
**Health informatics — Identification
of medicinal products — Data
elements and structures for the
unique identification and exchange of
regulated information on substances**

*Informatique de santé — Identification des produits médicaux —
Éléments de données et structures pour l'identification unique et
l'échange d'informations réglementées sur les substances*

ISO 11238:2018

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2. www.iso.org/directives

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received. www.iso.org/patents

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information.

This document was prepared by ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

This second edition ~~replaces the first edition ISO 11238:2012~~, which has been technically revised.

Introduction

This document was developed in response to a worldwide demand for internationally harmonized specifications for medicinal products. It is one of a group of five standards and four technical specifications which together provide the basis for the unique identification of medicinal products. The group of standards and technical specifications comprises:

ISO 11615[3], *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated medicinal product information*

ISO 11616[4], *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated pharmaceutical product information*

ISO 11238, *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated information on substances*

ISO 11239[5], *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated information on pharmaceutical dose forms, units of presentation, routes of administration and packaging*

ISO 11240[6], *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of units of measurement*

ISO/TS 19844, *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Implementation guidelines for data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated information on substances*

ISO/TS 20440[7], *Health informatics — Identification of Medicinal Products — Implementation guide for ISO 11239 data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated information on pharmaceutical dose forms, units of presentation, routes of administration and packaging*

ISO/TS 20443[8], *Health informatics — Identification of Medicinal Products — Implementation guide for ISO 11615 data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated Medicinal Product information*

ISO/TS 20451[9], *Health informatics — Identification of Medicinal Products — Implementation guide for ISO 11616 data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated pharmaceutical product information*

These standards for the identification of medicinal products (IDMP) support the activities of medicines regulatory agencies worldwide by jurisdiction. These include a variety of regulatory activities related to development, registration and life cycle management of medicinal products, as well as pharmacovigilance and risk management.

To meet the primary objectives of the regulation of medicines and pharmacovigilance, it is necessary to reliably exchange medicinal product information in a robust and reliable manner. The IDMP standards therefore support the following interactions:

- between one medicine regulatory agency and another, e.g. European Medicines Agency to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or vice versa; and between the European Medicines Agency and the National Competent Authorities in the EU, vice versa;
- between pharmaceutical companies and medicine regulatory agencies, e.g. "Pharma Company A" to Health Canada;
- between the sponsor of a clinical trial to a medicine regulatory agency, e.g. "University X" to the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES);
- between a medicine regulatory agency and other stakeholders, e.g. UK Medicines and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to the National Health Service (NHS);

- between medicine regulatory agencies and worldwide-maintained data sources, e.g. the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Agency (PMDA) and the organization responsible for assigning substance identifiers.

Unique identifiers produced in conformance with the IDMP standards will support applications for which it is necessary to reliably identify and trace the use of medicinal products and the ingredients within medicinal products.

This document provides a structure that enables the assignment and maintenance of unique identifiers for all substances in medicinal products. This document sets out the general rules for defining and distinguishing substances, and provides a high-level model for substances and specified substances to support the organization and capturing of data.

It is anticipated that implementation will use the ISO/TS 19844 and HL7 messaging (see 5.8) to deliver a strong, non-semantic unique identifier for every substance present in a medicinal product. It is anticipated that a single maintenance organization will be responsible for the generation of global identifiers for every substance and that such an organization would retain the defining elements upon which the substance identifier was based. At the specified substance level, a more regional approach may be necessary because of the proprietary nature of much of the information.

The use of the identifier is essential for the description of substances in medicinal products on a global scale. This document does not involve developing nomenclature for substances or specified substances, but common and official substance names in current use can be mapped to each identifier.

Ingredients used in medicinal products range from simple chemicals to gene-modified cells to animal tissues. To unambiguously define these substances is particularly challenging. This document defines substances based on their scientific identity (i.e. what they are) rather than on their use or method of production. Molecular structure or other immutable properties, such as taxonomic, anatomical and/or fractionation information, are used to define substances. This document contains five single substance types and a mixture substance class that are sufficient to define all substances. Although it is certainly possible to define or classify substances in other ways, this document uses a minimalistic structured scientific concept approach focusing on the critical elements necessary to distinguish two substances from one another. There are frequently interactions between substances when they are mixed together, but this document has intentionally not included these supramolecular interactions at the substance level because of the variable nature and strength of such interactions. This document also allows for the capture of multiple terms which refer to a given substance and a variety of reference information that could be used to classify substances or relate one substance to another.

In addition to the substance level, this document also provides elements for the capture of further information on substances that make up the defining characteristics of specified substances, such as grade, manufacturer, manufacturing information and specifications, and also to capture information on substances that are frequently combined together in commerce but are not strictly a medicinal product. At the specified substance level, four groups of elements provide information essential to the tracking and description of substances in medicinal products.

The basic concepts in the regulatory and pharmaceutical standards development domain use a wide variety of terms in various contexts. The information models presented in this document depict elements and the relationship between elements that are necessary to define substances. The terms and definitions described in this document are to be applied for the concepts that are required to uniquely identify, characterize and exchange information on substances in regulated medicinal products.

The terms and definitions adopted in this document are intended to facilitate the interpretation and application of legal and regulatory requirements, but they are without prejudice to any legally binding document. In case of doubt or potential conflict, the terms and definitions contained in legally binding documents prevail.

In this document, “% (V/V)” is used in place of “% volume fraction”.

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Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products — Data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated information on substances

CAUTION — This document uses colour. This should be taken into consideration when printing.

1 Scope

This document provides an information model to define and identify substances within medicinal products or substances used for medicinal purposes, including dietary supplements, foods and cosmetics. The information model can be used in the human and veterinary domain since the principles are transferrable. Other standards and external terminological resources are referenced that are applicable to this document.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/TS 19844:2018, *Health informatics — Identification of medicinal products (IDMP) — Implementation guidelines for ISO 11238 for data elements and structures for the unique identification and exchange of regulated information on substances*

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3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

adjuvant

component that potentiates the immune response to an antigen and/or modulates it towards the desired immune response

3.2

active marker

constituent or groups of constituents of a (herbal) Substance (fresh), Herbal Drug, Herbal preparation or herbal medicinal product which are of interest for control purposes and are generally accepted to contribute to therapeutic activity

Note 1 to entry: Active markers are not equivalent to analytical or signature markers that serve solely for identification or control purposes.

3.3

allergen

material of concern used as ingredient or in a device capable of stimulating a type-I hypersensitivity or allergic reaction in atopic individuals

Note 1 to entry: In this document the definition is specified to a molecule (substance) capable of inducing an immunoglobulin E (IgE) response and/or a Type I allergenic reaction.

3.4

allergoids

allergen extracts chemically modified (e.g. by formaldehyde or glutaraldehyde) in order to reduce allergenicity while maintaining immunogenicity

Note 1 to entry: Formaldehyde and glutaraldehyde react with primary amino groups in the polypeptide chain of the allergen leading to intramolecular and intermolecular cross-linked high-molecular-weight allergen polymers; in this way conformational IgE epitopes should be destroyed while the linear T-cell epitopes remain unaffected.

3.5

analytical data

set of elements to describe and capture methods and reference material used to determine purity, potency or identity in a specified substance

3.6

analytical marker

constituent or groups of constituents that serve for analytical purposes

Note 1 to entry: Active markers are not equivalent to analytical or signature markers that serve solely for identification or control purposes.

3.7

ATC Code

Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification code
substance classification code

code used for the classification of drugs

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Note 1 to entry: It is controlled by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (WHOC) ¹⁾.

Note 2 to entry: This pharmaceutical coding system divides drugs into different groups according to the organ or system on which they act and/or their therapeutic, pharmacological and chemical properties. Each bottom-level ATC code stands for a pharmaceutically used substance or a combination of substances in a single indication (or use). This means that one drug can have more than one code: Acetylsalicylic acid, for example, has A01AD05 as a drug for local oral treatment, B01AC06 as a platelet inhibitor, and N02BA01 as an analgesic and antipyretic. On the other hand, several different brands share the same code if they have the same active substance and indications.

3.8

CAS Index name

Chemical Abstracts Service Index name

CAS Registry name

identifier that usually identifies a single substance

Note 1 to entry: For further explanations see subclause [A.1.2](#).

3.9

CAS Registry Number

CAS number²⁾

unique numerical identifier of a substance in the CAS Registry system

Note 1 to entry: For further explanations see subclause [A.1.2](#).

1) https://www.whocc.no/atc/structure_and_principles/

2) <https://www.cas.org/content/chemical-substances/faqs>

3.10**chemical bond**

condition that occurs when forces acting between two atoms or groups of atoms lead to the formation of a stable discrete molecular entity

3.11**chemical substance**

type of substance that can be described as a stoichiometric or non-stoichiometric single molecular entity and is not a protein, nucleic acid or polymer substance

Note 1 to entry: Chemical substances are generally considered “small” molecules which have associated salts, solvates or ions and may be described using a single definitive or representative structure.

3.12**chiral substance**

substance whose molecular structure is not superimposable on its mirror image

3.13**co-crystals**

homogenous (single phase) crystalline structures made up of two or more components in a definite stoichiometric ratio where the arrangement in the crystal lattice is not based on ionic bonds

3.14**component**

substance which is part of a mixture and that defines a multi-substance material at the Specified Substance Group 1 level

EXAMPLE Dimethicone and silicon dioxide are components of simethicone. Human insulin and protamine are the components in human insulin isophane.

Note 1 to entry: Components are used to describe a multi-substance material.

3.15**composition stoichiometry**

quantitative relationships between the chemical elements or moieties that make up a substance

EXAMPLE Disodium hydrogen phosphate heptahydrate and disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate are defined as different substances because they differ in composition stoichiometry.

3.16**configuration**

method for indicating the three-dimensional arrangement of atoms at a stereogenic carbon, phosphorous, sulfur centre or stereocenter

3.17**constituent**

substance present within a Specified Substance or a parent substance

Note 1 to entry: Constituents can be impurities, degradants, extraction solvents, vehicles, active markers or signature substances, parent substances or single substances mixed together to form a multi-substance material.

Note 2 to entry: Constituents shall have an associated role and amount at the Specified Substance Group 1 information model. Constituent specifications shall be used to describe components as well as limits on impurities or related substances for a given material.

EXAMPLE The substance, triamcinolone acetonide is the parent (constituent) substance of the Specified Substance Group 1 substance, triamcinolone acetonide, micronized.

Note 3 to entry: Constituent component is part of a mixture belonging to a homologous group of individual components, described as parent substances for the manufacture of an allergenic extract.

3.18

controlled vocabulary

finite set of values that represent the only allowed values for a data item

Note 1 to entry: The allowed values can be codes, text or numeric.

[SOURCE: CDISC Clinical Research Glossary V10.0, 2016, modified]^[16]

3.19

copolymer

polymer with more than one type of structural repeat unit linked through covalent bonds

Note 1 to entry: Copolymers are obtained by copolymerization or sequential polymerization of two or more different monomers. Copolymers can be random, statistical, alternating, periodic, block, cross, graft or mixed.

3.20

critical process parameter

process parameter whose variability has an impact on a critical quality attribute and therefore should be monitored or controlled to ensure the process produces the desired quality

Note 1 to entry: A manufacturing parameter is considered “critical” and necessary for production of Substance or Specified Substance e.g. inclusion of chromatographic step for removal or reduction of impurities, viruses.

Note 2 to entry: The critical process is tied to the Production Method type.

3.21

cytokine

small protein released by cells that has a specific effect on the interactions between cells, on communications between cells or on the behaviour of cells

3.22

degree of polymerization

average number of monomers or repeat units in a polymeric block or chain

Note 1 to entry: Applies to both homopolymers and block copolymers where it refers to the degree of polymerization within a block.

3.23

diverse origin

substances that are not isolated together or the result of the same process

3.24

drug extract ratio

ratio of the quantity of the (herbal) substance (fresh), or herbal drug to the quantity of the resulting herbal preparation

3.25

enhancer

cis-acting sequence of DNA that increases the utilization of some eukaryotic promoters and which can function in either orientation and in any location (upstream or downstream) relative to the promoter

3.26

extract ratio for allergens

extraction ratio indicating the relative proportions (m/V) of allergenic source materials and solvents

Note 1 to entry: This ratio is a minimal requirement for allergens for which there are not enough patients to determine the total allergenic activity *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

3.27

extraction solvents

solvents which are used for the extraction process

3.28**fraction**

distinct portion of material derived from a complex matrix, the composition of which differs from antecedent material

Note 1 to entry: This concept is used to describe source material and is recursive in that a subsequent fraction can be derived from an antecedent fraction.

EXAMPLE Serum immunoglobulins to polyclonal IgG is an example of recursive fractionation.

3.29**gene**

basic unit of hereditary information composed of chains of nucleotide base pairs in specific sequences that encodes a protein or protein subunit

3.30**gene element**

individual element within a gene such as a promoter, enhancer, silencer or coding sequence

3.31**glycosylation**

enzymatic process that links saccharides or oligosaccharides to substances

3.32**glycosylation type**

significant differences in glycosylation between different types of organisms

Note 1 to entry: This distinguishes the pattern of glycosylation across organism types, e.g. human, mammalian and avian. The glycosylation type is a defining element when a glycosylated protein exists as a substance.

3.33**grade**

set of specifications indicating the quality of a substance or specified substance

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3.34**harvesting**

process of collecting a (herbal) substance (fresh) or parts of botanical material from the field or process of collecting viral or bacterial material from its production/manufacturing site

3.35**homeopathic stocks**

substances, products of preparations used as starting materials for the production of homeopathic preparations.

Note 1 to entry: A stock is usually one of the following: a mother tincture or a glycerol macerate, for raw materials of botanical, zoological or human origin, or the substance itself, for raw materials of chemical or mineral origin.

3.36**homopolymer**

polymer containing a single structural repeat unit

3.37**isotope**

variants of a chemical element that differ by atomic mass, having the same number of protons and differing in the number of neutrons in the nucleus

Note 1 to entry: Radionuclides or nuclides with a non-natural isotopic ratio are shown in the structural representation with the nuclide number displayed. Natural abundance isotopes are represented by an elemental symbol without a nuclide number.

EXAMPLE ^{13}C refers to a carbon atom that has an atomic mass of 13.

3.38

manufactured item

qualitative and quantitative composition of a product as contained in the packaging of the Medicinal Product

Note 1 to entry: A Medicinal Product may contain one or more manufactured items. In many instances the manufactured item is equal to the pharmaceutical product. However, there are instances where the manufactured item(s) undergo a transformation before being administered to the patient (as the pharmaceutical product) and the two are not equal.

3.39

manufacturer

organization that holds the authorization for the manufacturing process

Note 1 to entry: In this document the definition refers to a company responsible for the manufacturing of the substance

3.40

manufacturing

process of production for a substance or medicinal product from the acquisition of all materials through all processing stages

Note 1 to entry: The critical process, critical process steps, starting and processing materials and critical production parameters are included.

3.41

material

entity that has mass, occupies space and consists of one or more substances

3.42

medicinal product

pharmaceutical product or combination of pharmaceutical products that can be administered to human beings (or animals) for treating or preventing disease, with the aim/purpose of making a medical diagnosis or to restore, correct or modify physiological functions

Note 1 to entry: A Medicinal Product may contain in the packaging one or more manufactured items and one or more pharmaceutical products. In certain regions, a Medicinal Product may also be defined as any substance or combination of substances which may be used to make a medical diagnosis.

3.43

microheterogeneity

substances isolated together that contain minor differences in structure between essentially identical substances that are isolated/source material (e.g. sequence heterogeneity) and/or post-translational modification such as glycosylation

Note 1 to entry: Microheterogeneity is not a defining characteristic of substances but can be a defining one at the specified substance group 1 information level, e.g. differences in glycans.

Note 2 to entry: Microheterogeneity consists of variability in the type of glycosylation (biantennary, triantennary), extent of glycosylation at a given site (site occupancy), sequence heterogeneity due to polymorphism in source material, translation errors or variable proteolytic processing or other.

3.44

mixture

type of polydisperse substance that is a combination of single substances isolated together or produced in the same synthetic process

Note 1 to entry: Single substances of diverse origin that are brought together and do not undergo a chemical transformation as a result of that combination are defined as multi-substance materials (Specified Substance Group 1) and not as mixture.

EXAMPLE 1 Gentamicin is defined as a mixture substance of Gentamicin C1, Gentamicin C1A, Gentamicin C2, Gentamicin C2A and Gentamicin C2B. Glyceryl monoesters are defined as mixture substances of two single substances which differ in the position of esterification. Simethicone, which consists of dimethicone and silicon dioxide, is not defined as a mixture substance since these are diverse materials brought together to form a multi-substance material.

EXAMPLE 2 Glyceryl monoesters could be defined as a mixture of two single substances which differ in the position of esterification.

Note 2 to entry: Mixture could be used for a homologous group of structurally diverse single substances used as starting materials in order to prepare an allergen extract. The extract is further described by using the class 'Source Material', element group 'Fraction Description' (allergen preparation) obtained from the structurally diverse single substances (starting materials) as parent substances. This substance (allergen extract) is the result of the same (synthetic) process and hence the extract is considered as a mixture substance.

3.45 moiety

entity within a substance that has a complete and continuous molecular structure

EXAMPLE The strength of a medicinal product is often based on what is referred to as the active moiety of the molecule, responsible for the physiological or pharmacological action of the drug substance. To avoid ambiguity, the free acid and/or free base should be used as the moiety upon which strength is based.

Note 1 to entry: The active moiety of a stoichiometric or non-stoichiometrical substance molecule is considered that part of the molecule that is the base, free acid or ion molecular part of a salt, solvate, chelate, clathrate, molecular complex or ester.

3.46 molecular formula

chemical formula that shows the total number and kind of atoms in a molecule indicating atomic proportional ratios (the numerical proportions of atoms of one type to those of other types) which is a way of expressing information about the proportions of atoms that constitute a particular chemical compound, using a single line of chemical element symbols, numbers, and sometimes other symbols

Note 1 to entry: The molecular formula could contain other symbols, such as parentheses, dashes, brackets, and plus (+) and minus (–) signs. These are limited to a single typographic line of symbols, which may include subscripts and superscripts. A chemical formula contains no words (e.g. Glucose is represented as C₆H₁₂O₆).

Note 2 to entry: Molecular formulas are written in accordance with the Hill system/ Hill notation such that the number of carbon atoms in a molecule is indicated first, the number of hydrogen atoms next, and then the number of all other chemical elements subsequently, in alphabetic order. When the formula contains no carbon, all the elements, including hydrogen, are listed alphabetically.

Note 3 to entry: Inorganic acids and metal salts are shown without charges or bonds: HClO₄ and KMnO₄ respectively. If metal salts of inorganic acids include several metals, the symbols for the metals are shown in alphabetic order, e.g. K₂NaPO₄.

3.47 molecular formula by moiety

way of describing of the molecular formula of a stoichiometric or non-stoichiometric substance existing of two or more moieties, the molecular formula of each moiety shall be described separated by a dot

Note 1 to entry: The molecular formula of the chemical salt Amlodipine besilate is described as C₂₀H₂₅ClN₂O₅.C₆H₆O₃S.

Note 2 to entry: In non-cyclic linear structures like sodium nitroprusside: Na₂[Fe(CN)₅(NO)].2H₂O, a non-cyclic structure is constructed in the following order:

- symbol of the central atom placed on the left;
- ionic ligands with cations first then anions;
- neutral ligands.