

We are currently updating the OP Help Center content for the release of OP 14.19 or OP 19. OP 19 is a member of the certified OP 14 family of products (official version is 14.19.1), which you may see in your software (such as in Help > About) and in the Help Center tabs labeled 14.19. You may also notice that the version number in content and videos may not match the version of your software, and some procedural content may not match the workflow in your software. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we make these enhancements.

# NCPDP Medication Unit Changes and Crosswalk

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## Overview

Periodically, the certification body for e-prescribing changes standards for transmitting medication information to and from pharmacies. Effective 10/1/19, the **National Council for Prescription Drug Programs** (NCPDP) made changes to the units permitted for communicating information regarding medication dispensing units. Changes include eliminating English measurement terms (such as ounce) and broad terms (such as bottle). In addition, some units of measurement were deemed unnecessary when the medication name includes an inherent specific dispensing unit (such as twin-pack for EpiPen 2 pack).

The NCPDP description changes include unit mappings which are acceptable and are included below. Some require the prescriber to give more specific details such as “bottle” mapping to “mL.” This requires the prescriber to specify the exact volume based on the anticipated patient need and length of treatment. In some cases, there are multiple acceptable units depending on the particular medication. For example, “container” may be appropriately mapped to “gram, milliliter or each” depending on whether it is a medication which is based on weight, volume or is a “self-contained” container.

Efforts will be made to map to acceptable terms when possible. For example, when there is a “self-contained” unit (tube, bottle, inhaler) mapping to the generic “each” is considered best practice. When there are multiple smaller units (vial, ampule, tampon) the generic “unspecified” is felt to be the most appropriate. Prescribers are always welcome to add more specificity regarding quantity amounts and units (such as specific mL instead of each to a prescription that had previously been 1 bottle, or specific grams for a prescription that had previously been 1 tube.) This can be done in

saved favorites or as each prescription is written, edited and reviewed.

However, prescribing medication requires a medical license. Office Practicum Support and team members are not permitted by licensure regulations to suggest mapping for individual medications. Prescribing medications is ultimately the provider's responsibility. Regardless of whether a prescription is written from the Master List or is a saved favorite and whether printed or sent electronically, appropriate edits and changes must be implemented and verified by the prescriber prior to final disposition.

<b>NCPDP Sunsetted Values</b>	<b>NCPDP Equivalent Billing Unit</b>
ampule	Milliliter or Each
applicatorful	Gram or Milliliter
bag	Gram or Milliliter
bar	Each
bead	Gram
block	Each
bolus	Milliliter
bottle	Milliliter
box	Gram or Milliliter or Each
can	Gram or Milliliter or Each
canister	Gram or Milliliter
carton	Gram or Milliliter or Each
cartridge	Milliliter
case	Gram or Milliliter or Each
cassette	Gram or Milliliter or Each
container	Gram or Milliliter or Each
cylinder	Gram or Milliliter or Each
device	Each
disk	Each

<b>NCPDP Sunsetted Values</b>	<b>NCPDP Equivalent Billing Unit</b>
dose pack	Gram or Milliliter or Each
dual pack	Gram or Milliliter or Each
fluid ounce	Milliliter
french	Each
gallon	Milliliter
inhalation	Gram or Milliliter or Each
inhaler	Gram or Milliliter or Each
inhaler refill	Gram or Milliliter or Each
international unit	No NCPDP entry
intravenous bag	Milliliter
kilogram	Gram
liter	Milliliter
mEq	No NCPDP entry
metric drop	Milliliter
milliequivalent	Gram or Milliliter
milligram	Gram
millimeter	Each
nebule	Milliliter
need free injection	Milliliter
ocular system	Each
ounce	Gram
package	Gram or Milliliter or Each
paper	Each
pen	No NCPDP entry
pint	Milliliter
pouch	Gram or Milliliter or Each
pound	Gram

pre-filled pen syringe Sunsetted NCPDP Values	Milliliter NCPDP Equivalent Billing Unit
puff	Gram or Milliliter
pump	Gram or Milliliter
quart	Milliliter
sachet	Each
scoopful	Gram or Milliliter or Each
spray	Gram or Milliliter
syringe	Milliliter or Each
tablespoon	Milliliter
tabminder	Each
tampon	Each
teaspoon	Milliliter
tray	Gram or Milliliter or Each
tube	Gram or Milliliter or Each
unit	No NCPDP entry
vial	Milliliter or Each

In order to assist with mapping units to more specific appropriate values, our medical directors are creating a resource for commonly used medications which will be shared as soon as available.