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|  | **NHS Prescription Services**  Bridge House  152 Pilgrim Street  Newcastle upon Tyne  NE1 6SN  0845 850 0001  Email:[nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)  Website:[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk)  28 Apr 2025 |
|  |

VERSION 4.3.0

Dear dm+d User,

**SNOMED International proposal to increase Description length limit**

NHS England are providing an update to the information posted in [January 2025](https://nhsengland.kahootz.com/t_c_home/viewBlogArticle?articleID=1154361&nextURL=%2Ft_c_home%2FviewBlog%3Fblogid%3D50136%26startRow%3D11)regarding the proposal from SNOMED International to increase the maximum length of Fully Specified Name (FSN) and Synonym descriptions, from 255 to 4096 characters.

Further information about the proposal has been provided by SNOMED International which can be found in the following document: [Summary of Community Consultation on the Proposal to Increase Description Length Limits](https://nhsengland.kahootz.com/gf2.ti/f/762498/244576485.1/PDF/-/March%202025%20date%20approval%20MF%20BN%2020250326%20v1.00.pdf). A blog with further information is also available on the [SNOMED International website](https://www.snomed.org/news/blog%3A-snomed-international-seeks-community-feedback-on-proposed-description-character-limit-increase).

This proposal will impact UK users who use **content from the Medicinal Product Hierarchy of the SNOMED International Edition,**whether it is from the SNOMED CT International Edition release package or from the SNOMED CT UK Edition.

* This proposal will impact FSNs created in the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension
* This proposal will not impact Preferred Terms (PT) in the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension
* This proposal will not impact the NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (dm+d) - we are not planning to make any changes to the dm+d as a result of this proposal from SNOMED International

As SNOMED International have outlined in their document, **the planned transition date has been postponed to July 2026,**in order to give users in the community more time to make the necessary preparatory changes. This change will come into effect in the **October 2026 UK release**.

If UK stakeholders require more time to implement this change or have any questions/concerns, please email NHS England via [information.standards@nhs.net](mailto:information.standards@nhs.net) adding **‘SNOMED International proposal to increase Description length limit’**to the subject line **by 29 April 2025.**

**Addition of 'Ingredients for VTMs' in dm+d (XML) release files and SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension**

The recent work to add the ingredients to Virtual Therapeutic Moieties (VTMs) that needed populating has been completed, with **VTM ingredient information now available to view on the dm+d browser.**

The [dm+d Editorial Policy](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/dictionary-medicines-and-devices-dmd) has now been updated to reflect the latest policy and will continue to be updated as-and-when any other exclusions are identified

Additional information about the change is available on the following [webpage](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/terminology-and-classifications/uk-medicines-terminology-futures/changes-to-digital-terminologies/addition-of-ingredients-for-vtms-in-dm-d-xml-release-files-and-snomed-ct-uk-drug-extension).

**USER FEEDBACK SOUGHT**

**Misalignment between the terminologies remains for a small subset of identifiers**

* We are unable to map some ingredient identifiers to their respective VTMs.
* Realignment requires reuse of identifiers, restricted by current Editorial Policy
* **We require feedback from dm+d users** on the impact of reusing identifiers.

Please contact us with any concerns at [dmdenquiries@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:dmdenquiries@nhsbsa.nhs.uk) with subject heading “Impact of reuse of identifiers”

If you have any specific queries relating to the dm+d and SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension changes, please contact [nhsdigital.ukmeds@nhs.net](mailto:nhsdigital.ukmeds@nhs.net)

**Updating the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension model to reflect the SNOMED International model for national drug extensions**

As part of the UK Medicines Terminology Futures work, NHS England sought views from SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension users to understand the impacts of this work and how much lead in time users require to manage the changes. The user survey ran from 25 March to 22 April 2025.

Supporting information about this work can be found on the [Updating the SNOMED CT UK Drug Extension model webpage](https://digital.nhs.uk/services/terminology-and-classifications/uk-medicines-terminology-futures/changes-to-digital-terminologies/updating-the-snomed-ct-uk-drug-extension-model).

NHS England are analysing the survey responses to inform next steps.

Further information will be shared once available.

If users would like to discuss this work further, please contact: [nhsdigital.ukmeds@nhs.net](mailto:nhsdigital.ukmeds@nhs.net)

**Monthly dm+d Supplier Workshop**

NHS England hosts a monthly workshop for IT system suppliers to discuss dm+d content and implementation queries.  It is an opportunity to speak with colleagues from NHS England and the NHSBSA who manage the terminology.

If you are a system supplier who is interested in joining the group, please contact [medicinestandards@nhs.net](mailto:medicinestandards@nhs.net) for more information.

**DHSC require these concepts to be made available and visible (similar to licensed medicines) in prescribing and dispensing systems for the time being.**

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| **Specials/Imports added at request of DHSC to mitigate shortages in the supply chain** | | | |
| **AMP Name** | **AMP SNOMED Code** | **Import/Special** | **dm+d extract date** |
| Desmopressin 150micrograms/dose nasal spray | 38955011000001100 | Imported | 14/09/2020 |
| Desmopressin 150micrograms/dose nasal spray | 38996011000001101 | Special Order | 21/09/2020 |
| Capsaicin 0.025% cream | 41539411000001105 | Imported | 27/03/2023 |
| Capsaicin 0.075% cream | 41540711000001105 | Imported | 27/03/2023 |
| Griseofulvin 125mg tablets | 42441511000001104 | Imported (United States) | 27/11/2023 |
| Griseofulvin 500mg tablets | 42441811000001101 | Imported (United States) | 27/11/2023 |
| Hydrogen peroxide 3% solution | 42510811000001109 | Imported | 18/12/2023 |
| Creon 10000 capsules | 43034611000001101 | Imported | 15/07/2024 |
| Creon 25000 capsules | 43034811000001102 | Imported | 15/07/2024 |
| Pancreaze Delayed-Release capsules | 43035111000001108 | Imported | 15/07/2024 |
| Ipratropium bromide 250micrograms/1ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials | 43093511000001105 | Imported | 22/07/2024 |
| Ipratropium bromide 500micrograms/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials | 43094411000001109 | Imported | 22/07/2024 |
| Methylphenidate 18mg modified-release tablets | 43210911000001100 | Imported | 02/09/2024 |
| Methylphenidate 27mg modified-release tablets | 43211511000001100 | Imported | 02/09/2024 |
| Methylphenidate 36mg modified-release tablets | 43211911000001107 | Imported | 02/09/2024 |
| Methylphenidate 54mg modified-release tablets | 43212411000001109 | Imported | 02/09/2024 |
| Pangrol 10,000 capsules | 43788211000001100 | Imported | 23/09/2024 |
| Pangrol 25,000 capsules | 43788511000001102 | Imported | 23/09/2024 |
| Imiquimod 5% cream 250mg sachets | 41526711000001106 | Imported | 02/12/2024 |
| Quetiapine 50mg modified-release tablets | 44616911000001103 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Quetiapine 150mg modified-release tablets | 44617411000001108 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Quetiapine 200mg modified-release tablets | 44617711000001102 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Quetiapine 300mg modified-release tablets | 44618011000001103 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Quetiapine 400mg modified-release tablets | 44618311000001100 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Fluorouracil 5% cream | 44618611000001105 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Imiquimod 3.75% cream 250mg sachets | 44618911000001104 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Sodium fusidate 250mg tablets | 44619211000001103 | Imported | 17/02/2025 |
| Fusidic acid 250mg/5ml oral suspension | 44619511000001100 | Special Order | 17/02/2025 |
| Desmopressin 10micrograms/dose nasal spray | 44920311000001108 | Imported | 17/03/2025 |
| Flucytosine 500mg capsules | 44920711000001107 | Imported | 17/03/2025 |
| Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral suspension | 19674911000001101 | Special Order | 17/03/2025 |
| Megestrol 160mg tablets | 44940711000001109 | Imported | 31/03/2025 |
| Levofloxacin 250mg tablets | 44942511000001103 | Imported | 07/04/2025 |
| Levofloxacin 500mg tablets | 44942811000001100 | Imported | 07/04/2025 |
| Triamcinolone acetonide 10mg/1ml suspension for injection ampoules | 42991511000001109 | Imported | 14/04/2025 |
| Triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/1ml suspension for injection vials | 42991811000001107 | Imported | 14/04/2025 |
| Galantamine 8mg modified-release capsules | 44970311000001109 | Imported | 21/04/2025 |
| Galantamine 16mg modified-release capsules | 44970611000001104 | Imported | 21/04/2025 |
| Galantamine 24mg modified-release capsules | 44970911000001105 | Imported | 21/04/2024 |

**Invalidation****s**

The following concept has been invalidated. The NHSBSA has been instructed that the reason that best fits this invalidation is ‘Outdated’. For more information, see the dm+d Editorial Policy.

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| **Concept to be made Invalid** | **Replacement concepts** |
| **VMP**  Generic Dermol 500 lotion(VMP not to be made invalid) | **VMP** N/A |
| **VMP SNOMED ID**  3395411000001105 | **VMP SNOMED ID**  N/A |
| **VMPP**  500 ml (VMPP not to be made invalid) | **VMPP** N/A |
| **VMPP SNOMED ID**  1262311000001106 | **VMPP SNOMED ID** N/A |
| **AMP**  CeraDerm lotion (Fontus Health Ltd) | **AMP** N/A |
| **AMP SNOMED ID**  44083411000001108 | **AMP SNOMED ID N/A** |
| **AMPP**  500 ml | **AMPP** N/A |
| **AMPP SNOMED ID**  44083511000001107 | **AMPP SNOMED ID** N/A |

**Advance Notice of Invalidations**

The following concepts will be invalidated mid-June as they were added erroneously in terms of dm+d Editorial Policy.

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| --- | --- |
| **Concept to be made Invalid** | **Replacement concepts** |
| **VMP**  Donepezil 10mg orodispersible tablets(VMP not being made invalid) | **VMP**  Donepezil 10mg orodispersible tablets sugar free |
| **VMP SNOMED ID**  20346711000001101 | **VMP SNOMED ID**  11140311000001101 |
| **VMPP**  28 (VMPP not being made invalid) | **VMPP**  28 |
| **VMPP SNOMED ID**  20346411000001107 | **VMPP SNOMED ID**  11133511000001100 |
| **AMP**  Donepezil 10mg orodispersible tablets(Krka UK Ltd) | **AMP**  Donepezil 10mg orodispersible tablets sugar free (Krka UK Ltd) |
| **AMP SNOMED ID**  44950511000001101 | **AMP SNOMED ID**  44982711000001102 |
| **AMPP**  28 | **AMPP**  28 |
| **AMPP SNOMED ID**  44950611000001102 | **AMPP SNOMED ID**  44982811000001105 |

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| **Concept to be made Invalid** | **Replacement concepts** |
| **VMP**  Donepezil 5mg orodispersible tablets(VMP not being made invalid) | **VMP**  Donepezil 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free |
| **VMP SNOMED ID**  20346811000001109 | **VMP SNOMED ID**  11140411000001108 |
| **VMPP**  28 (VMPP not being made invalid) | **VMPP**  28 |
| **VMPP SNOMED ID**  20346111000001102 | **VMPP SNOMED ID**  11133211000001103 |
| **AMP**  Donepezil 5mg orodispersible tablets(Krka UK Ltd) | **AMP**  Donepezil 5mg orodispersible tablets sugar free (Krka UK Ltd) |
| **AMP SNOMED ID**  44950711000001106 | **AMP SNOMED ID**  44982911000001100 |
| **AMPP**  28 | **AMPP**  28 |
| **AMPP SNOMED ID**  44950811000001103 | **AMPP SNOMED ID**  44983011000001108 |

dm+d Authoring Team