# Healthcare National Product Catalogue Advisory Group – Finalisation of 2020 Dataset Review (Pre-meeting Questionnaire results)

This survey was designed to capture the votes and inputs from the HCNPCAG that will assist us in finalising the Dataset review process.

The questions were designed to capture the inputs from this sector representative group ahead of the meeting, allowing for reference to other background materials and consultation with colleagues where necessary.

We thank you once again for your time and input to this process. If you have not had a chance to respond to the questionnaire you will have an opportunity to provide feedback within the meeting.
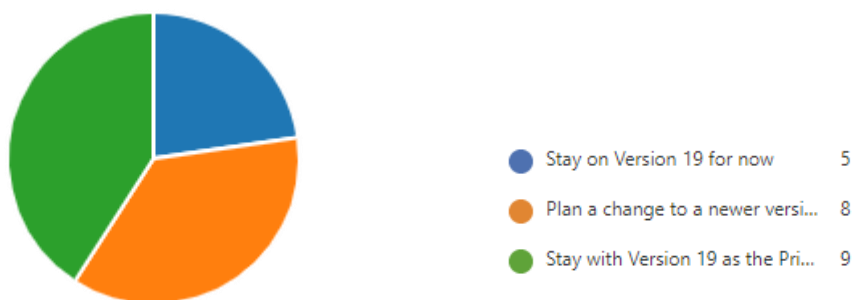
Q1. We can then discuss any specific changes on the finalisation call, however to streamline the process of determining which fields should be Mandatory and which should be Optional do you agree with the use of the High, Medium, Low classifications being used as a guide?

● Yes	23
● No	0
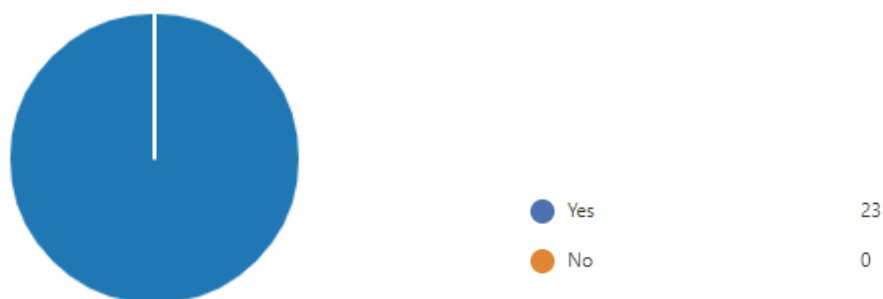
Q2. Provide any comments re Question 1 if required

No comments received

Q3. The current agreed version for the UNSPSC is v19. There have been some small updates to the commodity codes (codes added/removed, updated descriptions) within the main segments for Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (51000000) and Medical Equipment, Accessories & Supplies (42000000), but the largest addition was within Healthcare Services (85000000) where ~70K have been added.

● Stay on Version 19 for now	5
● Plan a change to a newer versi...	8
● Stay with Version 19 as the Pri...	9

- Stay on Version 19 for now
- Plan a change to a newer version (version 23 is current version) & update the industry statement accordingly
- Stay with Version 19 as the Primary version but allow for Version 23 (or newer versions) so that when new products are added these can be provided (example - COVID Vaccines)

Q4. Please provide comments re Question 3 if required

> This would ensure that if utilising the Group Codes for Contract Tendering the Suppliers and recipients are on the same page especially when Suppliers have already migrated to Version later than 19.

It becomes a challenge managing catalogues across Australia and New Zealand when the two countries are on different versions (Aus = version 19; NZ = version 15). Is it possible for GS1 Aus to engage with GS1 NZ and get alignment to the same version.

work towards adoption of later version as a standard for a point in time (e.g. 2021, 2022 or whatever). We are not users, just taking a standards approach.

Whenever new UNSPSC versions are implemented, it would be great if the previous codes loaded are auto-migrated if they are consistent, to avoid data quality impacts. (Not sure if this currently occurs).

Would need to understand the impact of 1) not updating to a higher version 2) if a partial update can be done i.e. update only relevant sections in use; though hybrid versioning is not ideal 3) impact of a code not being available e.g. COVID-19 vaccine; noting UNSPSC not listed in the existing medication data set (?)

Having both options will allow for coverage of items not in v19, and allow publication to NPC without errors.

Q5. The current requirements within healthcare are only for GROSS WEIGHT with the exception of where data is being provided to wholesalers who need both Gross weight and Net Weight. Do you agree with Gross Weight remaining as required for all product categories and Net weight being available as optional (trading partner specific)?

| | Yes | 21 |
| | No | 1 |

Yes: 21 (95%)
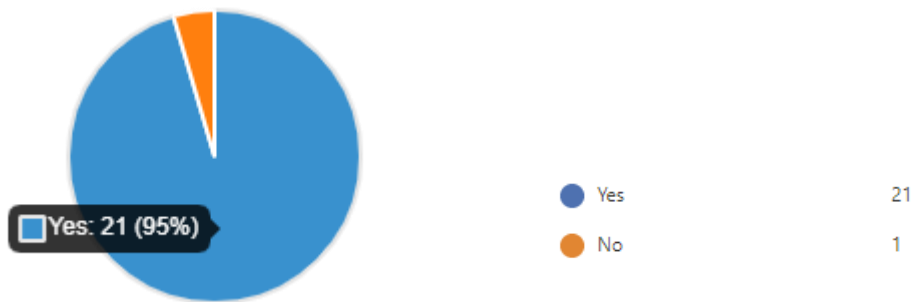
Q6. Dimensions of products are a requirement to support the majority of the supply chain processes in healthcare. Currently there remains a lot of 'dummy' data in these fields from some suppliers, undermining the ability for data to be used with confidence (one piece of data is wrong so it could all be wrong) and creating rework in every part of the supply chain. Do you agree that it should remain as a Mandatory requirement for all products with exceptions managed accordingly?

| | Yes | 19 |
| | No | 3 |

Yes: 19 (86%)
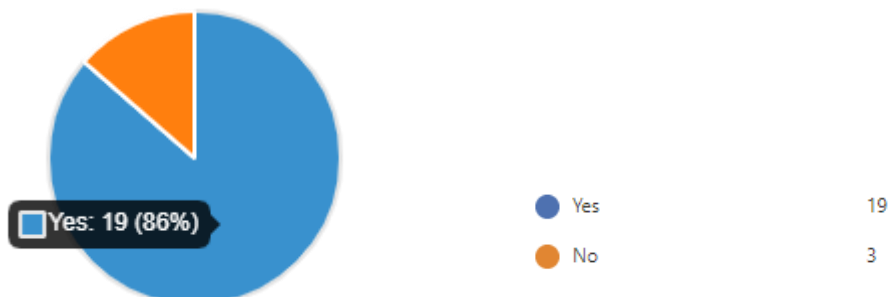
Q7. Please provide any comments re Question 6 above. We would like to hear your suggestions on how we can fix this as a user community?

may be useful to include a 'last updated/reviewed' field accompanying the dimensions, to assist/infer a level of trust in the provided data. Just an idea.

Agree but some of our height dimensions have greater value than the Case as they are bagged and folded into the case, this can cause issued with hierarchy calculations

Possibly a random audit of dimensions would be good... Perhaps your platinum level is only allocated to an external corroboration of their product sizes and weight?

will be needed more as warehouse management systems are deployed. Maybe share success stories and publish, other suppliers may then want to benchmark themselves

This attribute is utilised when managing storage real estate especially when operational areas are required to carry increasing amount of product lines

With regard to both questions 5 and 6 I believe the information would be more accurate if the fields are not mandatory. Sometimes it is difficult to obtain dimensions or there are conflicts in the dimension relationships that fail the validation - if products could be listed without mandatory dimensions I believe that would solve this problem. Publishers should continue to be strongly encouraged to complete these fields, but this would remove the possibility of non-accurate data being supplied to meet publishing requirements when all other mandatory information is available.

Dimensions shouldn't be mandatory

we do not use the weight or dimension data so have left these answers blank.

Notable challenges for dimensions are the tolerances for minor variances and the interchangeable interpretations of Width, Height and Depth. Some systems also use Length which adds further confusion, depending on how packaging is orientated or viewed.

Difficult to make this a mandatory field when the person setting up the code will never know this upfront or ever so best to leave clear

Difficult to comment but what is the procedure for reporting discrepancies at present? Are there any triggers/notifications for packaging changes?

Is there an option to make some levels of it mandatory where it is most vital and optional for others. Not all dimensions are available and we are then calculating from the base unit as best guess, which is not accurate data and becomes useless when it is taking up resource to work out.

Our intend is to move data quality accountability from us (end users) to the suppliers, set KPI's in agreements and actively measure quality. As a community it would be good to understand if other healthcare providers are doing the same, and if so, try and get alignment between the messages we provide to suppliers. If we are all aligned, suppliers will have to comply. (This is not just applicable for dimensions, but any other data attribute in the NPC which we set as mandatory)

Q8. ADDITION: Warranty Information has been requested - Do you agree with these attributes being added as OPTIONAL for Medical Device products?

|		
●	Yes	17
●	No	1
●	I am not involved with Medica...	4

Q9. ADDITION: Allergen information has been requested - Do you agree with fields allowing for Allergens to be provided being added as OPTIONAL for Medicines products?

|		
●	Yes	15
●	No	3
●	I am not involved with Medici...	5
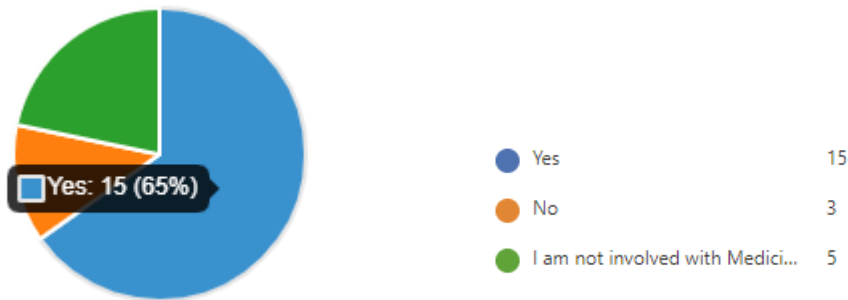
Q10. ADDITION: Materials contained within medical devices are increasingly important (especially for implants) and this has been requested - Do you agree with fields allowing for Material of a product (eg: specific metals) to be provided as OPTIONAL for Medical Devices (with recommendation for implants where applicable)?

●	Yes	14
●	No	2
●	I am not involved with Medica...	4

Q11. ADDITION: Global Harmonised System (dangerous & hazardous goods) has been requested - This is a regulatory requirement in some states, so do you agree with fields being added allowing for GHS fields to be completed as OPTIONAL for all product types?

●	Yes	19
●	No	3
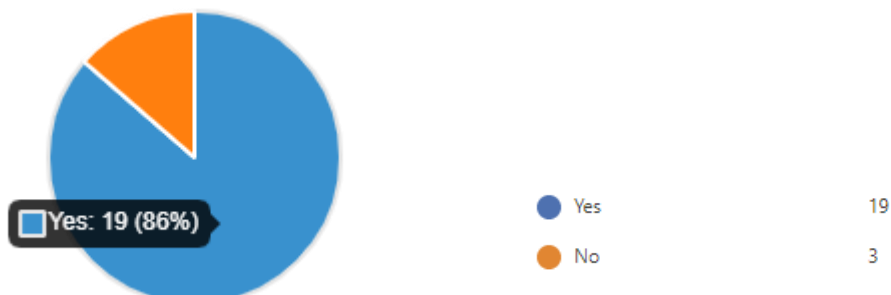
Q12. ADDITION: It has been raised that more information is needed regarding the SPONSOR of a product. There is currently a question asking if the catalogue owner (provider of the data) is the sponsor of the product in the Australian market (Y/N) but the point has been raised that where this is 'N' the name of the sponsor is required om some cases. Do you agree with a field for this purpose being added as OPTIONAL for all product types?

● Yes	16
● No	4

Yes: 16 (80%)
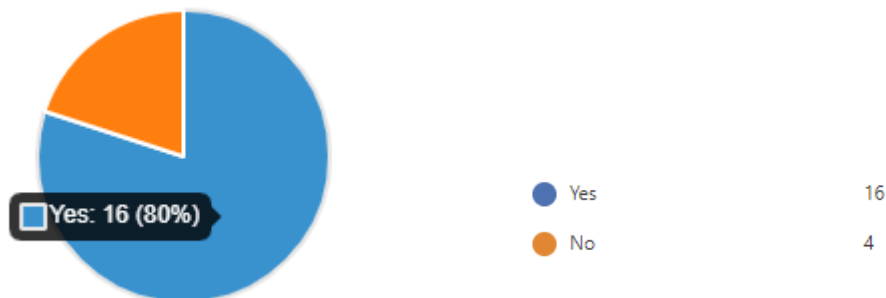
Q13. Please provide any comments regarding question 12 if required.

strongly agree. understanding the difference between manufacturer, sponsor, distributor etc. is very useful for determining who to contact for various reasons.
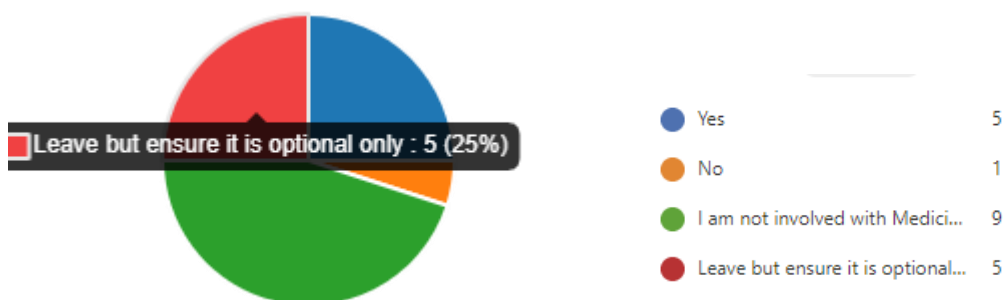
This should be mandatory! and should be stated who is the primary data originator.

what's the relevance ? Modern Slavery Act or other

sponsor and manufacturer may be the same or different however we need to be able to distinguish to help identify a medicinal product.

In order to drive data consistency in the NPC we will need to understand who in Australia is the sponsor or data owner of that particular product. Should not be OPTIONAL, but MANDATORY

Q14. REMOVAL: It has been proposed that Controlled Narcotic Drug Number be removed. Do you agree that this can be removed from the dataset?

● Yes	5
● No	1
● I am not involved with Medici...	9
● Leave but ensure it is optional...	5

Leave but ensure it is optional only : 5 (25%)

Q15. Anecdotal feedback has been that we need to make the dataset clearer and specify the actual fields and explain them better (example specify Material Safety Data Sheet, IFU or CMI as Optional, with an explanation of how to provide it).

Please provide us with your thoughts on this

The information is really confusing even for those of us who have been involved for a long time. A simpler dataset and a healthcare specific set of cook books would be great

agree with both simplification and explaining fields better. potentially an external document which providers elaboration or commentary, or an in-document comment box which expands on the information. just some ideas.

Clarity is always beneficial.

If a product has an SDS (MSDS is the old legislative term), It should be provided with the data.

the clearer the description of the field will allow for better input

I Agree this would assist with consistent information being provided.

Agreed, the item data dictionary typically does not contain sufficient guidance on how to provide information

This would be extremely helpful and would contribute to ensuring more accurate data is supplied and product validation is easier to achieve. Great suggestion thank you.

Better explanations would be helpful

examples along with definitions would help to understand what and how data is to be populated.

With any survey of data be sure to review not just the majority / weighting of responses, but who the benefit of the Y or N question. ie industry may say N but if the hospitals say Y then the decision maybe Y

Perhaps consider the groupings and cross of data information e.g. previous question to remove Controlled Narcotic Drug Number - information also covered by Schedule Code or cross over between ARTG and CMI number

Is there an option to upload these documents and have the information available to users without having to enter the information already contained in these docs in the data set.

I agree to provide additional information on the different fields and attributes, perhaps with an explanation where these fields are used for in the business and the possible impact if these data sets are not provided (in case they are OPTIONAL)

Q16. Do you have any other specific suggestions for improvements to the documentation or other NPC resources you feel would help to improve the process for suppliers and also help ensure the data can be trusted/used?

Responses

More open discussions within this forum help to ensure the process is understood and we work together to improve it

As stated before, platinum rating should only go to those with independently audited/corroborated data.

if there has been audits of the process, presentation of the results

Where there is multiple areas that require the same information auto populate from the initial data entry point i.e where an item is only available as a ctn shipped and invoiced quantity.

Responses

Overall reduction of mandatory columns would ensure the information supplied is accurate. In addition a map of relationships between the different columns would greatly assist - sometimes a correction is made to correct a validation error, but this in turn causes another error to related information.

Clear guidelines on fields that are dependent on the response to other fields

easy to access help associated with the field you are populating. resources on who and how data is being used. Continue with data quality reporting.

Listing real world examples of how the data would be displayed in the field is good

Aligning the data requirements for end users (I suppose that's the purpose of this) but perhaps also coordinating the NPC data requests to ensure we are using the same language towards the suppliers in order to get consistency and compliance. It comes also down to the end users of the NPC and the data, to ensure we drive suppliers accountability to deliver high quality data.

Q17. The dataset review process has taken a lot of your time, do you have any suggestions on how this process could be improved in the future?

Responses

Move review tool on line to assist in automation of comments and calculations, e.g. percentage of responders who recommend a field be removed.

By all states and territories working together to assist. Also vendors need to take ownership of their data. We are looking at putting abatements/penalties in our contracts for vendors with poor NPC data.

the timeline for the frequency of the event is acceptable

the challenge for me was more around trying to co-ordinate with internal stakeholders for feedback

I think the process this year has been handled extremely well - a lot of work behind the scenes has gathered the required feedback and consolidated responses resulting in this final questionnaire to ensure all parties agree with the outcome. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for ensuring input is considered from all aspects of the industry.

perhaps shorter meeting but with more regularity

process was fine for us

Periodic surveys for continuous improvement. This beast is forever evolving so comms are important.

It's hard to comment across all use cases on all fields as majority may not be relevant to the individual

Perhaps divide this in particular sections and get an understanding within the different organisations who is looking after this. However, it is up to the business to understand the value of the NPC and data.