
Gemscript - Changes for Prescribers

DLM 400/401 brings the new Gemscript Drug Dictionary. We do not expect this to have a great impact on your prescribing practice, nevertheless the following points detail the main changes that prescribers should be aware of:

Please see the DLM 400/401 user guide for further information:
http://www.inps4.co.uk/my_vision/vua/dlm/index.html.

dm+d Terminology

Because the Gemscript drug dictionary uses dm+d descriptions, you may see drugs appearing in a different order in the drug list. When searching for a drug, the format is **name - strength - form** (eg Aspirin 75mg tablets). Also there are other variations ie searching for 'gastro-resistant' as opposed to 'ec'.

Finding Drugs

When searching for drug items, Vision searches the entire drug description for a match which could return unexpected results. If you want to search in "starts with" order enter **_** between your keywords in the drug search box (eg Sodium_bicarbonate). Vision will look for a drug description whose first word is Sodium and whose second word onwards is bicarbonate (rather than looking for a match anywhere in the description). You can add further **_** to your drug search as required ie Sodium_bicarbonate_500

The percentage sign **%** can be entered before a keyword to tell Vision to look for the keyword anywhere in the description.

Reminder – Press **F3** on the Therapy Add screen to access the Select Drug screen where you can do a more detailed drug search.

Manufacturer Name

For branded drugs, equivalent items produced by different manufacturers are listed separately in the drug list and show the supplier name in brackets.

Check FP10 Status of Items

You are advised to check that drug items are FP10 prescribable as non-FP10 items print as private prescriptions. Remember Vision also displays the generic equivalent in the drug information window. Double click on it to add it to the Therapy Add form.

Special Preparations

There is a new Special filter **Special** option in the Select Drug screen which allows you to display special order items. S also appears next to the special item in the drug list. This is unchecked by default.

Drug Checks

Any items that are not recognised by dm+d are not included in the drug checking process. This also applies to unmapped drug items from practice legacy systems. You are now warned if there were drugs that could not be checked.

Drug Allergy Checks

Drug allergy entries that have been recorded using non-dm+d terminology cannot be checked against existing drug items. However, you are prompted at the point of prescribing if such items exist. Drug allergy records that are non-dm+d are referred to as Degraded Allergies and are displayed in the Alerts pane in Consultation Manager.