WHODrug Newsletter
December 2021

Updates to the UMC website and WHODrug User area

In early December 2021, a new version of the UMC website, with updated content, structure, and more user-friendly design, will be launched. The WHODrug User area has been redesigned to make it easier for WHODrug users to find and access all the essential WHODrug applications and documents. The updated User area will also get a dedicated navigation menu, only containing WHODrug related information, allowing users to focus on what they want. Once available, the updated UMC website with its discrete WHODrug user area may be accessed at www.who-umc.org.

Improved functionality for WHODrug CDGs in WHODrug Insight

Being able to group active substances sharing one or several characteristics is key to develop so-called protocol violation lists and define inclusion/exclusion criteria for clinical trials, among other uses. UMC therefore provides WHODrug users with both WHODrug Standardised Drug Groupings (SDGs) but also the functionality to create WHODrug Customised Drug Groupings (CDGs) via WHODrug Insight.

In response to an increased interest in and usage of WHODrug CDGs, UMC has improved the functionality and stability in WHODrug Insight for WHODrug CDGs. It is now possible to create WHODrug CDGs with an unlimited number of drug names, without disruptions. It is also now feasible to create and populate WHODrug CDGs, then going back for additional drug name searches without the need to wait while the CDG is loading, thus increasing efficiency.

Changes to the WHODrug product files and modified packaging

As previously announced, in the March 2022 release of WHODrug Global three modifications to the WHODrug Global files will be rolled out to meet evolving regulatory expectations and technical developments. Read more about the upcoming modifications below or on the UMC website:

1. The substance name field will be extended to 250 characters in both the B3 and C3 formats, to accommodate a more granular naming of substances.

2. The casing of drug names in the C3 format will be unified to standardise the appearance of drug names bearing the same drug code.

3. The country codes and country names will be updated for a few countries, to harmonise with the ISO 3166-1 standard.

What's more, the WHODrug Global .txt and .csv files will be split into two separate file packages to enable a faster and smoother download, starting from the March 2022 release.

Updated API for WHODrug Koda

A new version of the Application Programming Interface (API) for WHODrug Koda has been made available, streamlining the functionality of the API with the Koda web application. The new version was launched 1 December 2021 and features support for using country information as a drug coding differentiator. Furthermore, the output from the API now includes additional information; all available ATC codes and texts for each coded WHODrug record per the B3 format as well as Preferred Name. With these additions, Koda provides even better support for both the review process as well as the CDISC SDTM submission process.

UMC will keep supporting the old version (1.0) of the Koda API until 1 June 2022. After that date, only the new version (2.0) of the API will be supported.

Next WHODrug monthly webinar

Sign up now for our **WHODrug support Q & A webinar**, scheduled for **Tuesday, 14 December 2021** and available at two time slots, **09:00 and 17:00 CET**.

UMC staff will be covering the launch of UMC's updated website, and addressing the most frequently asked, challenging questions from WHODrug users, for example those related to product file package management, the export of Customised Drug Groupings (CDGs), ATC selection, duplicate records in WHODrug Global Chinese and biosimilars, among other topics. WHODrug users are encouraged to submit questions in advance to whodrug@who-umc.org.

Register here

Medical coding survey reminder

UMC is, in collaboration with the EU Industry MedDRA User Group steering committee and MSSO, looking for representatives from pharma, biotech and CRO organisations to participate in a survey focusing on benchmarking for MedDRA and WHODrug medical coding activities. If you would like to participate, please discuss within your organisation, identify a representative, and **complete the** anonymous survey **by 17 December 2021.** Aggregated results of the survey will feature in the forthcoming EU Industry MedDRA User Group webinar during spring 2022.

Complete the survey

WHODrug User Group meetings 2022

During 2021, UMC has hosted a number of events where WHODrug users have had the opportunity to meet virtually. While the full event programme for 2022 will be presented at a later stage, we are already pleased to announce that the first User Group meeting in 2022 will be a virtual meeting in March and focused towards the Indian WHODrug user community. More specific information (including date) will follow.

UMC invites all WHODrug users to participate in an anonymous survey about the WHODrug User Group meetings. By participating in the survey, you play a part in forming the meetings for 2022 – all feedback will be much appreciated.

Access the survey

Lastly, do not miss the opportunity to sign up for the **WHODrug User Group webcast Japan, 9 December 2021**. Find more information here .

Learn more

Upcoming sunset of Microsoft Explorer – impact on WHODrug users

Microsoft has previously announced the sunset of Internet Explorer on 15 June 2022. After this date, Microsoft will no longer support the use of the Internet Explorer browser. WHODrug users accessing the UMC website or any of the WHODrug applications using Microsoft Internet are encouraged to move over to using the Microsoft Internet Explorer mode in Microsoft Edge, or use other equivalent browser alternatives.

Did you know...

...that China is mandating submissions of post marketing ICSRs in the E2B(R3) format from July 2022? To facilitate compliance for domestic reports, requiring trade names and generic names in local language, users can take assistance from WHODrug Global Chinese.

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