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BSI Standards Publication

**Health informatics —  
Requirements for medicinal  
product dictionary systems  
for health care (ISO/TS  
19256:2016)**

### **National foreword**

This Published Document is the UK implementation of CEN ISO/TS 19256:2017. It is identical to ISO/TS 19256:2016.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee IST/35, Health informatics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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**Health informatics - Requirements for medicinal product  
dictionary systems for health care (ISO/TS 19256:2016)**

Informatique de santé - Exigences pour les systèmes de  
dictionnaires de produits médicaux pour les soins de  
santé (ISO/TS 19256:2016)

Medizinische Informatik - Anforderungen an  
Arzneimittelverzeichnisse im Gesundheitsbereich  
(ISO/TS 19256:2016)

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## **European foreword**

The text of ISO/TS 19256:2016 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215 “Health informatics” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as CEN ISO/TS 19256:2017 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 251 “Health informatics” the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

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### **Endorsement notice**

The text of ISO/TS 19256:2016 has been approved by CEN as CEN ISO/TS 19256:2017 without any modification.

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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 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://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 (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://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 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](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

## Introduction

This introduction contains the following topics:

- a) What is a Medicinal Product Dictionary system?
- b) What are the use cases and who are the stakeholders?
- c) What are the benefits for the different stakeholders?
- d) What are the core functional requirements for an MPD-system for healthcare?

The main target audience is the developers and service providers of MPD-systems, and those who contract such developers and service providers.

The goal of MPD Systems is to offer various parties in healthcare a complete overview of available medicinal products in such a way the (elements of the) concepts and the descriptions and medicinal product identifiers can be used in a variety of other healthcare information systems. The principle for this Technical Specification is that the global unique IDs of IDMP (Identification of Medicinal Products) shall be maintained in any MPD-system.

Medicinal products play an important role in healthcare. There are many (thousands of) medicinal products and each medicinal product has many characteristics (attributes), both defining and non-defining. The development and use of medicinal products is highly regulated; currently the way to define information about them is guided by the ISO IDMP standards. Furthermore, many healthcare providers, institutions and enterprises are involved in the use of medicinal products. Each of these actors uses information systems in which information on medicinal products is stored and exchanged. These information systems need an MPD-system to accurately and consistently identify medication concepts in the form(s) that fulfill their use cases.

An MPD-system establishes a consistent representation of medication concepts (set of identifiers) at various levels of detail and with meaningful relationships between the concepts, in order to support parts of several processes in healthcare in which medication plays a role. This Technical Specification describes a Medicinal Product Dictionary system in that way, that the concepts, identifiers and the relationships form a kind of structure that supports the use cases; together with the description of how this structure supports the use cases and what is needed for that. The MPD-system is further described from within an architecture in which it is connected to other parts of healthcare information systems.

Cultural differences in the practice and delivery of care and national legislation require electronic MPD-systems that meet specific local, regional or national needs. Each MPD-system is designed to support a particular set of use cases, which helps to determine the functional requirements which must be met by such systems. These functional requirements will then, in turn, determine the specific collection of 'medication abstractions' which must be identified, defined and related to each other within the MPD-system. Each 'medicinal product' in the MPD-system is described in terms of a specific subset of all possible defining and non-defining information elements, which together enable it to support one or more specific use case(s). The concepts are formally defined in terms of their characteristics and relationships with other concepts according to the ISO IDMP Standards, in particular ISO 11615, ISO 11616 and ISO 11238. Relationships between each of these medicinal product entries give the MPD-system the potential to support interoperability between use cases, processes, information systems, organizations and jurisdictions.

The anticipated stakeholders of this Technical Specification include healthcare providers that have responsibilities in selecting appropriate MPD-systems, software vendors, governments, pharmaceutical companies, wholesalers, payers, drugs regulatory authorities, and patients / patients' organizations.

In general, this Technical Specification supports the following business goals:

- It provides information to MPD-system developers, to help them design MPD-systems which are better able to meet the ISO IDMP standards and the needs of multiple use cases;

- It facilitates accuracy and consistency of the use of concepts and terms according to the ISO IDMP standards in the MPD-systems;
- It increases the potential for consistency between MPD-systems around the world;
- It reduces redundancy of data collection and governance;
- It provides the foundations for future international standards, which help to enable interoperability between medication use cases, information systems, and jurisdictions involved in cross-border healthcare;
- It might reduce the cost of developing and maintaining medicinal product dictionaries systems.

The Technical Specification is partly based on the following terminologies / databases:

- The Australian Medicinal Terminology (AMT);
- NHS dictionary of medicines and devices (DM+D);
- Singapore Drug Database;
- SNOMED CT;
- Dutch G-Standaard from Z-Index (and Pharmabase from Healthbase) (NEN 7507);
- ISO/TR 22790, *Health informatics — Functional characteristics of prescriber support systems*.

# Health informatics — Requirements for medicinal product dictionary systems for health care

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification defines the required characteristics for any MPD-system to support use cases in healthcare.

These characteristics include the medication concepts, identifiers and relationships to form a kind of structure that supports the use cases.

In order to support the use cases, an MPD-system needs to:

- be comprehensive and exhaustive as far as possible – unless all medicinal products that are in scope are included, other systems cannot fully rely on the MPD-system to supply the necessary information, and some amount of duplicated registration of information will still be necessary;
- contain the information in a consistent and appropriate structure according to the ISO IDMP Standards (as described in this Technical Specification) and with an appropriate level of detail.

Outside the scope of this Technical Specification are:

- the functionality of health, clinical and/or pharmacy systems;
- the other kinds of content of health, clinical or pharmacy systems that are needed to support the whole process of healthcare providers, like:
  - o the wide range of knowledge about medicines, which would be handled in drug knowledge databases and decision support systems,
  - o the medication record,
  - o the dose instructions;
- in terms of products:
  - o traditional Chinese medicines,
  - o medical devices, such as for medication administration [this Technical Specification focuses on administration devices that are intended for correct administration of the medicinal product only (see ISO 11615)],

NOTE An administration device can be an integral part of an immediate container or a closure.

- o veterinary medicines.

The purpose of this Technical Specification is to provide a set of functional requirements for systems handling details about medicinal products and the relationships between them for the purpose of supporting healthcare.