

MULTILEX DDF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will Oseltamivir oral suspension 15mg/ml be available on the Multilex Drug Data File (Multilex DDF)

1017234 Oseltamivir oral suspension 15mg/ml

This Special Order product has been added to the database during July and will be included in the datacut System Suppliers will receive at the beginning of August.

Why is there not a theoretical generic of paracetamol caplets?

We do not have a true generic of 'paracetamol caplets' on the database for the following reasons:

- caplets are defined as 'capsule shaped tablets', they are the same formulation just a different shape.
- part VIII listing in the Drug Tariff is for 'tablets' and we have to keep in line with these descriptions.
- dm+d only has an entry for 'tablets'. Going forward if there is no dm+d code for a product it will not go through the ETP system.
- a pharmacist can dispense either tablets or caplets against a prescription written for 'paracetamol tablets' as they will get reimbursed the part VIII price.
- the term 'Caplet' and 'Caplets' are registered trademarks and as such are not suitable terms to describe theoretical generic products. where appropriate, the term will continue to be used to describe actual medicinal products that have 'Caplets' as part of their name.

Therefore we will not be adding a generic of 'paracetamol caplets' to the database at this time.

What is the representation of certain injections and infusions being amended on the database?

At present some injections and infusions on Multilex DDF require the prescriber to select the product they require from a pack rather than a product. In order to facilitate prescribing, dispensing and administration of parenteral products and in response to requests from prescribers, records for injections and infusions will be amended and will be expressed in terms of their unit dose volume where appropriate.

For example:-

Atracurium besilate injection 10mg/ml

has become:-

Atracurium besilate injection 250mg/25ml

Atracurium besilate injection 25mg/2.5ml

Atracurium besilate injection 50mg/5ml

To allow for any disruption to repeat prescribing, enhanced replacement record functionality will be provided to facilitate customers switching to the new records.

Should all antibiotics have a drug-drug interaction with combined oral contraceptives?

Broad spectrum antibiotics will affect the composition of the gut flora, which may lead to a decreased transit time of oral medications. In the case of combined oral contraceptives, particularly where the dose of oestrogen component is low this may lead to decreased absorption and reduced efficacy.

The evidence for this potential interaction is slight*, but in view of the severe consequences of contraceptive failure it has been included on the Multilex DDF for broad spectrum antibiotics such as ampicillin and erythromycin.

Users of the contraceptive pill should always be advised to follow the manufacturers' recommendations in the case of missed pills or gastrointestinal upset.

* Stockley's Drug Interactions sixth edition, 2002 Pharmaceutical Press.

We cannot find Accucheck Aviva, Compact or Active test strips or Accucheck Multiclix lancet on the database?

Aviva biosensor strips (Roch) (added August 2005) (Read code puhx.)

Multiclix lancet - sterile single use 0.3mm/30gauge (Roche) (added August 2005) (Read code ph7n.)

Compact colorimetric test strips (Roche) (Read code puhx.)

Active colorimetric strips (Roche) puhl.

The reason you cannot find the strips and the lancets on the database is that we cannot put 'Accu-Chek' in the name for the following reason:

Accu-Chek is an umbrella brand for all Roche Diagnostics diabetes care products (meter systems, strips and lancets) in the same way that Vauxhall is the umbrella brand for Vectra and Astra cars. To avoid confusion with prescriptions they do not use the Accu-Chek brand in the product descriptions used for drug tariff purposes (this is to avoid a prescription being written incorrectly for just "Accu-Chek" rather than Aviva/Multiclix, Compact/Active or Softclix II lancets).