

September 2020 version of WHODrug Global now available

The September 2020 version of WHODrug Global is now available to all users. The new version can be downloaded from the WHODrug Download Area (by designated delivery contacts only) and accessed via WHODrug Insight, both available via the [UMC website](#). The September 2020 version of the WHODrug Global dictionary contains information about 531,179 drug names from 151 countries.

COVID-19 update

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

- All UMC's WHODrug related operations and services have been, and are, running without disruption.
- UMC has, on an expedited basis, developed a new WHODrug Standardised Drug Grouping (SDG), Drugs for COVID-19, released for the first time in September 2020. See below for more information.
- During the spring, UMC replaced WHODrug User Group meetings, originally planned as face-to-face meetings, with virtual events. During the autumn, UMC will continue to develop the virtual event programme for WHODrug users. For specific requests or to provide feedback, please email WHODrug@who-umc.org.

Forthcoming webinar

We look forward to welcoming many of you to our next WHODrug monthly webinar, on Tuesday 8 September 2020. This session will focus on the most recent enhancements and features in the September 2020 release of WHODrug Global. As usual, the webinar is available as two sessions: 9:00 and 17:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time). Register [here](#).

New SDG: Drugs for COVID-19

Based on user requests and to support analysis of drug data from clinical trials and post-marketing safety settings, a new SDG, Drugs for COVID-19, has been developed. While new SDGs are normally introduced in the yearly March releases, this SDG is made available for the first time along with the September 2020 release of WHODrug Global, due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SDG consists of six subgroups, includes substances used or investigated for COVID-19 and is made available in WHODrug Insight. As usual, you are urged to read more about the SDG in the SDG User Guide before making use of the drug grouping. UMC also plans to produce a complementary list with drugs planned to be included in the next version of the SDG, accessible from the [UMC website](#). [Contact UMC](#) to provide feedback.

WHODrug Koda improvements

WHODrug Koda is a drug coding engine, introduced by UMC to increase drug coding consistency and efficiency. WHODrug Koda is developed using WHODrug know-how, advanced algorithms and machine learning. The machine learning model is retrained by UMC for each new version of WHODrug Global, using data from VigiBase and feedback from users. For the September version of WHODrug Koda, the machine learning model has been retrained with around 10,000 new data points.

Following user feedback, the Microsoft Excel export file, generated from the web application, has also been further optimised with the introduction of five new columns, making the output CDISC SDTM compatible, thereby facilitating regulatory submissions. The new columns contain information about preferred names, preferred name drug codes, and all available ATC codes.

To evaluate the performance of WHODrug Koda, access a trial version of the web application [here](#), or [contact UMC](#)

Last release of WHODrug Enhanced

WHODrug Enhanced has been available since 2005, but with the introduction of the more standardised and comprehensive WHODrug Global in 2017, it was decided to close down WHODrug Enhanced. As previously communicated, September 2020 is the last release of WHODrug Enhanced. From March 2021 onwards, WHODrug Global will be the only dictionary type produced and maintained by UMC, marking a milestone in terms of standardisation. For any questions, or to request support in moving from WHODrug Enhanced to WHODrug Global, please contact WHODrug@who-umc.org.

WHODrug C3-format news

Based on user requests, UMC will unify the casing of drug names in the C3 format from the March 2021 release of WHODrug Global. This modification effectively standardises the appearances of drug names bearing the same drug code (all drug names with the same drug code will have the same casing). This modification will not affect any IDs (i.e. the MPID or the drug code) and will not affect users of the B3 format at all. Please [contact UMC](#) if you would like to provide feedback or if you have any questions.

Did you know...

...that the UMC Board has appointed a new CEO, Hervé Le Louët, to lead the organisation, as the longstanding director Marie Lindquist is retiring in the fourth quarter of 2020? Marie joined the UMC in 1979 and was one of the inventors of the WHODrug dictionary as we know it today. Read more in [Uppsala Reports](#), the news site of UMC.



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