

Q&A 184.3

What is dm+d?

Prepared by UK Medicines Information ([UKMi](http://www.ukmi.nhs.uk)) pharmacists for NHS healthcare professionals
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Summary

The term dm+d is an abbreviation for 'dictionary of medicines and devices'. This NHS 'vocabulary dictionary' provides a standardised way of uniquely identifying specific medicines or medical devices in information systems and electronic communications, used in the diagnosis or treatment of patients. It has been developed for use throughout the entire NHS. The dm+d database is the NHS standard dictionary, the scope of which only applies to medicines licensed in the UK at this stage. The aim of the dm+d database is to allow safe and reliable transfer of medicines information between different clinical systems using a common coded language by the provision of its unique identifiers (codes) and associated textual descriptions. Health and Care Organisations, System Suppliers and Pharmaceutical companies must fully comply with the dm+d standard by 30th June 2017 (1).

The dm+d database structure is based on five main components, which are (1):

- ◆ Virtual Therapeutic Moiety (VTM)
- ◆ Virtual Medicinal Product (VMP)
- ◆ Actual Medicinal Product (AMP)
- ◆ Virtual Medicinal Product Pack (VMPP)
- ◆ Actual Medicinal Product Pack (AMPP)

Definitions of these core components, together with a model providing an overview of the relationship between them are available (1).

Prescribing and dispensing example

In primary care if a GP wants to prescribe atenolol 50mg, then on their computer they identify the VMPP for atenolol 50mg tablets, 28 pack. This would be written on the prescription. On receiving the prescription the pharmacist would use the identifier for the version they have in stock – this is the AMPP. This allows the NHS Business Services Authority Prescription Services (NHSBSA PS) to know exactly what was dispensed (2).

See table below for links to three useful websites, two of which are referenced above.

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Search strategy

- In-house database/ resources
- Internet Search (Google: dm+d)
- dm+d website. Accessed via www.dmd.nhs.uk
- Health and Social Care Information Centre website. Accessed via www.hscic.gov.uk
- POnline website. Accessed via www.pjonline.com
- Medicines.org.uk Dictionary of Medicines and Devices Browser. Accessed via <http://dmd.medicines.org.uk>
- The Information Standards Board for Health and Social Care. Accessed via www.isb.nhs.uk