

# DLM 261 - Prescribing Safety Changes

## Summary of Changes in DLM 261

- In Consultation Manager, Consultations - Options - Setup - Drug Check, there is a change for practices in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The option Never has been restored for Contraindications, Precautions and Prescriber Warnings, and Suppress All in (Drug) Doubling. Choosing Never or Suppress All means that warnings are never displayed when prescribing. The change has been as a result of features in the previous DLM 260.

The screenshot shows the 'Consultation Manager Setup' dialog box with the 'Drug Check' tab selected. The 'Therapy Data For Drug Checks And New Sensitivity Checks' section has a 'From Last (date offset):' field set to '1 year'. The 'Automatic Results Display On' section contains several dropdown menus: 'Contraindications' (General), 'Precautions' (Patient Specific), 'Prescriber Warnings' (Patient Specific), and 'Interactions' (Drug to Drug, High and Medium). A 'Context Sensitive' checkbox is unchecked. The 'Doubling' dropdown is set to 'Same Action Group'. A 'Drug Warnings' section has an 'Override Confirmation Required' dropdown set to 'High'. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'Show Setup Form at Startup' which is unchecked. Buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Help' are on the right side.

Practices in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

You are strongly advised to check the Drug Check options you have set when signed on as a user.

Note All drug settings in the Consultation Manager Setup screen are on a per user basis. Please ensure that when you are changing these settings, you are not logged into Vision anywhere else in the practice as the changes will not be saved.

DLM 260 introduced some changes to prescribing decision support, which have caused issues for some users. DLM 261 makes some changes to reduce their impact. Prescribing in Vision has, since the earliest versions, included some checks of the proposed prescription to ensure that the item to be prescribed is safe for the patient in question. These checks take various forms and are done by the knowledge embedded in Vision by FDDE - Multilex, our drug knowledge partner. They include Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings, Drug-Drug Interactions and Drug Doubling checks.

There has been no change in the checks performed or the knowledge to support those checks with the introduction of DLM 260, but there have been changes in the way that information is presented.

In all versions of Vision, the checks are performed at each and every prescribing event, basically Therapy or Repeat Add. The results of the checks are always presented and available at any point in the consultation from the Consultation Manager Status Bar "traffic lights". There is no way to suppress the checks; they are always performed.

In addition, users have been able to select which checks and which grade of checks are presented as an additional dialogue to the user for them to consider whether to continue with the prescribing act. Prior to DLM 260, it was possible to suppress completely the presentation of some or all of those check results.

As part of our work with the Scottish Enhanced Functionality (SEF), suppression of the checks was changed. In Scotland, we were instructed not to allow the suppression of the high or medium level check results. In England, we discussed this with the User Group and agreed not to allow the suppression of the most severe level checks.

This has led to some unexpected results. Because of the way that the checks are performed in the Multilex engine, a degree of grouping of conditions occurs, so seemingly loosely related Read codes in the patient record may suggest contraindications etc that are inappropriate.

We are working with Multilex to improve the sensitivity of the check results, but that will require significant re-engineering on both our parts, and therefore not happen quickly enough to support user requests. We are sensitive to Alert Overload, and recognise that too many results that users find inappropriate will reduce the value of those results that are appropriate.

Therefore, in response to user feedback on DLM 260, we have made further changes in DLM 261, which (outside Scotland) will enable users to suppress those categories of checks that they are finding inappropriate. The Suppress All options for Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings and Drug Doubling will be re-enabled. We continue to believe that for Clinical Safety reasons, it is inappropriate to enable users to suppress the highest level of Drug Interaction Warnings checks.

Users in Scotland we understand to be making representation to SEF to relax the restrictions there and we are actively conversing with them on this issue.

Regards,

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INPS