

eHope New Drug Classification Crosswalk

By Mary Olson, Account Manager, and Christine Toni, BS Pharm

You may have noticed that some of the medication classifications look differently when reviewing eHope to place your order. eHope uses the Elsevier drug database for the categorization of medications. Elsevier recently adopted the classification system established by The World Health Organization (WHO) known as Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) codes.* Thus, drug classifications may appear differently in eHope due to this change. Use of the WHO classifications will allow better integration with other systems using the same classifications.

For your reference, we have created a drug class crosswalk, which compares the old drug classes with the new ones. An extensive understanding of therapeutics may initially be needed to find medications in the new classification system. Some drugs may fall under more than one category.

We recommend first searching for the medication name in the eHope ordering system. Searching for a medication by drug class could prove helpful when you are unable to find a specific medication but want to order something in a similar therapeutic class.

An example would be:

Search for pantoprazole. If there is currently zero quantity in stock, then search the new Drug Class which is Alimentary Tract and Metabolism, then the Therapeutic Class, Gastric Acid-Related Disorder Agents. This search will bring up drugs that are in this category but may or may not have the same mechanism of action. In this case, both proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) as well as Histamine-2 Blockers (H2B) will come up. This is where a knowledge of therapeutics comes into play.

Practice with the eHope system will improve your comfort level with the new nomenclature and classifications. Additionally, the Therapeutics team is always available to answer any questions. To schedule a meeting with a member of the Therapeutics team, please contact your Account Manager.

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Analgesic	Central Nervous System	Analgesics	acetaminophen
	Musculoskeletal System	Anti-inflammatory Agents and Antirheumatic Agents	celecoxib, diclofenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, meloxicam, naproxen
		Topical Musculoskeletal Agents	diclofenac 1% gel

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Anti-infective	Dermatologicals	Antifungals	Desenex 2% Topical Powder, nystatin 100,000 unit/g topical cream
		Topical Antibacterials and Antivirals	acyclovir 5% topical ointment, mupirocin 2% topical cream
	General Anti-infectives Systemic	Systemic Antibiotics	amoxicillin, azithromycin, cefdinir, ciprofloxacin, linezolid.
		Antivirals for Systemic Use	oseltamivir, valacyclovir

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Cardiovascular	Cardiovascular	Antihypertensives	ACEs, ARBs, diuretics, beta blockers, CCBs
		Cardiac Therapy	amiodarone, digoxin, epinephrine, nitrates
		Lipid Modifying Agents/Antilipemics	statins, niacin, colesvelam, fenofibrate, ezetimibe

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Electrolytic and Renal	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Mineral Supplements	potassium chloride

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Gastrointestinal	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Agents for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorder	dicyclomine, metoclopramide
		Antidiarrheals, Intestinal Anti-inflammatories/Anti-infective Agents	loperamide, mesalamine, vancomycin capsule
		Antiemetics and Antinauseants	ondansetron
		Bile and Liver Therapy	ursodiol
		Gastric Acid-Related Disorder Agents	esomeprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole, famotidine
	Blood and Blood Forming Organs	Anti-anemic Agents	B12 and iron supplementation
	Respiratory System	Systemic Antihistamines	promethazine

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Genitourinary	Genitourinary System and Sex Hormones	Urologicals	sildenafil, darifenacin, dutasteride, oxybutynin, tamsulosin
	Cardiovascular System	Antihypertensives	doxazosin

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Hematological	Blood and Blood Forming Organs	Anti-anemic Agents	Ferrex capsule
		Antithrombotic Agents	clopidogrel, warfarin, enoxaparin, aspirin

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Hormones and Hormone Modifier	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Antidiabetic Agents	insulin, metformin, pioglitazone, glimepiride
	Genitourinary System and Sex Hormones	Sex Hormones and Modulators of the Genital System	estradiol cream and tablets, Imvexxy vaginal insert
	Systemic Hormonal Agents	Systemic Corticosteroids	prednisone, dexamethasone, methylprednisolone
		Thyroid Therapy	levothyroxine

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Musculoskeletal	General Anti-infectives Systemic	Antiparasitic Agents, Insecticides, and Repellants	hydroxychloroquine
	Musculoskeletal System	Muscle Relaxants	baclofen, cyclobenzaprine, methocarbamol, tizanidine
		Other Agents for Disorders of the Musculoskeletal System	alendronate, risedronate, ibandronate
		Uricosuric Agents	allopurinol, colchicine, febuxostat

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Neurological	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Antiemetics and Antinauseants	meclizine
	Central Nervous System	Analgesics	sumatriptan, rizatriptan, zolmitriptan
		Anti-alzheimer Agents	memantine
		Anticonvulsants	carbamazepine, lamotrigine, levetiracetam, phenytoin, divalproex
		Anti-parkinson Agents	pramipexole, ropinirole, benztropine
		Other CNS Agents	naltrexone

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Nutritional Supplement	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Alternative Therapies	melatonin
		Vitamin Supplements	vitamin D, prenatal tablets
	Blood and Blood Forming Organs	Antianemic Agents	cyanocobalamin injection, folic acid
	Cardiovascular System	Lipid Modifying Agents	omega-3

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Ophthalmic	Sensory Organs	Ophthalmologicals	moxifloxacin, brimonidine, ofloxacin, olopatadine, timolol, tobramycin

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
OTC	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Alternative Therapies	Arnicare cream

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Psychotropic	Alimentary Tract and Metabolism	Antiemetics and Antinauseants	chlorpromazine, perphenazine
	Central Nervous System	Psychoanaleptics excluding Antiobesity Agents	amitriptyline, bupropion, citalopram, doxepin, fluoxetine, paroxetine, venlafaxine
		Psycholeptics	bupirone, haloperidol, quetiapine, risperidone

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Respiratory	Respiratory System	Drugs for Obstructive Airway Diseases	albuterol, budesonide, ipratropium, montelukast
		Cough and Cold Preparations	benzonatate, pseudoephedrine, guaifenesin
		Nasal Preparations	mometasone, azelastine, fluticasone

Old Drug Class	New Drug Class	New Therapeutic Class	Product Examples
Toxicology	Central Nervous System	Other CNS agents	naloxone

**This new system is an adaptation of the European Pharmaceutical Market Research Association classification system and is maintained by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology.*

The ATC categorization system organizes drugs into 5 levels:

- Anatomical Main Group
 - Therapeutics Subgroup
 - Pharmacological Subgroup
 - Chemical Subgroup
 - Chemical Substance