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Secondary care guidance on mapping to 'Specials' in dm+d

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Reviewers

This document must be reviewed by the following people:

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Jo Goulding	Business Product Lead – Pharmacy Terminology	9/11/2020	0.6
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Jo Goulding	By email	Business Product Lead – Pharmacy Terminology	9/11/2020	1.0

Glossary of Terms

Term / Abbreviation	What it stands for
Actual Medicinal Product/AMP	An Actual Medicinal Product (AMP) is a single dose unit of a finished dose form (unless the product is presented as a continuous dosage form), attributable to an identified supplier that contains a specified amount of an ingredient substance. It describes an actual product which is known to have been available linked to the name of a particular supplier, for example 'Aspirin 300mg caplets (The Boots Company Plc) '.
Actual Medicinal Product Pack/AMPP	An Actual Medicinal Product Pack (AMPP) is the packaged product that is supplied for direct patient use or from which AMPs are supplied for direct patient use. The AMPP describes an actual product which is known to have been available linked to both the name of a particular supplier and information on the pack size of the product, for example 'Aspirin 300mg caplets (The Boots Company Plc) 32 tablet'. It may contain multiple components each of which may or may not be an AMP in their own right.

NHS dictionary of medicines and devices/dm+d	A terminological resource containing unique identifiers and associated textual descriptions for representing medicines and medical devices used within the UK.
Global Trade Item Numbers/GTINs	GTIN is a globally unique number used to identify trade items, products, or services.
NHS Business Services Authority/NHSBSA	The NHSBSA is the organisation responsible for populating and maintaining dm+d. It is also the organisation responsible for the reimbursement of medicines prescribed in primary care.
NHS England and Wales (Department of Health and Social Care and Welsh Government) Electronic Drug Tariff	The Drug Tariff provides information on what will be paid to contractors for NHS Services including both reimbursement (e.g. the cost of drugs and appliances supplied against an NHS Prescription form) and remuneration (e.g. professional fees/allowances which are paid as part of the NHS pharmacy contract). It is produced monthly by NHS Prescription Services, part of the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care. Paperback copies are supplied primarily to pharmacists and doctors' surgeries. It is also available in electronic format.
NHS Pro-File Information Resource	Pro-File is the database of products manufactured by NHS Specials manufacturing units. http://www.pro-file.nhs.uk
Virtual Medicinal Product/VMP	A Virtual Medicinal Product (VMP) is an abstract concept representing the properties of one or more clinically equivalent Actual Medicinal Products, where clinical is defined as relating to the course of a disease. The Virtual Medicinal Product describes the generic title for a product including the form and strength, for example 'Aspirin 300mg tablets'.
Virtual Medicinal Product Pack/VMPP	A Virtual Medicinal Product Pack (VMPP) is an abstract concept representing the properties of one or more quantitatively equivalent AMPPs. It describes the generic title for a generic or proprietary product pack which is known to have been available. The description includes the pack size, for example 'Aspirin 300mg tablets 32 tablet'.

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1.0 About this document

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to give information and guidance on how local and system supplier drug dictionary 'Specials' descriptions can be mapped to the Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d).¹

1.2. Audience and aim

This document has been written for hospital trusts and secondary care system suppliers to ensure a consistent approach in the mapping of local and system supplier 'Specials' descriptions in hospital pharmacy stock control systems to dm+d.

1.3. Scope

In this document, 'Specials' refer to unlicensed medicinal products manufactured in the UK for human use which have been specially prepared to meet a prescription ordered for individual patients without the need for the manufacturer to hold a marketing authorisation for the medicinal product concerned.²

'Specials' may be:

- manufactured under a specials licence
- prepared by a dispensing contractor or third party under the manufacturing part of the Section 10 exemption from the Medicines Act 1968

2.0 How are 'Specials' authored in dm+d?

This section describes the information sources used to populate 'Specials' in dm+d.

2.1 NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff (Department of Health and Social Care and Welsh Government) Part VIII B Special Order products³

All packs of the Drug Tariff Special Order products held in the NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff Part VIII B will be populated on dm+d.

At AMP level, there will be a single supplier named Drug Tariff Special Order.

The Drug Tariff Special Order product description will represent an umbrella term to encompass standard formulations including standard flavours as well as all the following formulations where indicated in the Drug Tariff:

- Sugar free
- Alcohol free
- Colour free
- Flavour free

- Lactose free
- Preservative free
- Non-standard flavours

The strength of the active ingredient will be included in the VMP and AMP names and the ingredient details will be populated accordingly.

2.2 All other Special Order products

For 'Specials' products that are NOT included in the NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff Part VIII B, these will have a single supplier named Special Order at AMP level.

A single Virtual Medicinal Product Pack (VMPP) and Actual Medicinal Product Pack (AMPP) will be created based on the unit of measure i.e. 1ml etc. The strength of the active ingredient will be included in the VMP and AMP names and the ingredient details will be populated accordingly.

In 2007 the NHS dm+d Editorial Committee agreed to include in dm+d real pack sizes for 'Specials' that are identified on the Pro-File database to enable the population of Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) for these Special Order products.

3.0 Mapping to 'Specials' in dm+d

This section provides guidance on the mapping of 'Specials' in each of the scenarios outlined below.

Note that it is only acceptable to map many local or system supplier descriptions to one dm+d concept if it can be defined as a legitimate sub-type of the dm+d target not elsewhere represented in dm+d.⁴ However, it is not acceptable to map one local or system supplier description to multiple dm+d targets. This principle would be applicable to both 'native' dm+d and dm+d compliant systems.

3.1 Exact match available in dm+d

'Specials' are populated in dm+d based on product descriptions and pack sizes as listed in the NHS England and Wales Drug Tariff and NHS Pro-File Information Resource. If there is an exact product and pack size match in dm+d for a local or system supplier drug dictionary description, then it can be mapped to the dm+d VMPP or AMPP.

3.2 Exact pack size match not available in dm+d

In some cases, the 'Specials' product may be listed in dm+d but there may not be an exact pack size match to the local or system supplier drug dictionary description. 'Specials' products are often manufactured on request to cater for the specific needs of individual patients. Consequently, the quantities prescribed for patients can vary significantly.

To accommodate for this, single VMPP and AMPP entries have been created in the dm+d based on the unit of measure, for example 1ml (as described in section 2.2 above). In such cases, it may be appropriate to map the local or system supplier drug dictionary 'Specials' description to the relevant dm+d VMPP or AMPP entry representing the single unit of the product (for example, 1ml) and to include information regarding the actual quantity supplied separately in the outbound messaging.

If a local or system supplier 'Specials' description references a special container product (for example, pre-filled syringe) containing a volume not represented in the dm+d, it may not be possible to map the description to the dm+d. If it is deemed that the 'Specials' product has repeated requirement for its use, please e-mail nhsbsa.dmdenquiries@nhs.net and this will be investigated for inclusion in dm+d.

3.3 Non-standard 'Specials' formulations

In this section, the term non-standard 'Specials' formulations are in reference to products that are sugar free, alcohol free, colour free, etc.

Due to the innumerable potential variations of non-standard 'Specials' formulations, it is not viable to represent all these variations in dm+d at VMP and AMP level. There may not always be an exact match in dm+d to map a more granular local or system supplier drug dictionary description of non-standard 'Specials' formulation.

In such cases, it may not be possible to map the local or system supplier drug dictionary description to dm+d. If there is a non-standard 'Specials' formulation which is absent from dm+d and for which there is repeated requirement for its use, please e-mail nhsbsa.dmdenquiries@nhs.net and this will be investigated for inclusion in dm+d.

4.0 References

1. [NHS dictionary of medicines and devices \(dm+d\) Data model](#). Release 2.0 Version 3.1. May 2015 (viewed online 17 September 2020)
2. [NHS dictionary of medicines and devices \(dm+d\) Editorial policy](#) Release 2.0 Version 3.5. December 2018 (viewed online 17 September 2020)
3. [NHS England and Wales \(Department of Health and Social Care and Welsh Government\) Electronic Drug Tariff](#) (viewed online 17 September 2020)
4. [NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices \(dm+d\) Formal Definition of the "native use of dm+d"](#). Version 1.0. 25 October 2006 (viewed online 17 September 2020)