BA
90154801001	Cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) inhibitors	Lo1EF
90154401001	Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitors	Lo1EB
90155601001	Hedgehog pathway inhibitors	Lo1XJ
90155501001	Histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors	Lo1XH
90154901001	Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) tyrosine kinase inhibitors	Lo1EH
90154101001	Integrase inhibitors	J05AJ
90155801001	Intrauterine contraceptives, hormonal	G02BA
90155901001	Intrauterine contraceptives, non-hormonal	G02BA
90155001001	Janus-associated kinase (JAK) inhibitors	Lo1EJ
90068501001	Lipid modifying agents in combination with other drugs	C10BX
90153701001	MALT1 Inhibitors	Lo1XX
90150201001	Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) kinase inhibitors	Lo1EG
90154701001	Mitogen-activated protein kinase (MEK) inhibitors	Lo1EE
90148901001	Other antiparkinson drugs	No4C No4CX
90155301001	Other protein kinase inhibitors	Lo1EX
90150401001	Phosphatidylinositol-3-kinase (Pi3K) inhibitors	Lo1EM
90155701001	Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors	Lo1XK
90155401001	Retinoids for cancer treatment	Lo1XF
90153601001	Spermicides	G02BB
90154201001	Topoisomerase 1 (TOP1) inhibitors	Lo1CE
90153801001	Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) decoction	V90
90154001001	Transforming Growth Factor (TGF) beta inhibitors	Lo1EX Lo1XX Lo3AX
90155101001	Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitors	Lo1EK

Additional alterations have been made to a group of Umbrella records for consistency.

- **Antiandrogens:** Several Umbrella records with similar names, spelling and ATC codes, but with the same intrinsic meaning (*Antiandrogens; Antiandrogens; Antiandrogens, plain*) have been merged into one Umbrella record, *Antiandrogens*, with the ATC codes G03H, G03HA and L02BB.
- **Ethers chemically close to antihistamines:** *Ethers chemically close to antihistamines* and *Ethers, chemically close to antihistamines* have been merged into one Umbrella record, *Ethers chemically close to antihistamines*, with the ATC N04AB, M03BC.
- **Stomatological preparations:** *Stomatological preparations* and *Stomatologicals, mouth preparations* have been merged into one Umbrella record, *Stomatological preparations*, with the ATC A01, A01A.
- **Anesthetics, general:** The ATC codes assigned to *Anesthetics general* was updated to N01A, instead of N01 and N01AX.

ATC assignments

Annual ATC revision

Every year the ATC assignments in WHODrug are revised to ensure compliance with the ATC guidelines from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology. Alterations, deletions, and additions of ATC codes and texts in their guidelines will affect the ATC classification of trade names and substances in WHODrug Global. For all ATC changes, please go to: www.whocc.no/. The major changes in WHODrug for the ATC revision of 2021 are described below.

New ATC codes

87 new 5th level ATC codes were implemented and added to new substances/substance combinations where applicable. In addition, one new 3rd, and several new 4th level ATC codes were implemented. See section 'New Umbrella records' for a list of the new 3rd and 4th level additions.

L01E Protein kinase inhibitors replacing L01XE

A new 3rd level code, with associated 4th level codes, was created for protein kinase inhibitors. The new structure with more specified 4th level codes increases the granularity for protein kinase inhibitors.

For example: the substance Imatinib was previously assigned the ATC code L01XE Protein kinase inhibitors, but is now assigned the new more specific code L01EA BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

L01XE (the old code for protein kinase inhibitors) has been deleted.

ATC code name change

The combination codes for lipid modifying agents have changes names. C10BA changed name from HMG CoA reductase inhibitors in combination with other lipid modifying agents to Combinations of various lipid modifying agents, and C10BX changed name from HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, other combinations to Lipid modifying agents in combination with other drugs. Due to this change, when non-HMG CoA reductase inhibitors are included, it is now possible to assign a 4th level code to several combinations previously assigned only C10B Lipid modifying agents, combinations.

Additional ATC assignments

During 2020, around 70 substances and related medicinal products have been updated with additional, UMC assigned, ATC codes to reflect new indications of use. For example, Ofatumumab (previously assigned only the antineoplastic code L01XC Monoclonal antibodies) is now also assigned L04AA Selective immunosuppressants, to reflect the additional indication, Multiple sclerosis.

New WHODrug Standardized Drug Groupings (SDGs)

The SDGs are unbiased search strategies for creating groups of medicines of interest, maintained and continuously reviewed by UMC to ensure consistency with WHODrug, the ATC classification, and user requirements.

As of the March 1, 2021 release of WHODrug SDGs, there are around 500 drug groupings in total, including both main SDGs and subgroups. The major changes are listed below:

- New subgroups were added to the Drugs for gastric acid related disorders, making the SDG more granular.
- An SDG for COVID-19 related medications was added for the 2020 September release of WHODrug and was further refined for the March 2021 release, by renaming the SDG to Drugs and vaccines for COVID-19, and by making the COVID-19 Vaccine subgroup more granular.
- A new SDG called Drugs for psychiatric disorders was created, which includes several subgroups from the Antidepressants SDG as well as drugs from the Psychoanaleptics SDG. It also contains additional new subgroups.

Change Request

Would you like to include a new or missing medicinal product in WHODrug? Or do you have suggestions for modifications of an existing record? The [WHODrug Change Request](#) is a service that offers an easy way of submitting your suggestions to UMC. The Change Request application can be used by anyone with a valid personal UMC username.

WHODrug and the Pharmacovigilance Portfolio. The launch is planned for the middle of March 2021 and the [registration](#) for the courses will be open straight after the launch.

Matrix LMS is intended to host our current and future training either face-to-face or held digitally, and has some features previously lacking, such as forums, group interactions, gamification, robust reporting and tracking a learner's progress.

Online training updates

We are pleased to be introducing our new Learning Management System (LMS) - [Matrix LMS](#) - a system that can expand with the developing needs of UMC for both

Questions?

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact UMC at whodrug@who-umc.org.

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. TRANSFORM.

Uppsala Monitoring Centre advances the science of pharmacovigilance and inspires patient safety initiatives all over the world. As an independent, non-profit foundation, we engage stakeholders who share our vision and collaborate to build a global patient safety culture. As a leader in the research and development of new scientific methods, we explore the benefits and risks of medicines to help minimise harm to patients, and offer products and services used by health authorities and life-science companies worldwide. Our unique expertise makes us an organisation with the capacity to transform patient safety from an ambition into a reality. For almost 40 years, we have provided scientific leadership and operational support to the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring, expanding the global pharmacovigilance network to reach more than 95% of the world's population (www.who-umc.org).



WHO Collaborating Centre for
International Drug Monitoring

Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC)

Box 1051, SE-751 40 Uppsala, Sweden

Tel: +46 18-65 60 60 www.who-umc.org