



SPECIAL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING NCPDP REQUIREMENTS

Certain prescription dispensing quantity units will no longer be valid due to an industry standard change for electronic prescription transmission mandated by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP).

This organization establishes the industry standard for electronic prescription transmission, The NCPDP is retiring these units from the “QuantityUnitOfMeasure (QUoM)” code set used in SCRIPT standard electronic prescribing messages.

Quantity unit words are mapped in prescriptions according to UROBILINOGEN, SEMI-QNoM codes. A number of these unit words will no longer be used on prescriptions because they cannot be mapped to QUoM codes that remain valid. *(NCPDP has reduced the code set to encourage e-prescribing vendors to send only those dispense quantity units that specify a discrete, measurable amount).*

Examples of frequently used dispense quantity units that will be retired are below. The complete list is in Appendix A: BOTTLE, TUBE, VIAL, PACK, INHALER, MILLIGRAM (MG).

[*Click here to view the list of provided retired and retained quantity units*](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this change apply across the industry? Yes, Additionally, Surescripts is the routing network that our ePrescribing vendor uses to send all prescriptions that are transmitted electronically. Surescripts is the current de facto industry standard network for prescription routing.

What happens if a retired quantity unit is used? Prescriptions sent that use a quantity unit that is not mapped to a QUoM code that remains valid will be sent with code C38046, meaning “Unspecified.” This may cause the pharmacy to contact the provider to clarify the exact dispensing amount.

Does this change affect the dose unit? No, the change only applies to quantity unit.