

WHODrug Global March 2021 version now available

The March 2021 version of WHODrug Global is now available. 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 March 2021 version of the WHODrug Global dictionary contains over 550,000 drug names from 152 countries.

Next WHODrug monthly webinar

Sign up now for our What's New in WHODrug Global webinar, scheduled for Tuesday 9 March 2021 and available in two sessions, 09:00 and 17:00 CET (Central European Time). UMC staff will be covering the latest COVID-19 related WHODrug updates, the launch of WHODrug Link Korea and the latest features now available to WHODrug Koda users, among other topics. WHODrug users are encouraged to submit questions in advance to WHODrug@who-umc.org. [Register here](#).

COVID-19 update

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

- All UMC's WHODrug related operations and services have continued, and remain without disruption.
- The WHODrug Standardised Drug Grouping (SDG) developed specifically as a response to COVID-19 has been renamed as 'Drugs and vaccines for COVID-19'. Furthermore, the COVID-19 vaccine subgroup is now more granular, to accommodate detailed analysis use cases.
- To support the anticipated need to carefully monitor the adverse event profile of COVID-19 vaccines, the names of COVID-19 vaccine substances in WHODrug Global have been reviewed and updated in terms of added specificity.
- 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.

Now available: WHODrug Link Korea

From June 2021, local Korean drug codes are required to be submitted for domestic Korean adverse drug reaction (ADR) cases and WHODrug Global MPID and CAS number are required for foreign ADR cases. WHODrug Link Korea, available from 1 March 2021, converts codes from WHODrug Global to local Korean codes, thereby facilitating the regulatory submission process for users of WHODrug Global. Link Korea is available as an add-on to the WHODrug Global subscription. Read more on the [UMC website](#).

WHODrug Koda improvements

WHODrug Koda is UMC's proprietary drug coding engine, developed to increase drug coding efficiency and consistency, and available to WHODrug users since 2019. To learn more about Koda in less than five minutes, [click here](#) to view a short video.

For March 2021, Koda has been improved, in terms of both functionality and performance:

- In addition to verbatim, route of administration and indication, WHODrug Koda can now also check country information for the drug name coding predictions. The country information will help Koda to solve so called non-unique drug name scenarios in WHODrug Global and can be particularly helpful when coding post-marketing safety drug data. The country information can be provided in an optional field within the Microsoft Excel import file for the Koda web application.
- Based on user requests, WHODrug Koda's coding algorithms have been further improved. Specifically, Koda is now providing a more precise coding to generic WHODrug Global records.
- Aiming for an increased understanding of WHODrug Koda's prediction performance on selected datasets, it is soon possible to generate high-level statistical reports from the Koda web application.
- The machine learning model has been retrained by UMC for March 2021, as for each new version of WHODrug Global, based on feedback from users and new data from Vigibase.

For more information, or to access the trial version of WHODrug Koda, available to all WHODrug users, please contact the [WHODrug Support](#).

Reminder: WHODrug Enhanced no longer available

WHODrug Enhanced has been discontinued, and the last release available is 1 September 2020. WHODrug Global is the only dictionary type available from March 2021 and onwards.

More information is available on the [UMC website](#) for those needing to upgrade coded data from WHODrug Enhanced to WHODrug Global.

Upcoming file changes

To meet the latest needs related to changes in regulatory expectations and technical developments, UMC is pleased to announce three forthcoming modifications to the WHODrug Global .txt and .csv files:

1. Standardisation of the letter case in the C3 format (to be implemented in the September 2021 release).
2. Expansion of the substance length field to 250 characters (to be implemented in the March 2022 release).
3. Updated country codes and names (to be implemented in the March 2022 release).

To learn more about the upcoming changes, please refer to the [UMC website](#) or contact the [WHODrug Support](#).

WHODrug User Group meetings 2021

Seven WHODrug User Group meetings are planned for 2021. All these events will be virtual and are free of charge to users working at organisations with a valid WHODrug license. Read more and sign up on the [UMC website](#).

- India, 4 March 2021 (now open for registration)
- 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.

WHODrug web course update

To address the developing needs for online training, UMC will implement a new, more powerful and flexible Learning Management System (LMS) for both the WHODrug and pharmacovigilance portfolios. The new platform is planned to be introduced in mid-March 2021 and more information will follow.

Did you know...

...that the new self-service application WHODrug Access Manager is now available? WHODrug Access Manager makes it possible for specifically appointed contacts at each organisation to administer WHODrug user accounts themselves, according to the organisation's WHODrug Global subscription. Read more on the [UMC website](#) or contact subscription@who-umc.org for more information on how to get started.

...that the WHODrug User Guide and the WHODrug Best Practices document are now also available in Chinese? Please visit the [WHODrug library](#) to download your copies today.



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