COVID-19 update

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

- Guidance on the structure and naming of COVID-19 vaccines in WHODrug and the WHODrug Standardised Drug Grouping (SDG) Drugs file and vaccines for COVID-19 is now available on the UMC website.
- UMC continues to host virtual WHODrug events as well as regular webinars. So far, UMC has hosted three virtual webinars and is planning four more User Group webinars in 2021. For more information, see below.

WHODrug Global Insight Updates

WHODrug Link Korea

The WHODrug Insight search tool was recently updated to further support the use of Korean EIDs. The Korean Product ID is presented in the detailed WHODrug product view in WHODrug Insight, where it’s possible to browse and review detailed information such as APIs, pharmaceutical form and strength. The Korean substance ID is also shown for active ingredients and available to all WHODrug Insight users with a license for WHODrug Link Korea.

The Korean EIDs are included in WHODrug Insight for the regular March and September versions of WHODrug but also for Upcoming Data. Upcoming Data reflects what the dictionary would look like if released today and is updated daily. This means that new EIDs can be found daily in WHODrug Insight.

Did you know?

WHODrug Insight will shortly be updated with an advanced search option that allows more flexible search options and functions to review and compare search results in detail.

New requirements for Korean ADRs in effect from 1 June

New requirements for ICSR reporting have been implemented in the Republic of Korea, with local Korean drug code identifiers now expected. To convert codes from WHO Drug Global to local Korean codes, WHODrug users can use WHODrug Link Korea to simplify the submission process. Read more on the UMC website.

Next WHODrug monthly webinar

Signup now for our WHODrug SDGs Global webinar on Tuesday 8 June 2021, with two sessions scheduled for (GMT) and 1700 CET (Central European Time). UMC staff will cover the basics of WHODrug SDGs, the latest SDG developments, and updates about the Drugs and vaccines for COVID-19 SDG. You will also have the opportunity to hear Franschke Chenetsa, keynote speaker, share his perspective on how a WHO Drug SDG user: WHODrug users are encouraged to submit questions beforehand to whodrug@umc.who.int. Register here.

WHODrug Global Chinese in CAT

In September 2019 we celebrated the launch of WHODrug Global Chinese. The Chinese version of WHODrug Global has been a much appreciated addition to the WHODrug Global offering and based on user requests is now time to introduce user support in the WHODrug Chinese Text Analysis Tool (CAT) for the new language version.

In CAT it’s possible to upload your own data – for example, a synonym list – and get a full character analysis between two different versions of WHODrug Global Chinese. The user can review all updated records and all updated records to get an in-depth understanding of WHODrug Global Chinese changes and to prepare for the upcoming revision process. In addition to uploading and analysing your own data, it’s also possible to export a file with all updated records in WHODrug Global Chinese and the new replacement record.

WHODrug User Group meetings 2021

We are about to level up your user experience of virtual WHODrug events. The upcoming WHODrug User Group meeting UMC will enhance attendees’ networking opportunities through interactive breakout room sessions, informal one-on-one chat functionalities, and, of course, live polls and Q&As. Sign-up now for the WHODrug User Group webinar UMC on 22 June 2021. Register now.

Make sure you don’t miss out on the opportunity to engage with your industry colleagues, save the date for four more WHODrug User Group meetings during 2021. All these events will be virtual and are free of charge to users working at organisations with a valid WHODrug licence. Read more and sign up on the UMC website.

- USA, 23 June 2021
- Special global WHODrug conference, 27 October 2021
- Japan, 2021*
- Republic of Korea, 2021*

*Dates for these events will be announced later.

Did you know...

WHODrug Korea is continuously improved upon based on feedback from the WHODrug user community. High-voltage coding rules have now been fully built in to WHODrug and checks to the new coding rules filter developed for the web application. This new feature supports users reviewing coded data. For more information, or, to access the trial version of WHODrug Korea, please contact WHODrug Support.

In regards to upcoming file changes, UMC is planning three modifications to WHODrug Global and are now exploring the latest regulatory expectations and technical developments:

1. Standardisation of the letter case in 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).

Read more on the UMC website or contact WHODrug Support.

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