Display of combination product medicine names in Electronic Systems

Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand
Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa

The Commission's Medication Safety Expert Advisory Group (MSEAG) recommends that all eMedicines systems display ingredients in the order provided by the NZULM.

Background

The order in which two-ingredient combination products are displayed in MedChart does not always reflect custom and practice, or originator product labelling.

For example:

Preparation	Custom and practice	Displayed in MedChart as
Rifinah®	rifampicin + isoniazid	isoniazid + rifampicin
-	paracetamol + codeine	codeine + paracetamol
Madopar®	levodopa + benserazide	benserazide + levodopa
Sinemet®	levodopa + carbidopa	carbidopa + levodopa
-	ticarcillin + clavulanic acid	clavulanic acid + ticarcillin
-	imipenem + cilastatin acid	cilastatin acid and imipenem

- The order of combination products for electronic systems is defined in the NZULM.[1]
- For new generic and branded products, the NZULM has an editorial rule requiring the display order to replicate the originating product display order (that is any generic product should display the active ingredients in the same order as the branded product users are already familiar with).
- The NZF[2] consumes the NZULM data natively and displays the components in the preferred order.
- This is consistent with other information sources, such as clinical guidelines.
- The UDM[3] for MedChart does not consume the NZULM MPUU[4] names in their native form.
- The UDM builds its own names for generics (MPUU equivalents) using the ingredient names and strengths, presenting them in alphabetical order. The UDM has always worked this way to cater for the variety of data sources the UDM can use, many of which do not specify an ingredient order.
- So, even though the NZULM is used as the UDM data source the UDM does not actually use the NZULM MPUU names.
- The display sequence problem affects MedChart only, not ePharmacy (February 2019).
- Presenting the ingredients in alphabetical order makes it harder to find products in drop-down lists and makes it harder to recognise charted items as they are not presented in the expected order.

The solution

- Release 12 of MedChart will use the NZULM data directly, at which time the actual MPUU names will be used and displayed, thus resolving the current issue.
- Release 12 is currently scheduled for Q1 2020.

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[1] NZULM = New Zeland Universal List of Medicines
[2] NZF = New Zealand Formulary
[3] UDM = Unified Data Module
[4] MPUU = Medicinal Product Unit of Use name; eg, paracetamol tablet 500 mg

- Whilst this approach does not provide an immediate solution, the current roadmap is the best approach to resolving this issue: engineering a temporary fix will be complex and detract from, and likely delay, the delivery of release 12.
- To ensure names are displayed in the correct order in the NZULM, NZF and ePharmacy, MedChart and ePharmacy, users are encouraged to alert the NZULM editorial team to two-ingredient combination products that are of clinical relevance and in the wrong order. The NZULM will manually change the order of the ingredients of these combination products, on a case by case basis, so that they display correctly.

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