Common Drug Codes for India
(Flat Files Package)

Release Date: December 21, 2020

Introduction

Drugs (medicinal products) are one of the key data points captured and referred for continuity of care of an individual. In order for the drug information to be identified, stored, referred, and exchanged between different clinical, reporting, stock, supply chain, dispensation systems, it is important to have common drug codes across those systems.

Lack of common drug codes across different systems and healthcare setups invariably introduce local maps, formats and naming conventions leading to input errors, missing information, incorrect identification and other problems that surface due to lack of unique identities and diverging naming methodologies. This makes the exchange of health data a difficult and error-prone activity.

For a country rapidly digitizing its information systems and especially adopting digital systems in healthcare information management, it is important that this key piece of information is codified and made available for use across all systems. A different system should be able to use the same codes with slightly different additional information to meet its purposes.

National Resource Centre for EHR Standards (NRCeS), a program of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India is providing these Common Drug Codes for India for use across healthcare records, supply and pharmacy systems.

Release Summary

Common Drug Codes for India (Flat Files Package) have been introduced to support standardized coding and sharing of drug codes without the need of integrating the complete Terminology.

This release of Common Drug Codes for India (Flat Files Package) includes generic (clinical drug), supplier, and branded medicine codes and human readable descriptions which covers all medicines, except devices, surgical implants and combi packs, from:

- National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2015
- Pradhan Mantri Jan-Aushadhi Yojana
- Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) programme
- Medicines referred in Telemedicine Practice Guidelines
- HIV Drug list referred by the National AIDS Control Organization
- COVID-19 drug list referred in CLINICAL MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL: COVID-19 by MoHFW

The package provides a *Tab Separated Values* **in text files** and covers codes Substances, Generic Medicines and Branded Medicines. The package contains for following files:

File Name	Description
Substance Master	Contains a list of substances used as active ingredients in medicinal products
Brand Master	Contains a list of authorized marketed names of the medicine as labelled by the manufacturer (supplier)
Supplier Master	Contains the list of Suppliers (may be licensed holder or distributor)
Drug Form Master	Contains the list of physical forms of a medicine describing Mechanism of action, route, and package container
Generic Medicines	Provides list of generic medicines and reference to substance and the drug form
Branded Medicines	Provides list of branded medicines and reference to generic medicine

Common Drug Codes for India (Flat Files Package) is available for use under the terms provided in *License.txt* file included in the Package.

For any query, support, or assistance, please email at nrc-help@cdac.in