

## COVID-19 update

Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) is continually monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Below, we'd like to summarise the status for our current operations, and also report on new COVID-19 related initiatives:

- All UMC's WHODrug related operations and services have been, and are, running as normal.
- Along with the September 2020 release of WHODrug Global, UMC introduced a new WHODrug Standardised Drug Grouping (SDG): Drugs for COVID-19. On 1 December 2020, UMC releases a complementary list with additions to this SDG. WHODrug users can find the complementary list as well as additional information [here](#).
- To support the anticipated need to carefully monitor the adverse event profile of COVID-19 vaccines, UMC is looking into adding granularity to the structure of COVID-19 vaccine entries in WHODrug Global. Potential modifications are to be made available in the March 2021 release. Please contact the [WHODrug Support](#) to provide input or for more information.
- UMC continues to strengthen the virtual event programme for WHODrug users. As well as monthly webinars, UMC is also planning seven individual User Group webcasts for 2021; for more information see below.
- To learn more about UMC's work to support the pharmacovigilance community during the COVID-19 pandemic, please watch our new mini documentary 'Pharmacovigilance in a time of crisis' [here](#).

## Available soon: WHODrug Link Korea

In 2021, the Republic of Korea is implementing new requirements for ICSR reporting, consistent with the E2B(R3) standard. As part of this, local Korean drug code identifiers are expected to be used and submitted for domestic, Korean, cases. In response to the needs of the industry and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) in the Republic of Korea, UMC is now announcing the development of WHODrug Link Korea. This new addition to the WHODrug portfolio will be officially launched on 1 March 2021 and effectively converts codes from WHODrug Global to local Korean codes, thereby facilitating the regulatory submission process. As of November 2020, an evaluation version of WHODrug Link Korea has been produced. To access the evaluation version or for any questions, please contact the [WHODrug Support](#).

## User Group events update

To ensure accessibility for WHODrug users world-wide, UMC has taken the decision to continue to host virtual [user group webcasts](#) during 2021. Do save the dates for the events listed below! As usual, all events are free of charge to users working at organisations with a valid WHODrug license.

The 2021 programme will accommodate for regionally focused events as well as a new and exciting global conference. More information about the events will follow as it becomes available.

- India, 11 March 2021
  - Europe, 15 April 2021
  - China, 18 May 2021
  - USA, 22 June 2021
  - Japan, 2021\*
  - Republic of Korea, 2021\*
  - Special global conference, 2021\*
- \*dates for these events will be announced later.*

Do you have something interesting to share with the user community? If you do, please submit an abstract for the first three events of the year [here](#). The deadline is 12 January 2021.

Finally, registration is still open for our WHODrug User Group webcast - Japan, coming up on Thursday 10 December 2020, 15:00 - 18:30 JST (Japan Standard Time). The full agenda for this event and the registration link are available on the [UMC website](#).

## WHODrug Koda and drug coding for adverse event reports

WHODrug Koda is UMC's proprietary drug coding engine, developed to increase drug coding efficiency and consistency, available to WHODrug users since 2019. Previously, the performance of WHODrug Koda within pre-marketing settings (coding of concomitant medications) has been validated and presented. UMC is now conducting a study of the performance of WHODrug Koda on drug information on adverse event reports originating from [VigiBase](#). Initial results will be presented at the [4th ISoP Seminar - Intelligent Automation in Pharmacovigilance](#), on 10-11 December 2020. For more information, please contact [UMC](#).

## Goodbye, WHODrug Enhanced

WHODrug Enhanced has officially been discontinued and will no longer be produced. The dictionary has been available to users since 2005 and was last released on 1 September 2020. WHODrug Global is now the only dictionary available from March 2021 and onwards. To those of you who need to move from WHODrug Enhanced to WHODrug Global, please find more information on the [UMC website](#).

## Next WHODrug monthly webinar

Sign up for our Open Q&A webinar, scheduled for Tuesday 15 December 2020 and available in two sessions, 09:00 and 17:00 CET (Central European Time). UMC staff will be answering questions submitted to [whodrug@who-umc.org](mailto:whodrug@who-umc.org). The deadline for submitting questions is Tuesday 8 December. [Register here](#).

## Did you know...

...that UMC will soon be rolling-out a brand-new self-service application, WHODrug Access Manager? WHODrug Access Manager makes it possible for appointed contacts at each organisation to effectively administer and coordinate access to WHODrug applications and services. More information will follow in January 2021.



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