

IT factsheet: dm+d and EPS

This factsheet for community pharmacy teams explains how the NHS medicines database (dm+d) operates and its impact on EPS.

What is dm+d?

The Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (dm+d) is the NHS standard database of medicines and devices. It is used across the NHS (e.g. in EPS, and by the NHS for prescription pricing purposes).

How is it linked to EPS systems?

The dm+d contains information about items, e.g. whether a product is allowed on an NHS prescription and the indicative price. Information is stored at generic, product and pack level. EPS can be used for items where the prescribing supplier also maps to the dm+d item and code. Pharmacy and GP system suppliers regularly synchronise to dm+d listings and information to better facilitate EPS prescribing.

How can pharmacy teams view dm+d?

The dm+d can be freely viewed via [OpenPrescribing](#) or [NHSBSA](#). It is advisable to bookmark your preferred viewer.

Mapping and data quality impacts

Most suppliers use their own drug databases and synchronise to dm+d listings (with a mandated minimum of 95% of the most frequent items synchronised at least every two months). This enables EPS messages to be sent/received for most dm+d listed items. PSNC and [the Community Pharmacy IT Group \(CP ITG\)](#) recommend suppliers map frequently/widely to prevent EPS problems for new/changed dm+d items and to reduce paper scripts being needed instead of EPS.

Prescribers, pharmacy teams or others may report dm+d or mapping issues as required to their system supplier. The reporting process is set out at [PSNC dm+d webpage – reporting section](#). Manufacturers and wholesalers should update dm+d to keep product information accurate when there are changes, to support clinical outcomes and proper NHS pricing. Contractors may query suppliers not keeping their entries accurate.

Structure and information: The dm+d viewer images below show its structure (generic/supplier levels).

'Generic' perspective

e.g. 'Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets'

This is the generic product title described as the virtual medicinal pack (VMP).

Information in this part of the database determines things such as the drug form, and whether the medicine is a controlled one.

Supplier's product perspective

e.g. Nexium Control 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (GSK)

This is the product linked to a particular supplier, or the 'actual medicinal product' (AMP).

The supplier can have information listed here relating to availability, licensing status.

VMP 317335000

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Name	Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets
BNF code	0103050E0AAAAAA
Virtual Therapeutic Moiety	Esomeprazole
Prescribing status	Valid as a prescribable product
Controlled Drug Prescribing Info	
Controlled Drug category	No Controlled Drug Status
Actual Medicinal Products	
Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (AA H Pharmaceuticals Ltd)	
Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (Accord Healthcare Ltd)	
Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (Alliance Healthcare Ltd)	
Virtual Medicinal Product Packs	
Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets 100 tablet	

Annotations:

- VMP describes the generic product
- CD status of a product
- Link to the relevant pack levels, or the virtual medicinal product pack (VMPP). Information here determines such things as Drug Tariff category and whether the item is a combi-pack

AMP 28939811000001109

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Description	Nexium Control 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (GSK)
BNF code	0103050E0BBAGAA
Virtual Medicinal Product	Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets
Name	Nexium Control 20mg gastro-resistant tablets
Supplier	GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
Current licensing authority	Medicines - MHRA/EMA
Actual Medicinal Product Packs	
Nexium Control 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (GSK) 14 tablet 2 x 7 tablets	

Annotations:

- Name of product
- Manufacturer/Supplier
- Licensing status of product
- Link to the relevant pack levels

Top tips

- EPS users should update their systems regularly. Non-updated systems may not incorporate the latest information from suppliers.
- Note that there may be delay from an item updated on dm+d and the update appearing on your system.
- Look-out for system prompts such as warnings about disallowed items.

Read more and see further images and pack level information in PSNC's [dm+d briefing](#) and at: psnc.org.uk/dmd