




# Common medical equipment nomenclature systems

- Purpose of a nomenclature system
- Application of a nomenclature within the hospital (standard equipment lists)
- UNMDS
- GMDS

			
Kingdom	Animalia	Animalia	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata	Chordata	Arthropoda
Class	Mammalia	Aves	Insecta
Order	Rodentia	Passeriformes	Odonata
Family	Castoridae	Icteridae	Gomphidae
Genus and species	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	<i>Gomphus spicatus</i>

17.3.4 Identify common medical equipment nomenclature systems.

Unit C 17.3 Global Medical Equipment Regulations

Module 279-17-C Regulations, Standards and Ethics

# What is in a name ?

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Which knife did I mean when I talked about a 'knife' ?

# Nomenclature

**Naming** "things" is a part of general human communication using words and language. There are many  
m , m w  
these things/objects.

For scientific applications where precise understanding is critical, name giving systems have been developed that more precisely identify an object.

Note: this is not the identification of an **individual object** (a 'personal' 'Name' like Snoopy) but the name of the '**genus**' (kind) of the object: in this case a 'dog' or better, the 'normal house dog' ('Canis lupus familiaris'). This is known as a '**generic name**'.

A **Nomenclature** is a ('name giving') system of names or terms, or **the rules for forming these terms** in a particular field of sciences.



# Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN)

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Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN) is a system of internationally agreed **generic descriptors** used to identify all medical device products.

The main purpose of the GMDN is to provide all parties involved with a **single generic naming system** that will support **patient safety**.

Medical device experts from around the world compiled the **GMDN**, based on the international standard **ISO 15225**, which gives general rules for Nomenclature systems. The work was mandated by the European Commission in 1993.

The GMDN is used (amongst others) in the **European Databank on Medical Devices** which has been established by the European Commission to strengthen **market surveillance and vigilance**



# Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN)

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The GMDN, endorsed by the GHTF as the global nomenclature **to be used by regulators for the classification and registration of medical devices**, is intended:

1. to give a **common generic description** for every general term that describes characteristics of a medical device. This is to be used for identifying similar devices to those involved in an **adverse incident report**;
2. to **identify a device**, using the generic term, for having been awarded a **specific design certificate**;
3. to **serve as a basis for e-commerce** – to provide a generic basis for purchasing individual types of manufactured devices, by establishing a heading for **comparison of products from different manufacturers**.

# Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN)

The GMDN term is in the form of a **5-digit numeric GMDN Code** cross-referenced to a specific **Term Name** and **Definition**, with which all specific medical devices **having substantially similar generic features**, can be identified. An example:

GMDN Term Name - "**Scalpel, single-use**"

GMDN Code - "**47569**"

GMDN Definition - "A sterile, hand-held, manual surgical instrument constructed as a one-piece handle and scalpel blade (removable component) used by the operator to dissect tissue. The blade is typically made of stainless steel alloy or carbon steel and the handle is plastic. This is a single-use device."



Now we know what a Scalpel is !

# Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN)

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Development to date:

Establishment of GMDN Agency (2005)

18,933 Preferred Terms

1,980 Collective Terms (Device Attributes)

16 Categories (Scope)

Translation (ongoing)



- English (Reference)
- Japanese
- Russian
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- 20 EU Languages, including:
  - French
  - German
  - Italian
  - Portuguese
  - Spanish
- Just started - Turkish, Serbo-Croat



# Application of a nomenclature within the hospital

When Zambia would comply with this nomenclature system, the GMDN should be the basis for the standard equipment lists.

Also, if Zambia would introduce adverse event reporting, this could be based on the GMDN system.

From:  
Standard Equipment List  
for Level 3 hospitals, not  
yet based on the GMDN

Equipment name
Furniture (1 Table, 3 chairs)
Treatment table
BP machine
Weighing scale
Height scale
Patella hammer
Examination couch
Stethoscope
Thermometer
Ophthalmoscope
Otoscope
Hand examination light and pen
Wheel chair
Stretcher
BP machine
Diagnostic set
Examination couch
Wheel chair
Stretcher
Benches





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# END

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