Quick Links:

- What’s New for MedDRA Version 19.1
- MSSO Maintains ISO 9001:2008 Certification
- ICH M1 Points to Consider Working Group Meeting
- MedDRA Training Webinars Have Been Revised
- EVERREST Project
- Survey on MSSO Best Practice Documents and MedDRA Lists
- Web-Based Browser 2.0 Enhancements
- MSSO European Help Desk
- Self-Service Tool
- CIOMS “Red Book” on How to Use SMQs (2nd edition)
- MSSO 2016 MedDRA User Group Meetings
What’s New for MedDRA Version 19.1

By Brian J. O’Hare
Terminology Maintenance Manager

MedDRA Version 19.1 was made available to MedDRA users on 1 September 2016 from the Downloads page on the MedDRA website.

MedDRA Version 19.1 is a simple change version which means that changes may be made only at the PT and LLT levels of the MedDRA hierarchy. There was a total of 1,672 change requests processed for this version; 1,362 change requests were approved and implemented, and 266 change requests were not approved. There are, in addition, 44 change requests suspended for further consideration and resolution beyond this version. See the table below for MedDRA Version 19.1 term counts. The implemented changes included three “proactivity requests”. One request focused on reviewing and moving specific LLT terms under PT Wound (e.g., LLT Lower limb wound; LLT Open wound of back; LLT Open wound of ear) to site specific PTs for better alignment. Other requests included a review of the representation of organ/body site enlargement versus hypertrophy of the same organ/site for more consistent placement and a consistency review of “Device type” and “Device Event” terms in MedDRA. Please see the What’s New Document included with the Version 19.1 release package for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Version 19.0</th>
<th>Version 19.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>System Organ Classes (SOC)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Level Group Terms (HLGT)</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Level Terms (HLT)</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>1,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Terms (PT)</td>
<td>21,920</td>
<td>22,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Level Terms (LLT)</td>
<td>75,818</td>
<td>76,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total terms in MedDRA</strong></td>
<td>77,912</td>
<td>78,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total LLTs include PTs as they are included together in the LLT distribution file.

No new SMQs were introduced into MedDRA Version 19.1, but there were 246 approved changes to existing SMQs. Only minor changes were made to the SMQ Introductory Guide.

For more detailed information on MedDRA term additions and changes, users may wish to use the MedDRA Version Analysis Tool (MVAT) – [https://tools.meddra.org/mvat](https://tools.meddra.org/mvat) - which is an online tool that compares any two MedDRA versions— including non-consecutive versions – to identify changes. The output of MVAT is similar to the Version Report. MVAT is free to MedDRA users as part of their subscription.

The MSSO encourages MedDRA users to consider submitting change requests to help us maintain MedDRA as a rigorous terminology that is responsive to your needs. Change requests can be submitted to the MSSO via the online change request application WebCR ([https://mssotools.com/webcr](https://mssotools.com/webcr)).
MSSO Maintains ISO 9001:2008 Certification

By Mike Burke
MedDRA MSSO QA Manager

The MedDRA MSSO is announcing that, effective 10 August 2016, it has successfully maintained its ISO 9001:2008 certification from BSi™, a quality management systems registrar. The MSSO achieved excellent results from a surveillance and audit conducted 9 August 2016. The ISO 9001:2008 standard is an internationally recognized quality management system standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

To be certified to the standard, enterprises must implement a Quality Management System (QMS) encompassing the activities of the enterprise for controlled product planning, training on roles and responsibilities in the QMS, controlled development of products, controlled purchasing of materials and services, and controlled delivery of the products and services. Certification to ISO 9001:2008 reinforces to customers through an independent third-party that the MSSO operates a QMS in accordance with the standard. For example, the MSSO produces a release plan for each MedDRA Release; manages execution of the plan by monitoring and measurement through product and process verifications; and delivers the prescribed products on time with the correct resources.

The ISO certification demonstrates our commitment to MedDRA users that the MSSO is heavily engaged in continuing process improvement, world-class performance, and monitoring our terminology maintenance operations to ensure that we deliver on the commitments we make to our users, staff, and vendors.


BSi™ is a trademark of BSI Management Systems America, Inc.

The WG also discussed the development of condensed versions of the PtC documents for translation into all MedDRA languages (except English and Japanese) to support the implementation and use of MedDRA worldwide. The condensed translated PtC documents are expected to be available in 2017. The English and Japanese PtC documents will remain as full documents and will continue to be updated with each MedDRA release.

The PtC documents for MedDRA Version 19.1 are available in English and Japanese and are posted on the MedDRA and JMO websites on 1 September 2016. There are also redlined documents which help users identify the changes between the latest versions of the documents and the previous ones. The PtC Working Group invites MedDRA users to provide feedback on the documents by sending an email to the MSSO Help Desk.
Our MedDRA Webinars Have Been Revised!

By David Richardson, MD
Medical Officer

Our subscribers spoke and we listened. Based upon comments and suggestions from you, the MSSO has made changes to its popular portfolio of educational webinars.

The previous collection of four webinars has been revamped to create six educational webinars.

Our goal in revising the webinars was to accomplish several objectives including:

1. Shortening the duration of each of these webinars to a maximum of 60 minutes for the presentation. Each webinar concludes with several minutes of a question and answer session that will allow you to have your questions addressed by the instructor. With a short investment of your time, you can learn about a MedDRA topic and then move on to the rest of your busy day!
2. Expanding the number of webinar offerings from four to six topics so that we can provide a more focused presentation on the topic of interest.
3. Making the webinars more interactive through increased MedDRA browser and tool demonstrations, the inclusion of more quiz questions, and the addition of a polling feature which allows attendees to test their MedDRA knowledge during the webinars.
4. Minimizing the amount of introductory material at the beginning of each webinar so that you can maximize the time learning about a new topic, not reviewing material that you had already mastered.

Below is the current list of MedDRA educational webinars as well as a brief course objective to help you in selecting the right course(s) for you.

- **Getting Started with MedDRA**
  
  **Objective:** To provide information and assistance for organizations who are in the process of implementing MedDRA.

- **MedDRA Overview**
  
  **Objective:** To give participants a basic understanding of MedDRA and its application in the coding, retrieval, and analysis of clinical data.

- **MedDRA Coding Basics**
  
  **Objective:** To provide users who are new to MedDRA coding with a starter course. If you wish to continue to develop your MedDRA coding skills, please consider following this course with the Advanced MedDRA Coding webinar.

- **Advanced MedDRA Coding**
  
  **Objective:** To challenge users who have basic MedDRA coding experience with a presentation of advanced coding principles and examples. If you have no experience with coding with MedDRA, it is highly recommended that you first complete the MedDRA Coding Basics webinar.

- **Data Analysis and Query Building with MedDRA**
  
  **Objective:** To provide users with a basic understanding and information on the use of MedDRA for data analysis and query building.

- **Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs)**
  
  **Objective:** To provide MedDRA users with a basic understanding and information on the use of Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs) for data retrieval, presentation, and analysis.

Continued on page 9
Developing standard maternal and fetal adverse event severity grading criteria

By Professor Anna David
Professor and Consultant in Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine, UCL Institute for Women’s Health, University College London

Dr. Rebecca Spencer
Clinical Research Fellow, UCL Institute for Women’s Health, University College London

Despite the huge global burden of maternal and perinatal disease, very few obstetric therapies have been developed or are in development. The investment in drug development for the mother or her fetus is the same or less than that for many orphan diseases such as haemophilia or thalassaemia, and yet pregnancy is a critical time for the health of children and into adulthood.

One of the many reasons for this is that there is a lack of a proper framework for clinical trials in pregnant women. For example, until recently there has been no sufficiently comprehensive framework for grading adverse events (AEs) in trials of maternal and fetal therapies. So few clinical trials are carried out in pregnancy that this situation is self-perpetuating, making it even harder to establish future trials. Until now clinical trials in pregnancy have either not graded their AEs, leading to limited safety data, or AEs have been graded in the absence of standard criteria, leading to variability within and between trials. This is just not acceptable for pregnant women and their families.

To address this deficit we established the EVERREST International Adverse Event Consensus Group to develop standard maternal and fetal AE severity grading criteria. The EVERREST consortium is aiming to perform a first-in-woman trial of maternal gene therapy to treat a major obstetric disease, placental insufficiency, which results in poor fetal growth. Using a robust system to capture AEs was a vital part of the clinical trial protocol. An important consideration when developing the criteria was to align them with existing international systems, including using MedDRA terms where possible. Although existing MedDRA terms were available for all of the maternal events which our group considered, there were not suitable terms for most of the fetal events. This led us to approach the MSSO, and through discussions with the Chief Medical Officer and her team we were able to develop a set of terms which both described the fetal events comprehensively and also fitted into the MedDRA hierarchy and terminology. These 18 new fetal events were added to MedDRA Version 19.0 in March 2016.

Standard maternal and fetal AE grading criteria will improve clinical trialling of maternal and fetal therapies in the future. The safety data that they generate will be more detailed and reproducible, allowing the risks of new therapies to be properly established and compared. Harmonisation with the MedDRA terms list will enhance implementation of safety reporting of maternal and fetal events included in the grading criteria.

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013 and FP7/2007-2011) under grant agreement no. 305823.
Survey on MSSO Best Practice Documents and MedDRA Lists

By Judy Harrison, MD
Chief Medical Officer

In April 2016, the MSSO conducted an online survey which was made available to all MedDRA users. The purpose of the survey was to assess the extent of use and utility of the MSSO Best Practice documents and the Paediatric and Gender Adverse Event Term Lists, and to identify the need for additional documents and lists to support the use of MedDRA.

A total of 89 MedDRA users, mostly from industry, responded to the survey. For the Best Practice documents, the results indicated a general lack of awareness and low level of use of the documents with the exception of the “Primary System Organ Class (SOC) Allocation in MedDRA” document. Based on this feedback, the MSSO has improved the visibility of the documents on the MedDRA website (see screenshot) and will be updating and consolidating the documents into a single MSSO Best Practices document.

The results for the Paediatric and Gender Adverse Event Term Lists also showed low levels of use and it was apparent that the lists are not meeting users’ pharmacovigilance needs. The MSSO has therefore discontinued maintenance of the Lists as of MedDRA Version 19.0 and has archived them on the MedDRA website for reference (see screenshot).

In response to the survey question on what additional documents and lists would be beneficial, one MedDRA user suggested that it would be helpful to have a list of unqualified test name terms, e.g., PT Blood glucose, as a tool to improve data quality in adverse event reporting. These terms, of which there are approximately 1,500 in MedDRA, are intended to be used in the E2B test name field only, and should not appear as adverse events. The MedDRA Expert Panel also discussed and supported the idea of an unqualified test name term list which would be maintained and updated by the MSSO with each MedDRA release. The list will be developed and first made available for MedDRA Version 20.0 on the MedDRA website.

The MSSO thanks the survey responders for their feedback and we look forward to continuing to improve our support of the use of MedDRA worldwide.
The 2.0 version of the Web-Based Browser (WBB) launched on 4 May 2016. This version includes the option to change the language interface to any of the currently supported MedDRA languages, multi-language term output in search results if selected, and hierarchy information is included in the export of search results and the research bin.

The screenshot below demonstrates the new language interface (the WBB labels and options are in French).

These new features now match the MedDRA Desktop Browser which was deployed in October 2015. A videocast that explains and demonstrates the new features of the WBB is available in the Tools section on the Training Materials page on the MedDRA website.
MSSO European Help Desk

By Jane Knight
Clinical Associate

Just as the number of terms in MedDRA increases over time, so does the number of MedDRA users. In 2015, the MSSO Help Desk handled over 4,000 new subscription applications and renewals. Since 2007, there has been a 121% increase in the total number of users, to the point that as of August 2016, the MSSO has 4,067 subscribing organizations in 99 countries. Over 50% of MSSO subscribing organizations are based in Europe.

Up until 2015, the MSSO Help Desk representatives had been based at Headquarters in Virginia, USA. In January of 2016, the MSSO opened an additional European Help Desk to extend the overall hours of operation of MSSO Help Desk services. The European Help Desk representative is based in the UK, and this means that support can be provided to users from 04:00 – 17:00 US Eastern Time. The MSSO has received positive feedback on its quick responses from a number of users.

The MSSO Help Desk helps users with all questions related to MedDRA, such as:

- How to subscribe to MedDRA?
- What is my organization’s MedDRA password?
- How to download MedDRA?
- How do I access the MedDRA Web-Based Browser?
- Is my business partner a MedDRA subscriber?
- Who is the MedDRA point of contact in my organization?
- My MedDRA Desktop Browser is not working, please help.
- I cannot find the Version 19.0 unzip password, please help.
- How should I apply the MedDRA Term Selection: Points to Consider document?
- Can you explain the version reports output from the MedDRA Version Analysis Tool?
- How do I suggest a new term to be added into MedDRA?

The MedDRA Help Desk can be contacted via email at, mssohelp@meddra.org. Questions and comments can be submitted using an online contact form on the MedDRA website, http://meddra.org/contact. With either form of communication, a telephone follow up can be requested by providing a contact number and convenient contact hours in the user’s specific time zone. We look forward to serving you!
Our MedDRA Webinars Have Been Revised! (continued)

You can find complete course descriptions and outlines for each of these webinars under the “Training” tab on the MedDRA website. The webinar courses are supplemental to or a preparation for face-to-face training, but they are not a replacement for the in-person, hands-on training courses. We recommend and encourage all users who wish to learn more about MedDRA coding or data analysis to come to the free face-to-face training sessions.

The MSSO will continue to offer our very popular one-hour “What’s New with MedDRA and the MSSO” webinars at the time of each new MedDRA release.

We hope that these revamped webinars provide you with a more time efficient and interactive opportunity to learn about MedDRA and improve your coding and data analysis skills.

Self-Service Tool

By Shalini Gupta
IT Manager

To better serve MedDRA users’ needs, the MSSO is developing an online Self-Service Tool that will allow users to perform certain tasks for themselves at their own convenience without needing to wait for the Help Desk’s hours of operation. Included features are:

- Allow users to be put in contact with the primary point of contact for their organization
- Provide the primary and alternate points of contact with their subscription credentials (e.g., MedDRA ID and password)
- Confirm subscription status of business partners in batch or single entry mode
- Obtain training certificates for recently attended face-to-face training

The Self-Service Tool is planned to be released in early 2017.
CIOMS “Red Book” on How to Use SMQs (2nd edition)

By Dr. William W. Gregory
Senior Director, Worldwide Safety and Regulatory
Pfizer Inc.

Messenger readers are likely familiar with Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs), but, for many organizations, practical application of SMQs to adverse event data remains an aspirational goal. The Council for the International Organization of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) SMQ Implementation Working Group (IWG) will shortly be publishing the second edition of its report, “Development and Rational Use of Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs): Retrieving Adverse Drug Reactions with MedDRA”. The purpose of this new publication, known as the “Red Book,” is to inform regulatory authorities, scientific institutions, pharmaceutical companies, vendors of transactional safety databases, and other organizations or individuals involved in biopharmaceutical product development about the purpose and appropriate use of SMQs in safety surveillance activities.

Shortly after the introduction of MedDRA in 1998, the MedDRA subscriber community recognized the need for a standard approach to assist in identification and retrieval of MedDRA-coded safety data to facilitate investigation of specific safety questions. Thus, in May 2002, a plan was proposed by CIOMS to meet this need. The project was adopted and it subsequently evolved into a robust partnership between CIOMS, ICH, the MSSO, and the JMO, with scientific activities coordinated by CIOMS. Constant engagement and public-private collaboration amongst senior scientists from the EU, Japan, and the US have resulted in a strong portfolio of globally-applicable SMQs. These SMQs focus on specific medical conditions across a broad range of therapeutic areas and are updated with each release of MedDRA. Topics selected for SMQ development are those that supplement the established MedDRA hierarchy, would have wide applicability, and could have an impact on benefit-risk evaluations.

This ICH-endorsed, 2nd edition CIOMS “Red Book” provides practical advice, with examples, on rational use of SMQs, such as monitoring of potential safety risks and analysis of aggregate data. Examples are meant to illustrate the use of queries in systematic analyses (e.g., meta-analysis), interventional clinical trials, signal detection, signal assessment, and other database searches. The report clarifies potential use of SMQs in clinical trials, where SMQs can be used to compare investigational products, including placebo and comparator, and to other molecules in the same class or with a similar mechanism of action. In addition, the report describes vaccine-specific SMQs and notes that SMQs can also serve as useful tools in technovigilance (medical devices). Further, the report cautions that there may still be instances when customized queries must be created (and maintained by the user with each MedDRA version). Importantly, one chapter addresses considerations for structured communication of results. The first edition of the CIOMS “Red Book” was published in 2004. This 2nd edition, prepared by the current CIOMS Working Group, aims to include key information from the original edition and also to share the experience gained in the development, application, and limitations of SMQs since then. Of note, the present report is dedicated to the memory of Professor Juhana E. Idänpään-Heikilä, who, as Secretary-General and Senior Advisor to CIOMS, was a tireless champion of SMQs since 2002 to his death in October 2015; he provided constant support to the Working Group, as well as the needed substrate for pragmatic application of SMQs to important safety questions.

This report supplements and complements the ICH SMQ Introductory Guide published by the MSSO with each new MedDRA version.

Additional information: www.cioms.ch.
Meeting people who are enthusiastic about MedDRA and enjoying the presentations on MedDRA specific topics given by MedDRA experts from regulatory authorities, industry, and the MSSO are among the reasons why users come to the MSSO MedDRA User Group (UG) Meetings. The MSSO holds these meetings in China, Europe, and the US annually to reach out to MedDRA users worldwide.

In 2016, the UG Meetings were held in Philadelphia, USA on 30 June 2016, in Hamburg, Germany on 5 April 2016, and in Beijing, China on 19 May 2016. To provide users with insight into the change request process, the MSSO conducted an “Interactive Mock MedDRA Consensus” at the European and US UG meetings. The MSSO appreciates the preparation and participation of the volunteer “International Medical Officers” (IMOs) in the mock consensus sessions as well as the lively discussions provided by the audience. All involved found the sessions to be fun, challenging, and informative.

For those who did not have an opportunity to attend a mock consensus in person, an article titled “The Power of Consensus: Assessing Change Requests” by Jane Knight, published in the MedDRA Messenger March 2016 edition, describes another mock MedDRA consensus conducted in October 2015, at the Association for Clinical Data Management (ACDM), Coding & Dictionaries Special Interest Group meeting.

At this year’s UG meetings, regulatory and industry speakers shared a wealth of information on the use of MedDRA.
User Group Meetings (continued)

We encourage users to send us feedback on UG topics and propose future topics of interest via the MSSO Help Desk at mssohelp@meddra.org.

MSSO User Group Meetings are free to MedDRA subscribers. The MSSO finds them to be a valuable way to receive direct feedback on MedDRA and MSSO products and services, and we particularly enjoy being able to meet MedDRA users in person.

We hope to see you at future meetings!

Speakers at the MSSO 2016 Chinese User Group Meeting

From left to right: Dr. Li Shan (J&J); Dr. Victor Wu (Beijing Data Science Express Consulting Co., Ltd); Dr. Anna Zhao-Wong (MSSO); Dr. Xiaojun Guo (GSK); Dr. Fangfang Shi (Pfizer); Dr. Linus Liu (Quintiles). Speaker Ms. Chuanxiang Ma was not present in the photo.

Mick Foy (MHRA) was awarded the Friend Of MedDRA award for his long standing development and support of MedDRA (i.e., the MHRA originally developed MedDRA), his active participation as a speaker in Industry and Regulatory meetings on MedDRA and pharmacovigilance topics, and his dynamic participation in the MedDRA Management Board.

Mick Foy receiving the Friend of MedDRA Award at the Hamburg User Group Meeting
Please visit us at the Drug Information Association Annual Meetings

29th Annual EuroMeeting
Glasgow, United Kingdom
29-31 March 2017

53rd US DIA Annual Meeting
Chicago, Illinois USA
19-21 June 2017

and the MedDRA User Group Meetings

19th US Industry MedDRA User Group Meeting
Mettawa, Illinois USA
15 September 2016
Hosted by: AbbVie

European User Group Webinar
Update on Medication Errors
15 November 2016

European User Group Meeting
Glasgow, United Kingdom
28 March 2017

US User Group Meeting
Chicago, Illinois USA
22 June 2017

We want your Feedback! Please contact us:

Email: mssohelp@meddra.org
MedDRA website: www.meddra.org
Toll Free International: +1.877.258.8280
Direct: +1.703.556.2950
Fax: +1.703.556.1744