

# AHFS Pharmacologic–Therapeutic Classification Database

## Advancing Evidence-Based Medicine

### The Order of Data

- A hierarchical system for classifying drugs by pharmacologic and therapeutic activity
- 30 primary classifications, 183 secondary classifications, 252 tertiary classifications, and 88 quaternary classifications represented by coding and a text description
- Available in either a hierarchical XML document or as a comma-delimited ASCII file for easy incorporation into a relational database
- Limited mapping to drug products is available based on drug coverage in the *AHFS Drug Information* database
- Used by ICD (International Classification of Diseases) for grouping adverse events for drugs
- Used by state Medicaid and insurance companies for DUR (Drug Utilization Review)
- Developed in 1959, it is the longest standing therapeutic classification
- Peer-reviewed by a panel of physician and pharmacist specialists
- Available for an additional fee, the AHFS/NDC mapping file simplifies integration and reduces manpower
- The only named alternative to USP's Model Guidelines for use by prescription drug plans in implementing the formulary portion of the outpatient prescription drug benefit (i.e., Part D) in the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003
- Used by Health Canada and the provincial governments to organize their drug formularies and to facilitate utilization review of drugs by class
- A recognized terminology in the NCPDP formulary and benefits standard
- A registered terminology for use in HL7 messages
- A recent environmental scan of classification systems by Booz Allen Hamilton found that 61% of survey responders used AHFS

*AHFS Drug Information is the foundation of three out of the top four drug databases ranked "superior in scope and completeness" in a recent study of eight subscription drug databases.*



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**AHFS**<sup>®</sup> DRUG INFORMATION

To discuss **AHFS Pharmacologic–Therapeutic Classification Database**, contact:

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