

EDQM Standard Terms

Internal controlled vocabularies for pharmaceutical dose forms

Version 1.3.0 – 9 June 2023

State of matter		Basic dose form		Release characteristics		Transformation			
ID	Name	ID	Name	ID	Name	ID	Name		
SOM-0100	Gas	BDF-0087	Medicinal gas	RCA-0047	Conventional	TRA-0038	Dilution		
SOM-0099	Liquid	BDF-0077	Collodion	RCA-0044	Delayed	TRA-0039	Dispersion		
		BDF-0078	Concentrate	RCA-0046	Modified	TRA-0040	Dissolution		
		BDF-0079	Dispersion	RCA-0045	Prolonged	TRA-0041	Mixing		
		BDF-0090	Drops (unspecified)	RCA-0048	Unknown	TRA-0042	No transformation		
		BDF-0080	Emulsion			TRA-0043	Unknown		
		BDF-0081	Lacquer						
		BDF-0082	Liquid						
		BDF-0093	Shampoo						
		BDF-0083	Solution						
		BDF-0084	Solvent						
		BDF-0085	Suspension						
BDF-0086	Syrup								
SOM-0098	Semi-solid	BDF-0103	Cement						
		BDF-0071	Cream						
		BDF-0072	Foam						
		BDF-0073	Gel						
		BDF-0074	Ointment						
		BDF-0075	Paste						
BDF-0076	Poultice								
SOM-0097	Solid	BDF-0049	Block	ISI-0021	Auricular	AME-0004	Administration		
		BDF-0050	Cachet	ISI-0117	Buccal	AME-0005	Application		
		BDF-0051	Capsule	ISI-0022	Cutaneous	AME-0006	Bathing		
		BDF-0052	Film	ISI-0023	Dental	AME-0111	Burning		
		BDF-0053	Granules	ISI-0105	Endocervical	AME-0007	Chewing		
		BDF-0054	Gum	ISI-0024	Environmental	AME-0112	Dialysis		
		BDF-0114	Herbal material (unprocessed)	ISI-0025	Extracorporeal	AME-0008	Gargling		
		BDF-0055	Implant	ISI-0106	Gastric	AME-0113	Implantation		
		BDF-0056	Impregnated material	ISI-0107	Gastroenteral	AME-0009	Infusion		
		BDF-0088	Insert	ISI-0108	Intestinal	AME-0010	Inhalation		
		BDF-0057	Intraruminal device	ISI-0026	Intramammary	AME-0011	Injection		
		BDF-0058	Lozenge	ISI-0109	Intraperitoneal	AME-0012	Insertion		
		BDF-0059	Lyophilisate	ISI-0027	Intrauterine	AME-0013	Instillation		
		BDF-0060	Pastille	ISI-0028	Intravesical	AME-0020	Not specified		
		BDF-0061	Patch	ISI-0029	Nasal	AME-0014	Orodispersion		
		BDF-0062	Pellets	ISI-0030	Ocular	AME-0015	Rinsing/washing		
		BDF-0063	Pessary	ISI-0110	Oculonasal	AME-0017	Spraying		
		BDF-0064	Pillules	ISI-0031	Oral	AME-0018	Sucking		
		BDF-0065	Plaster	ISI-0032	Oromucosal	AME-0019	Swallowing		
		BDF-0102	Pouch	ISI-0033	Parenteral				
		BDF-0066	Powder	ISI-0034	Pulmonary				
		BDF-0067	Stick	ISI-0035	Rectal				
		BDF-0068	Suppository	ISI-0118	Sublingual				
		BDF-0069	Tablet	ISI-0116	Transdermal				
		BDF-0070	Tea	ISI-0037	Unknown/Miscellaneous				
		SOM-0101	Unclear	BDF-0089	Additive (unspecified)	ISI-0119	Urethral		
				BDF-0115	Live animal	ISI-0036	Vaginal		
BDF-0091	Premix (unspecified)								
BDF-0092	Radiopharmaceutical								
BDF-0094	Spray (unspecified)								
BDF-0095	System								
BDF-0096	Unknown								

Definitions

State of matter		
ID	Name	Definition
SOM-0100	Gas	A state of matter consisting of molecules in an elastic aeriform fluid, separated from one another and with freedom of movement, no independent shape or volume and the ability to expand indefinitely.
SOM-0099	Liquid	A state of matter consisting of molecules in a non-rigid structure that retains its volume but conforms to the shape of any container applying pressure to it, and is subject to flow.
SOM-0098	Semi-solid	A state of matter consisting of molecules in a non-rigid structure that can retain its shape and volume but that is not resistant to such change.
SOM-0097	Solid	A state of matter consisting of molecules in a rigid structure that is resistant to change in shape or volume.
SOM-0101	Unclear	A state of matter of unknown, unspecified or variable physical characteristics.

Basic dose form		
ID	Name	Definition
BDF-0089	Additive (unspecified)	A type of pharmaceutical dose form that may be liquid, semi-solid or solid, to be added to a large volume of diluent, such as in a bath.
BDF-0049	Block	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a large, compact mass, usually formed by compression of the component material into a cuboid or similar shape.
BDF-0050	Cachet	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a disc inside which a single dose of the active substance(s) is enclosed. Capsule is excluded.
BDF-0051	Capsule	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a shell inside which a single dose of the active substance(s) is enclosed. Cachet is excluded.
BDF-0103	Cement	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form that hardens after application to form a seal or bond.
BDF-0077	Collodion	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form usually consisting of a solution of pyroxylin in ether and ethanol.
BDF-0078	Concentrate	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a concentrated preparation that must be diluted before administration.
BDF-0071	Cream	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of an oil-in-water or water-in-oil emulsion.
BDF-0079	Dispersion	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of one or more substances, excluding solid particles and large liquid droplets, that are dispersed in an appropriate liquid vehicle. Liposomes, microbubbles, cells and colloidal dispersions (droplets with a nominal diameter less than approximately 1 micrometre in size) are included; for solid particle dispersions, see 'Suspension'; for non-miscible, large-droplet liquid dispersions, see 'Emulsion'.
BDF-0090	Drops (unspecified)	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form that may be a dispersion, an emulsion, a solution or a suspension, and that is administered in small volumes by instillation; to be used only when further details of the specific form (e.g. dispersion, emulsion, solution, suspension) are unknown.
BDF-0080	Emulsion	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a stable dispersion of non-miscible liquids; it consists either of oil droplets in an aqueous continuous phase (oil-in-water emulsion) or aqueous droplets in an oily continuous phase (water-in-oil emulsion); for colloidal dispersions (droplets with a nominal diameter less than approximately 1 micrometre in size), see 'Dispersion'.
BDF-0052	Film	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a thin, single- or multilayer sheet of material, which usually dissolves or otherwise dissipates in an aqueous environment.
BDF-0072	Foam	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a large volume of gas dispersed in a liquid or sometimes a solid phase.
BDF-0073	Gel	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a colloidal dispersion of a liquid in a solid; lipophilic gels (oleogels) usually consist of liquid paraffin with polyethylene or fatty oils gelled with colloidal silica or aluminium or zinc soaps; hydrophilic gels (hydrogels) usually consists of water, glycerol or propylene glycol gelled with suitable gelling agents such as poloxamers, starch, cellulose derivatives, carbomers and magnesium-aluminium silicates.
BDF-0053	Granules	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of dry aggregates of powder particles that are sufficiently resistant to withstand handling.
BDF-0054	Gum	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a basis composed of gum(s) or with a gum-like consistency.

BDF-0114	Herbal material (unprocessed)	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of whole, broken or fragmented plants or parts of plants (including algae, fungi, lichen) in an unprocessed state, and which may be dried or fresh. Teas, as well as preparations that are processed or formulated into capsules, granules, powders, etc., are excluded.
BDF-0055	Implant	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a mass with a size and shape suitable for implantation, allowing release of active substance(s) over an extended period of time.
BDF-0056	Impregnated material	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a material onto or into which active substance(s) are absorbed for subsequent release after administration, often over an extended period of time.
BDF-0088	Insert	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a material of an appropriate shape and size to be placed inside an orifice of the body, and which dissolves or disintegrates over time. Pessaries and suppositories are excluded.
BDF-0057	Intraruminal device	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form intended for administration to ruminant animals where it is retained in the rumen for release of the active substance(s), usually over an extended period of time.
BDF-0081	Lacquer	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of one or more substances dissolved or suspended in a volatile solvent that evaporates to leave a hard coating.
BDF-0082	Liquid	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a pure substance in a liquid state.
BDF-0115	Live animal	A type of pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a whole, live animal used as a medicinal product, which may have a mechanical function and/or deliver physiologically active substances.
BDF-0058	Lozenge	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a hard mass formed by moulding or compression, intended to dissolve or disintegrate slowly in the oral cavity when sucked.
BDF-0059	Lyophilisate	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a powder or disc formed by freeze-drying of a liquid or semi-solid preparation. When referring to a powder, the use of this term is restricted to veterinary medicines.
BDF-0087	Medicinal gas	A type of gaseous pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a pure substance or mixture of substances that exist in the form of a gas at normal atmospheric pressure and room temperature.
BDF-0074	Ointment	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a single-phase basis in which solids or liquids may be dispersed; ointments may be composed of a variety of bases including hydrocarbons, emulsifiers, vegetable oils and animal fats; they may be hydrophobic (bases made from substances such as hard, liquid, or light liquid paraffins, vegetable oils, animal fats, synthetic glycerides, waxes and liquid polyalkylsiloxanes, and which are only able to absorb a small amount of water), hydrophilic (with a water-miscible basis, usually a mixture of liquid and solid macrogols) or water-emulsifying (capable of absorbing larger amounts of water and forming emulsions, with bases containing water-in-oil emulsifiers such as wool alcohols, sorbitan esters, monoglycerides and fatty alcohols, or oil-in-water emulsifiers such as sulfated fatty alcohols, polysorbates, macrogol cetostearyl ether, esters of fatty acids with macrogols).
BDF-0075	Paste	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a large proportion of solid particles dispersed in a hydrophobic or hydrophilic basis.
BDF-0060	Pastille	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a soft, flexible mass formed by moulding, intended to dissolve or disintegrate slowly in the oral cavity when sucked.
BDF-0061	Patch	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a flexible preparation, with an adhesive layer and a reservoir of active substance(s) that is usually behind a semi-permeable membrane. Plasters are excluded.
BDF-0062	Pellets	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of usually cylindrical masses, usually formed by extrusion.
BDF-0063	Pessary	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a material that is usually ovoid and formed by moulding, of a suitable volume and consistency for insertion into the vagina where it dissolves, disperses or melts.
BDF-0064	Pillules	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of small spheroids that are sufficiently resistant to withstand handling, used for homoeopathic medicine.
BDF-0065	Plaster	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a flexible preparation with an adhesive layer containing active substance(s). Patches are excluded.
BDF-0102	Pouch	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form that consists of a small bag that is intended to be placed in a body cavity for release of the active substance(s) contained within.
BDF-0076	Poultice	A type of semi-solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a moist mass, such as meal, herbs, seeds, etc., usually held within or spread upon an appropriate permeable material or dressing.
BDF-0066	Powder	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of dry, finely divided, loose particles, or freeze-dried preparations thereof.
BDF-0091	Premix (unspecified)	A type of specialised pharmaceutical dose form that is used in the preparation of products such as medicated feeding stuffs.

BDF-0092	Radiopharmaceutical	A type of specialised pharmaceutical dose form that is used in the preparation of radiopharmaceuticals.
BDF-0093	Shampoo	A type of liquid (or occasionally semi-solid) pharmaceutical dose form that contains surface-active agents and usually forms a foam after rubbing on the scalp with water.
BDF-0083	Solution	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of one or more substances dissolved in, or miscible with, an appropriate solvent, forming a single-phase liquid.
BDF-0084	Solvent	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a vehicle that contains no active ingredient itself, and is used to dissolve, disperse or dilute another product.
BDF-0094	Spray (unspecified)	A type of pharmaceutical dose form that may be liquid, semi-solid or solid, administered as a dispersion in air; to be used only when further details of the specific form (e.g. solution, suspension, powder) are unknown.
BDF-0067	Stick	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a preparation usually in a cylindrical or conical shape, usually prepared by compression or moulding, intended for insertion in or application to a specific area of the body.
BDF-0068	Suppository	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a material that is usually formed by moulding, of a suitable shape, volume and consistency for insertion into the rectum where it dissolves, disperses or melts.
BDF-0085	Suspension	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of one or more substances dispersed in a liquid vehicle; the dispersed substance(s) are solid particles that are practically insoluble in the vehicle.
BDF-0086	Syrup	A type of liquid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a viscous liquid usually with a high concentration of sugar or other sweetening agent.
BDF-0095	System	A type of pharmaceutical dose form consisting of one or more components that are used to deliver active substance(s) in a specified manner, usually with a modified release mechanism, after administration to a specified location on or in the body; to be used only where more specific terms are not applicable.
BDF-0069	Tablet	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of a mass that is formed by compression of uniform volumes of particulate solids, or by other means such as extrusion or moulding.
BDF-0070	Tea	A type of solid pharmaceutical dose form consisting of one or more herbal drugs intended for preparation of a solution by decoction or maceration, or a lyophilised preparation of such a solution.
BDF-0096	Unknown	The type of pharmaceutical dose form is unknown, or has unspecified or variable physical characteristics.

Release characteristics		
ID	Name	Definition
RCA-0047	Conventional	Release of the substance(s) in a way that is not deliberately modified by a special formulation design and/or manufacturing method.
RCA-0044	Delayed	Release of the substance(s) at a later time than would be achieved with a conventional-release product, achieved by a special formulation design and/or manufacturing method; enteric-coated and other gastro-resistant products are included.
RCA-0046	Modified	Release of the substance(s) in a way that differs from that which would be achieved with a conventional-release product, which is achieved by a special formulation design and/or manufacturing method, but which is not classified as delayed-release or prolonged-release; pulsatile-release products are included.
RCA-0045	Prolonged	Release of the substance(s) over a longer duration than would be achieved with a conventional-release product, achieved by a special formulation design and/or manufacturing method.
RCA-0048	Unknown	Release of the substance(s) in a way that is unknown or not specified.

Intended site		
ID	Name	Definition
ISI-0021	Auricular	Relating to the ear as the intended site of administration, usually where the pharmaceutical product is intended for action in the auditory canal (external auditory meatus).
ISI-0117	Buccal	Relating to the buccal cavity of the mouth (the pouch located between the cheek and the gum) as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is intended for a systemic action after passing through the buccal mucosa.
ISI-0022	Cutaneous	Relating to the skin or its appendages (e.g. hair, nails) as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is intended for a local action on or within the skin or the appendage.
ISI-0023	Dental	Relating to the teeth as the intended site of administration, including where the pharmaceutical product is intended for action on the surface of the tooth, inside the

		tooth, or around the tooth.
ISI-0105	Endocervical	Relating to the cervix uteri as the intended site of administration.
ISI-0024	Environmental	Relating to the surroundings in which the target of the pharmaceutical product is found, as the intended site of administration, e.g. an enclosed volume of water or air; usually the product disperses in the area and is subsequently taken up by the subject.
ISI-0025	Extracorporeal	Relating to a body substance or tissue as the intended site of administration, after being removed from the body in order to be treated with the pharmaceutical product and then subsequently returned to the body.
ISI-0106	Gastric	Relating to the stomach as the intended site of administration, where direct administration is achieved using an appropriate device.
ISI-0107	Gastroenteral	Relating to the stomach or duodenum as the intended site of administration, where direct administration is achieved using an appropriate device.
ISI-0108	Intestinal	Relating to the intestines (duodenum, jejunum, ileum, colon) as the intended site of administration, where direct administration is achieved using an appropriate device.
ISI-0026	Intramammary	Relating to the milk-producing organs (mammary) of a female mammal as the intended site of administration, to describe veterinary-only pharmaceutical products that are administered via the teat canal.
ISI-0109	Intraperitoneal	Relating to the peritoneal cavity as the intended site of administration.
ISI-0027	Intrauterine	Relating to the cavity of the uterus as the intended site of administration.
ISI-0028	Intravesical	Relating to the urinary bladder as the intended site of administration.
ISI-0029	Nasal	Relating to the nose as the intended site of administration, including where the pharmaceutical product is intended for local action in the nasal cavity or for systemic action after absorption through the mucous membrane; the lower respiratory tract is excluded.
ISI-0030	Ocular	Relating to the eye as the intended site of administration, including where the pharmaceutical product is intended for action on the surface of the eye or conjunctiva, around the eye, or within the eye.
ISI-0110	Oculonasal	Relating to the eyes and nares of a bird as the intended site of administration.
ISI-0031	Oral	Relating to the mouth as the intended site of administration, but where the pharmaceutical product is administered with the intention of passing into the stomach via the oesophagus; the mucosa of the mouth itself is not the intended site of action (see oromucosal).
ISI-0032	Oromucosal	Relating to the mouth as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is intended for local action on the mucosa of the mouth. Buccal and sublingual sites are excluded.
ISI-0033	Parenteral	Relating to the internal body as the intended site of administration, other than the natural openings and cavities such as the gastrointestinal tract, auditory canal, nasal cavity, lungs, etc.; the pharmaceutical product is usually administered by breaking the skin, such as by injection, infusion, and implantation.
ISI-0034	Pulmonary	Relating to the lungs as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is administered, usually by inhalation, for local action in the lower respiratory tract or for systemic action after absorption via the lower respiratory tract.
ISI-0035	Rectal	Relating to the rectum as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is administered via the anal canal, for local action in the rectum or for systemic action after absorption via the rectum.
ISI-0118	Sublingual	Relating to the sublingual area of the mouth (under the tongue) as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is intended for a systemic action after passing through the sublingual mucosa.
ISI-0116	Transdermal	Relating to the skin or its appendages (e.g. hair, nails) as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is intended for a systemic action after passing through the skin.
ISI-0037	Unknown/Miscellaneous	Relating to various unspecified parts of the body as the intended site of administration, or where the intended site of administration is unknown or not specified.
ISI-0119	Urethral	Relating to the urethra (the urogenital canal, connecting the bladder to the outside of the body) as the intended site of administration.
ISI-0036	Vaginal	Relating to the vagina as the intended site of administration, where the pharmaceutical product is administered via the vaginal opening, usually for local action in the vagina but sometimes for systemic action after absorption via the vagina.

Transformation		
ID	Name	Definition
TRA-0038	Dilution	Transformation of a concentrate into a liquid of greater volume and lower concentration by mixing it with a specified solvent.

TRA-0039	Dispersion	Transformation of a solid or gas into a dispersion or suspension by mixing it with a specified liquid.
TRA-0040	Dissolution	Transformation of a solid into a solution by mixing it with a specified liquid.
TRA-0041	Mixing	Transformation of a product into another product by mixing with a specified product.
TRA-0042	No transformation	No transformation of the product takes place.
TRA-0043	Unknown	It is unknown whether any transformation of the product takes place.

Administration method		
ID	Name	Definition
AME-0004	Administration	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by one of a variety of non-specific methods. To be used only where a more-specific term does not apply.
AME-0005	Application	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by placing or spreading it onto the affected area.
AME-0006	Bathing	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by immersing all or part of the affected area in the product, sometimes for an extended period of time.
AME-0111	Burning	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by lighting it in order to evolve smoke that is taken in by the subject.
AME-0007	Chewing	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by crushing or grinding it with the teeth; after chewing, some products are intended to be swallowed, some are intended to be spat out.
AME-0112	Dialysis	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by inclusion in a dialysis system (e.g. haemodialysis, haemofiltration, peritoneal dialysis), as a dialysis or substitution product.
AME-0008	Gargling	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by rinsing the throat and/or mouth with it, holding it in the throat and keeping it in motion by releasing a stream of air from the lungs; after gargling, the product is usually intended to be spat out.
AME-0113	Implantation	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by placing it within a tissue of the body, usually as part of a surgical procedure.
AME-0009	Infusion	Administration of a pharmaceutical product, usually slowly and in larger volumes than for an injection, by introducing it into the body, usually after puncturing the skin; it is usually administered intravenously, but occasionally by other routes, e.g. subcutaneously.
AME-0010	Inhalation	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by breathing it into the lungs, usually via the mouth.
AME-0011	Injection	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by introducing it into the body, usually after puncturing the skin; one or more of a variety of routes may be specified, the most common being intravenous, intramuscular and subcutaneous.
AME-0012	Insertion	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by placing it into a body cavity, lesion, wound etc.
AME-0013	Instillation	Administration of a pharmaceutical product drop by drop onto or into the affected area.
AME-0020	Not specified	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by an unspecified method.
AME-0014	Orodispersion	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by placing it in the mouth and allowing it to dissipate; the product is usually then swallowed.
AME-0015	Rinsing/washing	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by bringing it into contact with the affected area for a short period of time, e.g. by pouring it over the area and allowing it to drain away, or swilling it around the area and then removing it.
AME-0017	Spraying	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by atomising or otherwise dissipating it into a fine dispersion of particles in air, directing it such that it comes into contact with the affected area.
AME-0018	Sucking	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by placing it in the mouth and encouraging it to dissolve in the saliva, usually by moving the tongue.
AME-0019	Swallowing	Administration of a pharmaceutical product by introducing it into the stomach via the mouth and oesophagus with a voluntary muscular action.