

# Singapore Drug Dictionary and Dose Forms

A stethoscope is positioned in the center of the slide, resting on a background of a white ECG (heart rate) line. The entire scene is set against a dark purple gradient background. The stethoscope is silver and black, and the ECG line is white with small numerical markers.

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MOH Holdings, Singapore  
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# Agenda

- Background
- SDD Model and Examples
- Dose Form Hierarchy
- Implementation and Tooling
- Conclusions



The image features a close-up of a medical monitor displaying an ECG (heart rate) waveform. A silver stethoscope is positioned over the screen. A semi-transparent purple rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the word "Background" in white text. The ECG screen shows various lead waveforms and labels such as "ALI-PGDN 1265", "U4 PGDN", "PGUP U4", "F5", "F6", "F7", "445", "A+", and "93".

# Background

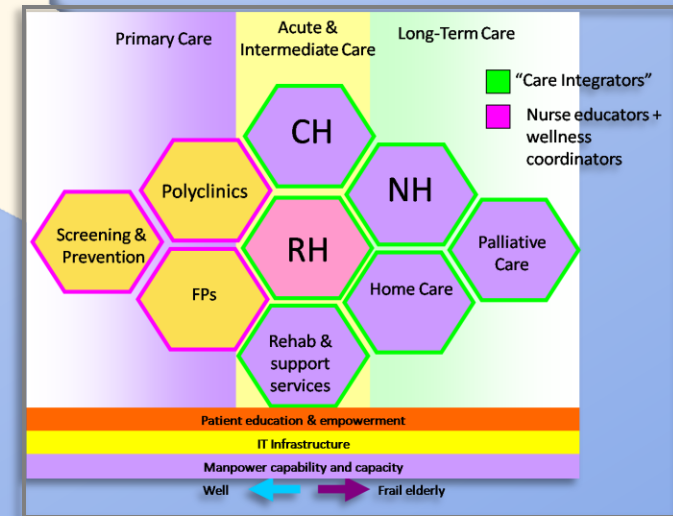
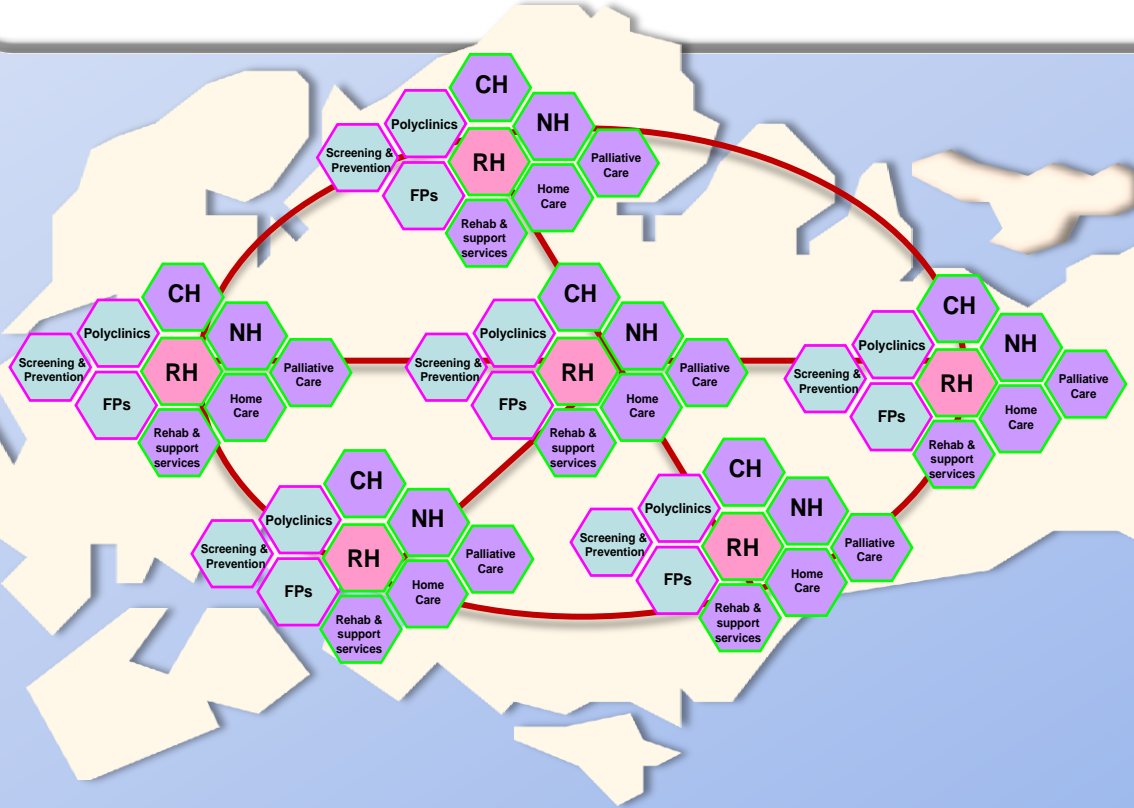


# Healthcare landscape of the future



Strategic vision of patients moving seamlessly across the healthcare system, receiving coordinated patient-centric care at the most appropriate settings.

Enabled by the National Electronic Health Record (EHR)



# Background

- Different in-house drug terminologies, codes and IT systems
- Limits the extent to which information can be exchanged—for post-market monitoring, integrated care, healthcare efficiency, decision support and patient safety;

## **Singapore Drug Dictionary**

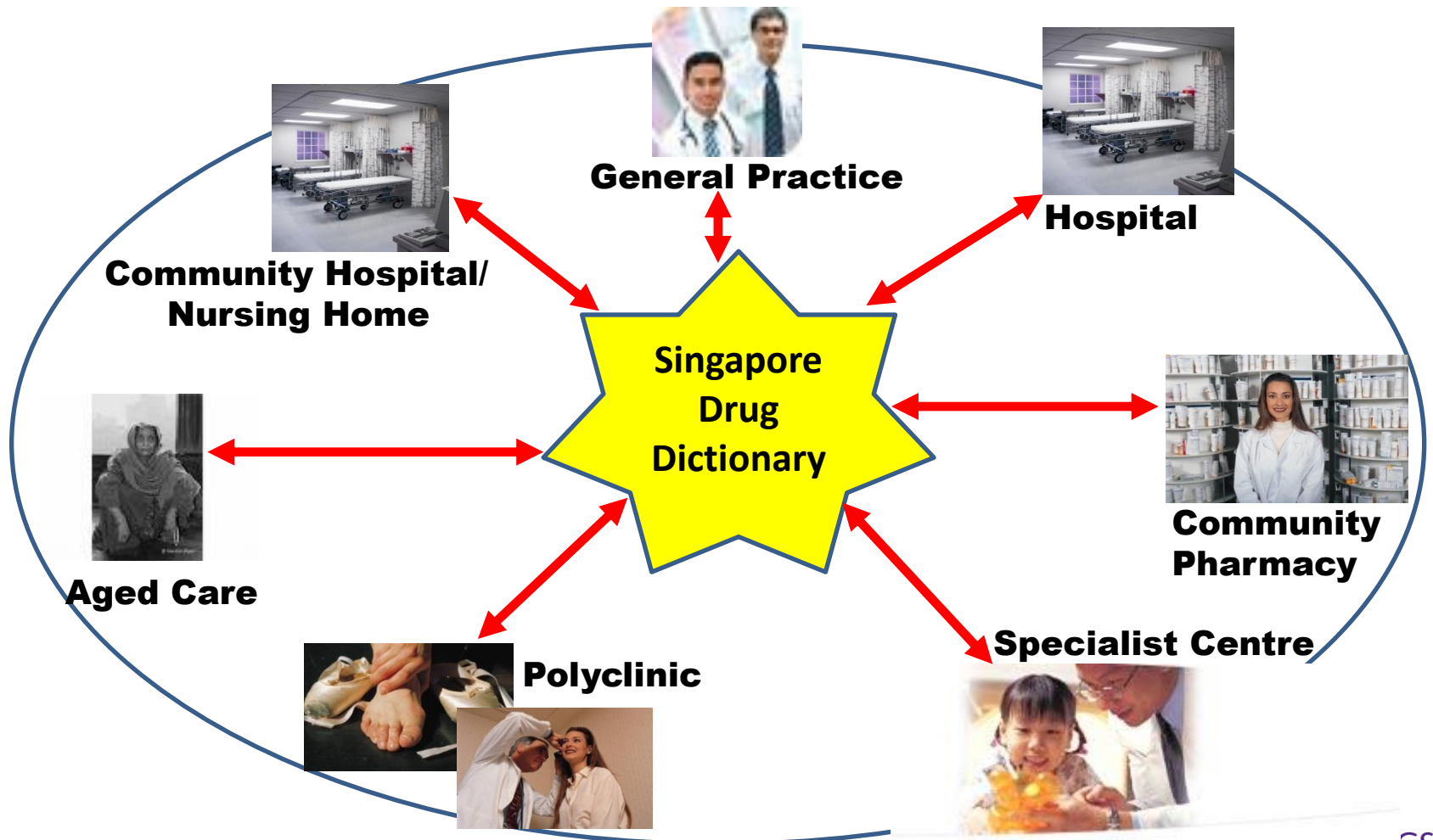
- A national standard to unambiguously identify, code & interpret medicines
- Includes standardised, consistent descriptions for each drug
- Facilitates seamless exchange
- Needs to meet diverse requirements of different users and cater for new innovative products

# Objectives of Singapore Drug Dictionary

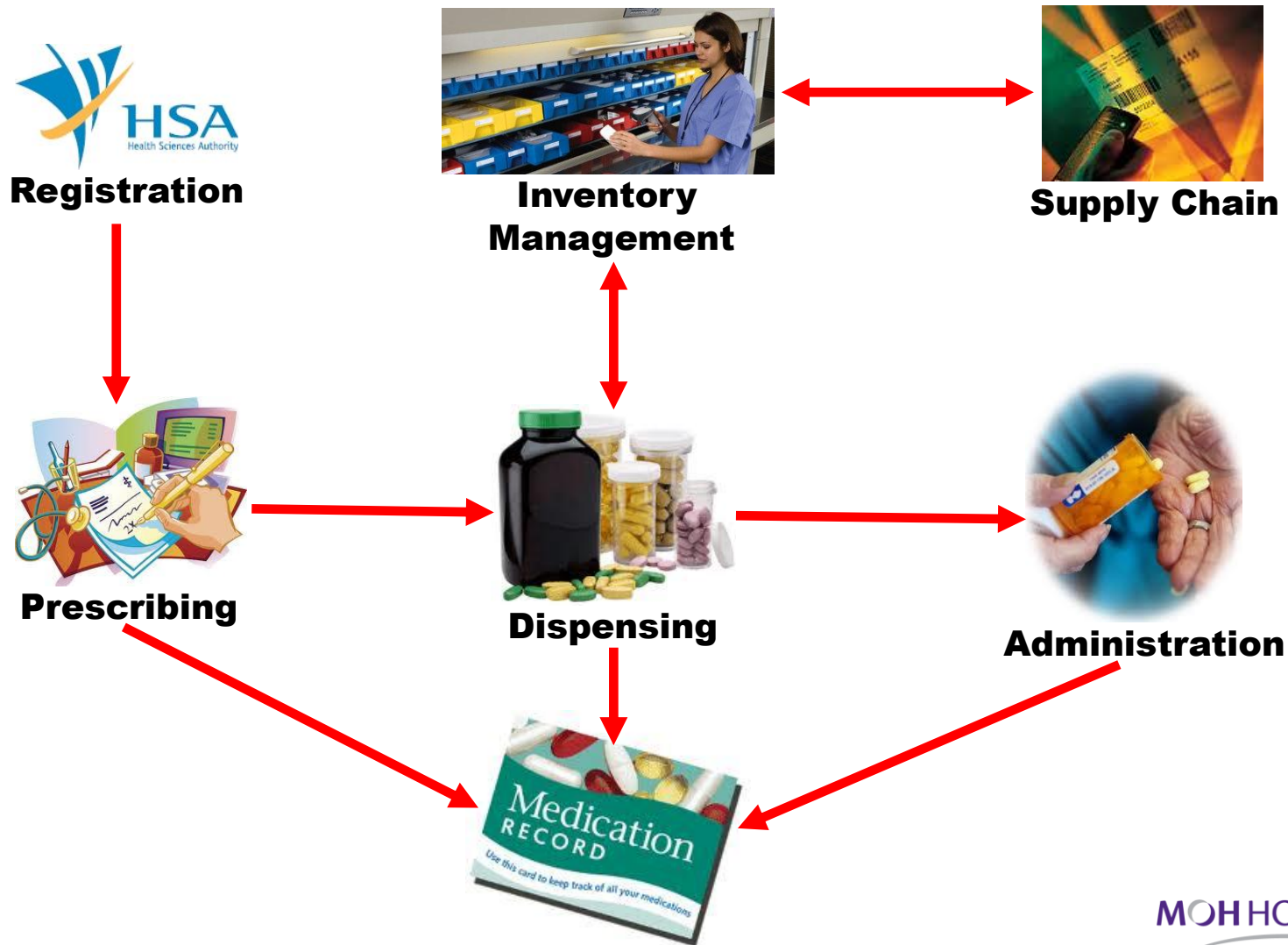
## Improvements in clinical care activities, patient management and safety

- Semantic interoperability across use cases
- Semantic interoperability across care settings
- National / international decision support rules
- Medication safety initiatives including:
  - ✓ Medication management
  - ✓ Adverse drug event surveillance.
- Data mining, analysis and research

# Interoperability Across Care Settings



# Interoperability Across Use Cases



**Medication Lists / Allergies / Research / Decision Support etc**



# SDD Principles



The SDD has been developed with the following principles in mind:

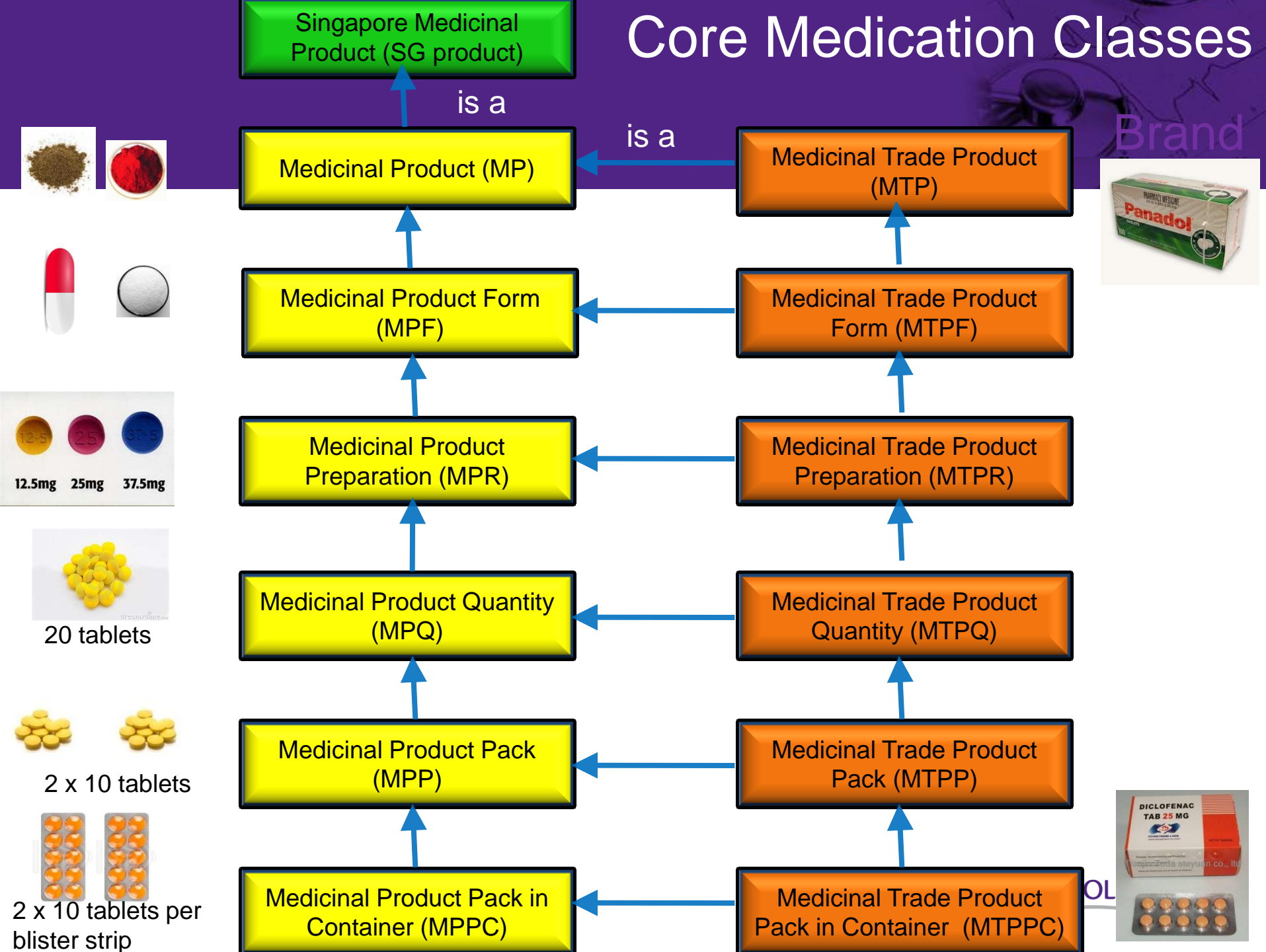
- **Extensibility**  
In both the drug content and data model to allow for innovations in pharmaceutical and device technology over time.
- **Ontology**  
Based on ontological principles to support Singapore's growing need for Biomedical research.
- **Patient Safety, Semantic Interoperability and Decision Support**  
These must be facilitated by the SDD and be the focus of clinician review and initial EMR vendor uptake.
- **Hide Complexity**  
Complexity to be hidden from clinicians and most Electronic Medical Record (EMR) vendors.
- **Informed by Existing Clinical Practice**  
Models tested against several thousand existing medication terms from hospital and GP prescribing/dispensing systems, PRIOR to finalisation of model.

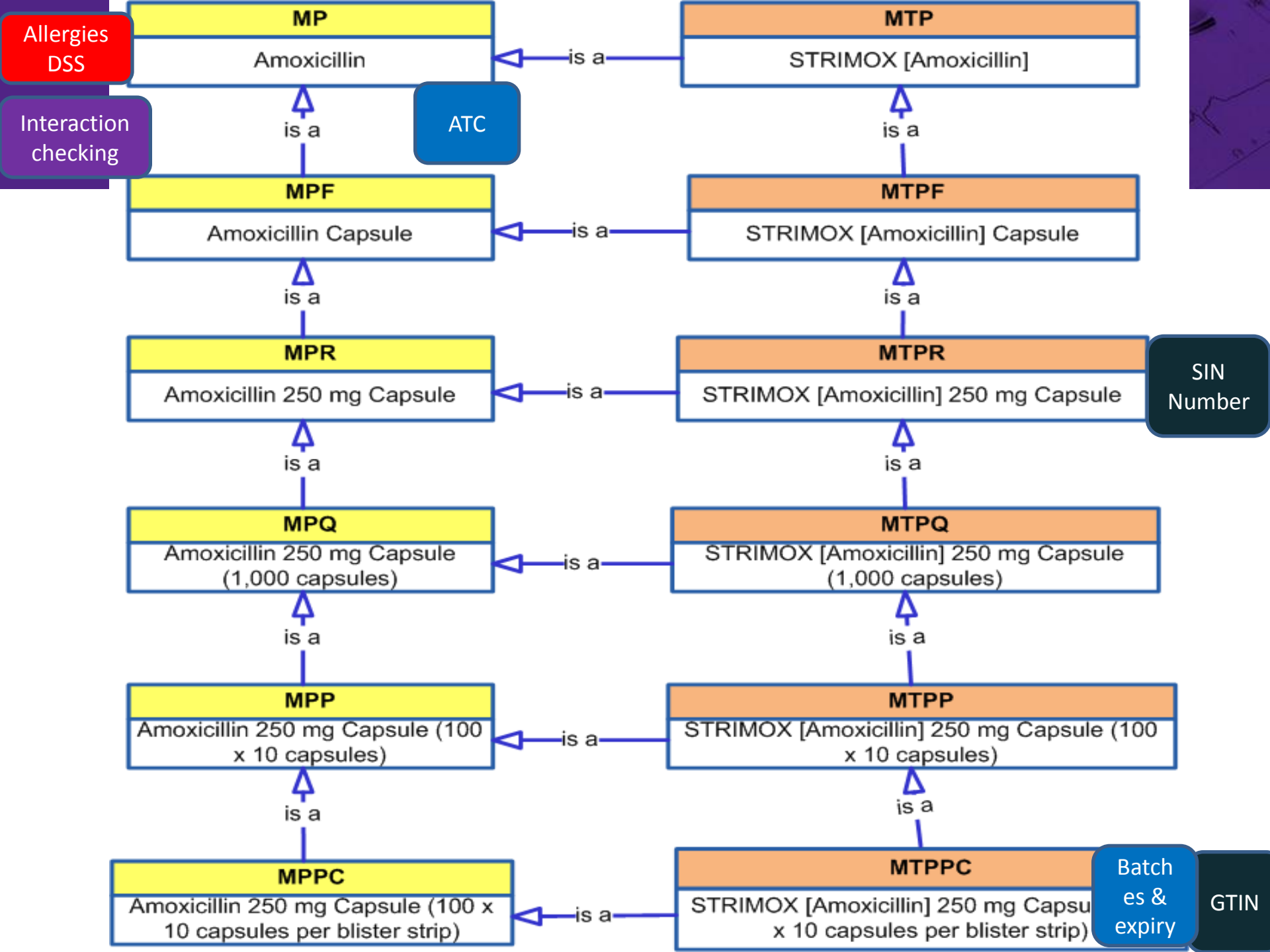
The image features a close-up of an electrocardiogram (ECG) strip. A silver stethoscope is positioned over the paper, with its chest piece in the lower-left corner and its earpieces extending towards the top-right. The ECG strip shows several lead waveforms, including P, QRS, and T waves. Text on the paper includes 'ALI-PGDN 1265', 'U4 PGDN', and 'PGUP U4'. A white pill is visible on the right side of the strip. A semi-transparent purple rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Model and Examples' in white. The overall scene is in grayscale, with the purple box providing a color contrast.

# Model and Examples

# Core Medication Classes

Brand







# The Structure of an SDD Drug

Multi Pack (e.g. 2 packs)



(Super) Pack



Subpack in Container (e.g. blister strip)



Component



Ingredient



+

Ingredient



&

Component



Ingredient



+

Ingredient



Subpack in Container (e.g. bottle)



Component



Ingredient



# Use Case Driven Abstractions – based on:



- **Ingredient Level**

- Specific (S)
- Clinically Relevant (CR)
- Clinically Significant (CS)
- Base

E.g. Amoxicillin Trihydrate

E.g. Amitriptyline Hydrochloride

E.g. Amitriptyline, Calcium Carbonate

E.g. Calcium

- **Dose Form Level**

- Specific (S)
- Clinically Relevant (CR)
- Top (T)

E.g. Intramuscular Injection Solution

E.g. Intramuscular Injection

E.g. Injection

- **Other Defining Information**

- Flavour
- Freeness
- Other

E.g. Strawberry flavour

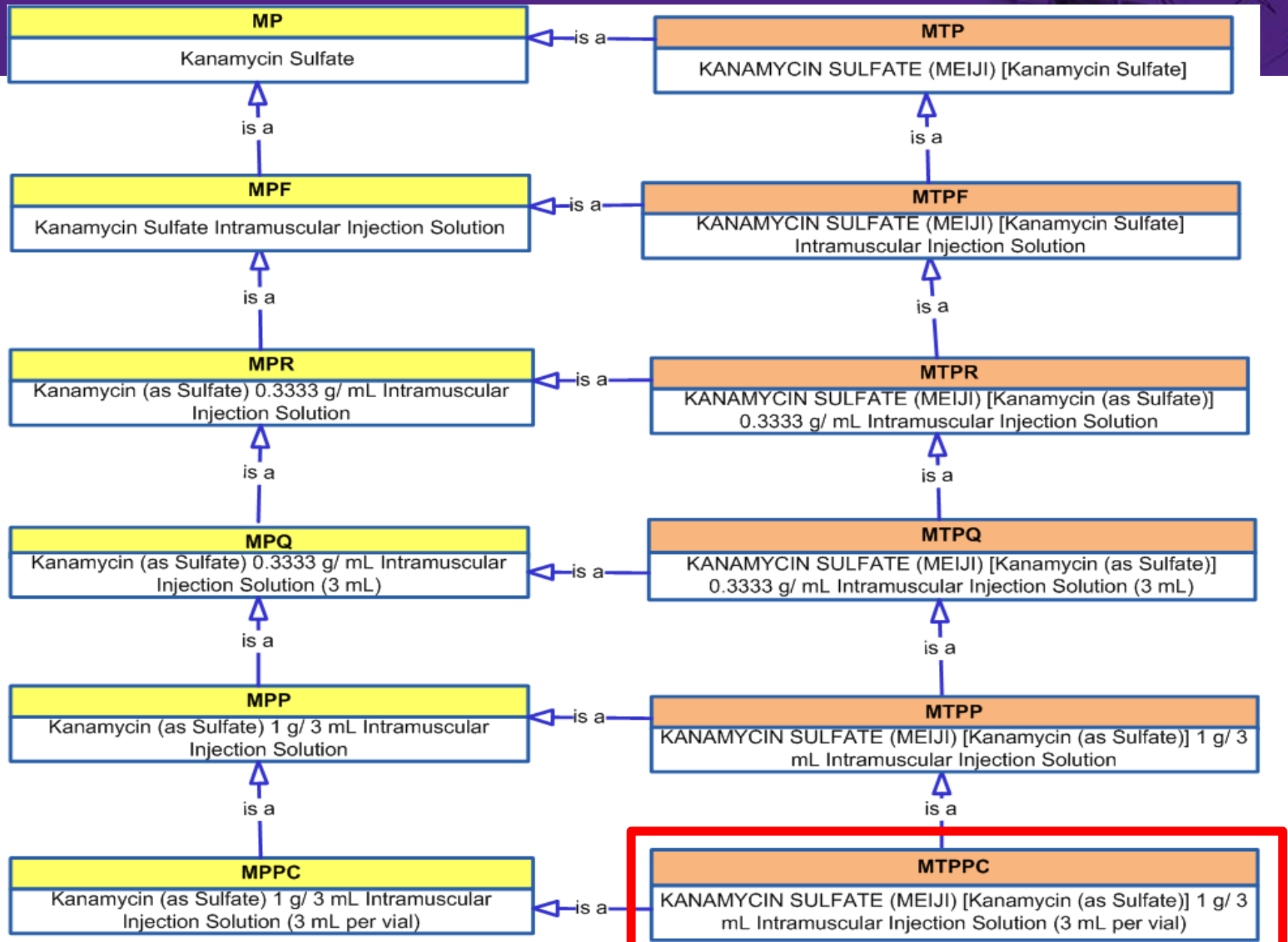
E.g. Preservative-free

E.g. Southern Hemisphere

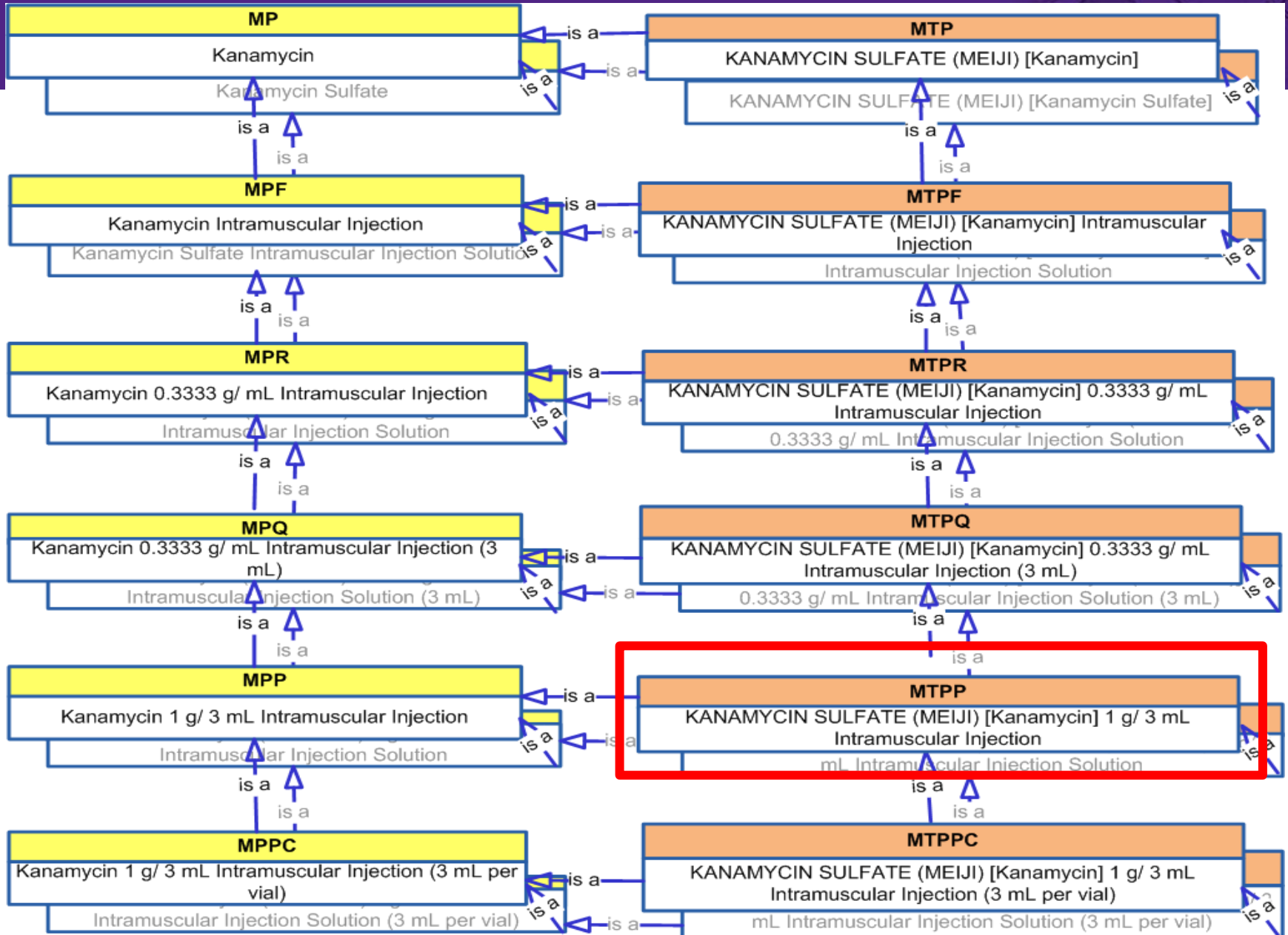
- **Ingredient Qualifiers**

E.g. Bovine, Micronised

# Specific ING – Specific DF

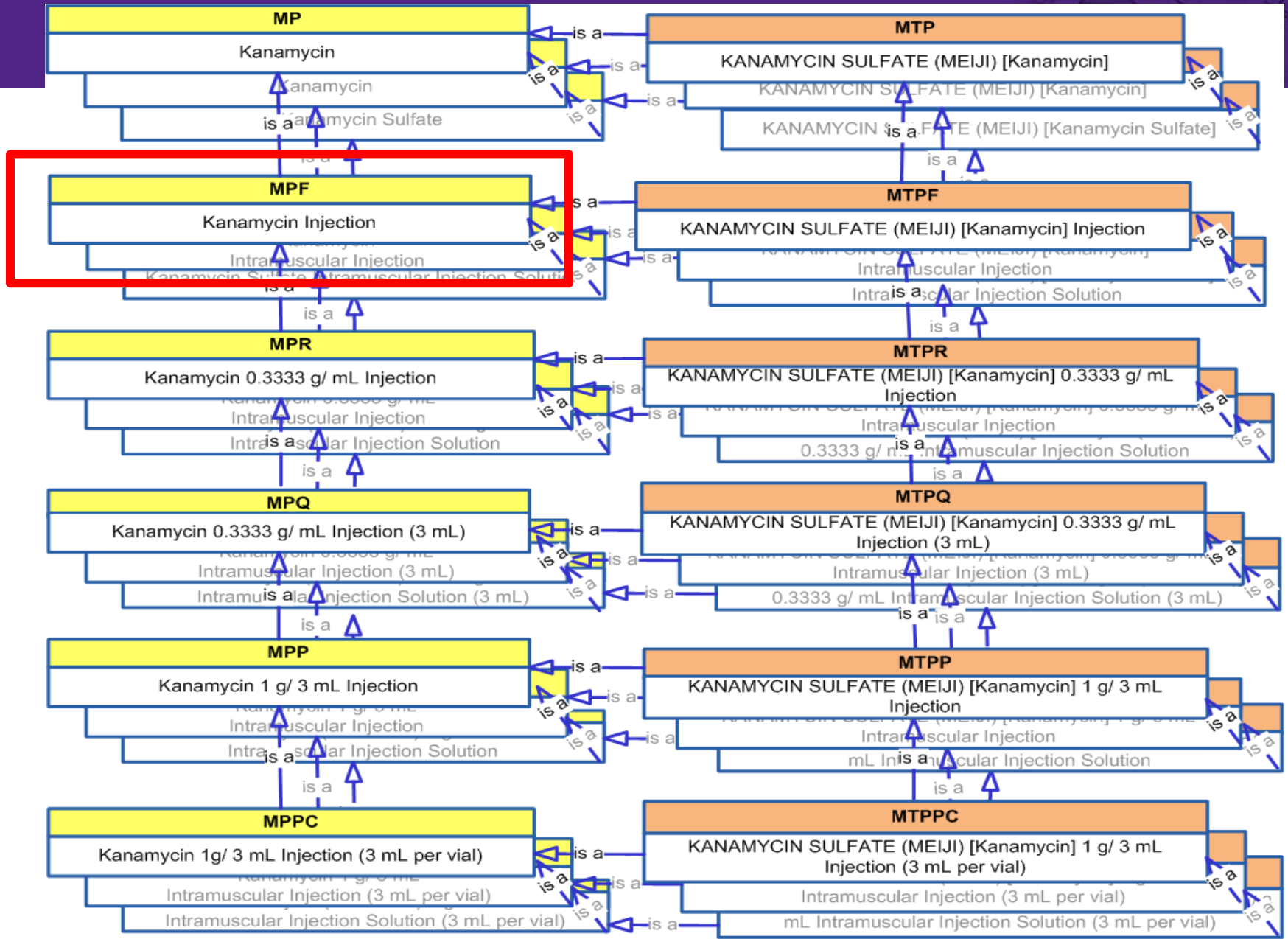


# Clinically Relevant ING – Clinically Relevant DF

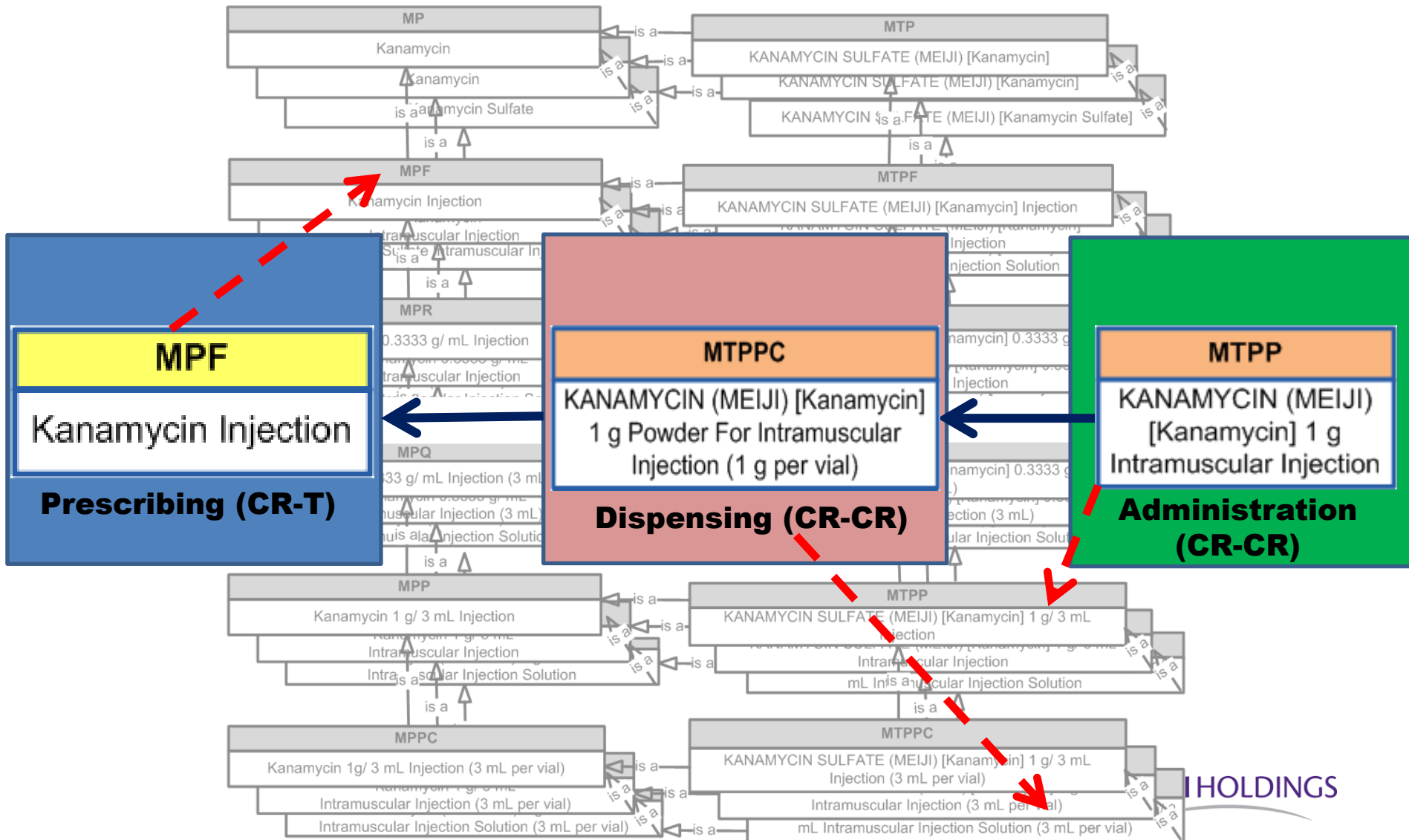




# Clinically Relevant ING – Top Level DF



# Interoperability Across Use Cases



# Use Case Reference Sets (and Linkages)

## Prescribing

### MPR

Erythromycin (as Ethyl Succinate) 250 mg Tablet

## Administration

### MTPR

**E.E.S.** [Erythromycin (as Ethyl Succinate)] 250 mg Tablet

### MTPR

**ERYCYN** [Erythromycin (as Ethyl Succinate)] 250 mg Tablet

## Dispensing

### MTPPC

**E.E.S.** [Erythromycin (as Ethyl Succinate)] 250 mg Tablet  
(2 x 10 tablets per blister strip)

### MTPPC

**ERYCYN** [Erythromycin (as Ethyl Succinate)] 250 mg Tablet  
(10 x 10 tablets per blister strip)

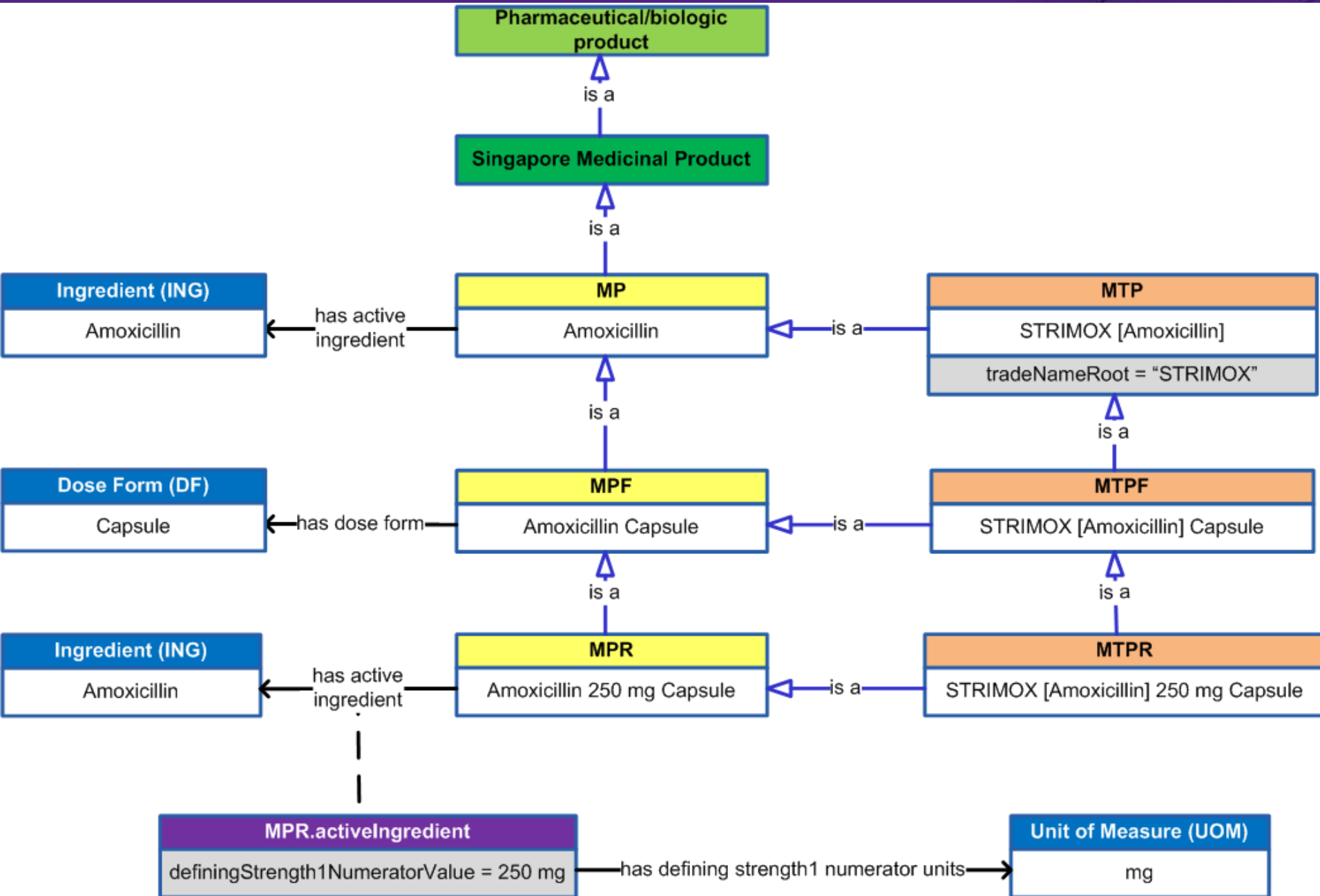
### MTPPC

**ERYCYN** [Erythromycin (as Ethyl Succinate)] 250 mg Tablet  
(1 x 30 tablets per bottle)





# Defining Medications in SDD





# Additional Classes and Relationships

- **Containered Classes**

- Introduced to support clinical terms that use Container at all levels of hierarchy – e.g.
  - ✓ Salbutamol Powder Inhaler
  - ✓ Salbutamol Injection Ampoule
  - ✓ Salbutamol 2 mg/ mL Ampoule

- **Groupers**

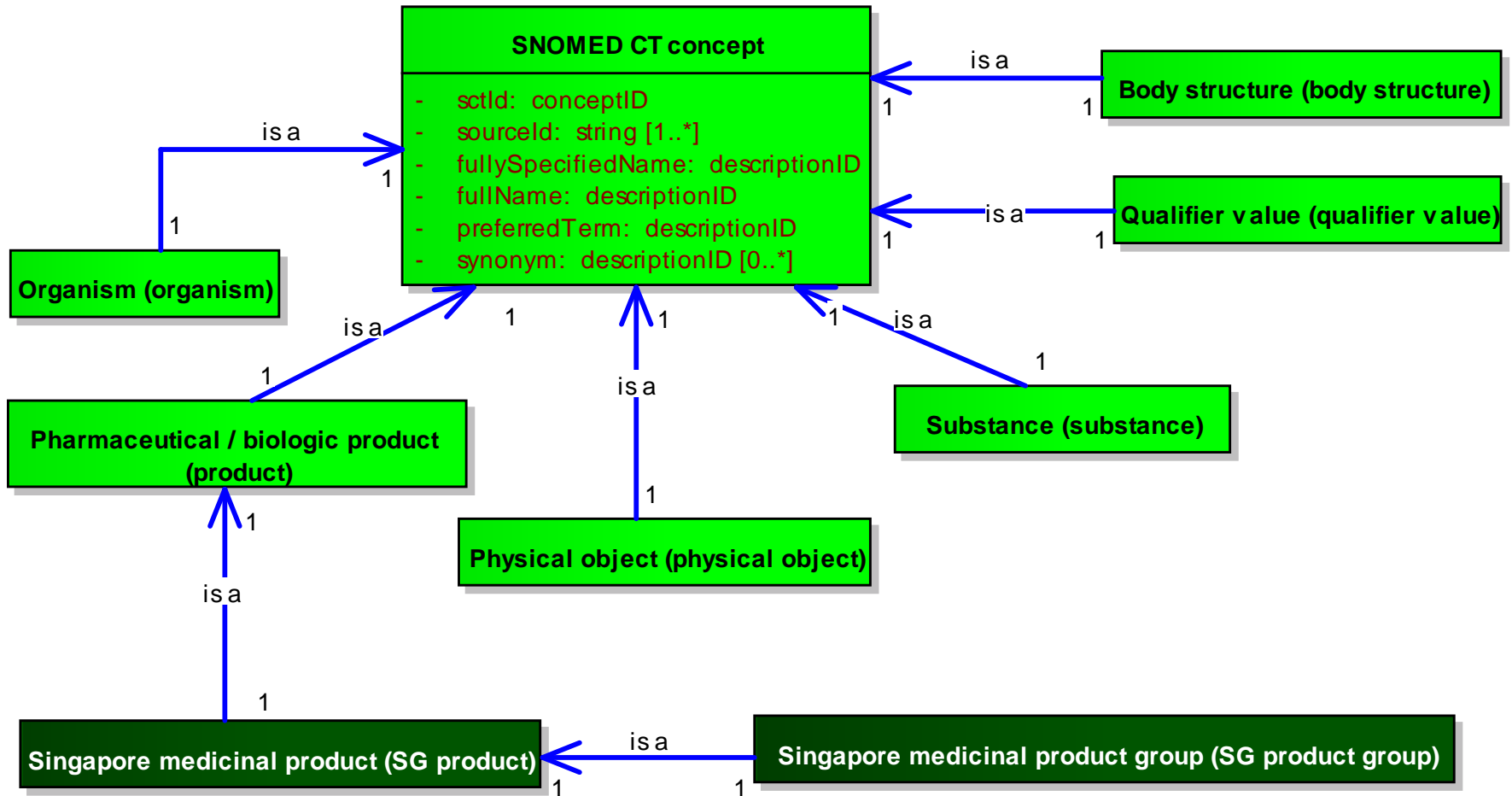
- Introduced to support clinical prescribing terms that group specific products:
  - ✓ Ingredient Group – e.g. Analgesic, Influenza Virus Vaccine, Chlorhexidine Salt
  - ✓ Dose Form – e.g. Aspirin Tablet/Capsule
  - ✓ Strength – e.g. Methyl Salicylate 10 - 20 % Cream
  - ✓ Strength Units – e.g. Tetanus Immunoglobulin 250 unit Injection
  - ✓ Total Pack Size
  - ✓ Container Quantity/Size – e.g. Aqueous Cream (15 g; 30 g)
  - ✓ Container
  - ✓ Trade Name Root/Group – e.g. PANADOL Tablet, TRIDERM/ COMBIDERM [Betamethason Dipropionate + Clotrimazole + Gentamicin] Cream

- **Relationships**

- Manufactured vs Administrable Products
  - ✓ Has administrable product
- Formulations – recipe linked to resulting drug
  - ✓ Formulates
- In device vs With device
  - ✓ Has loaded product

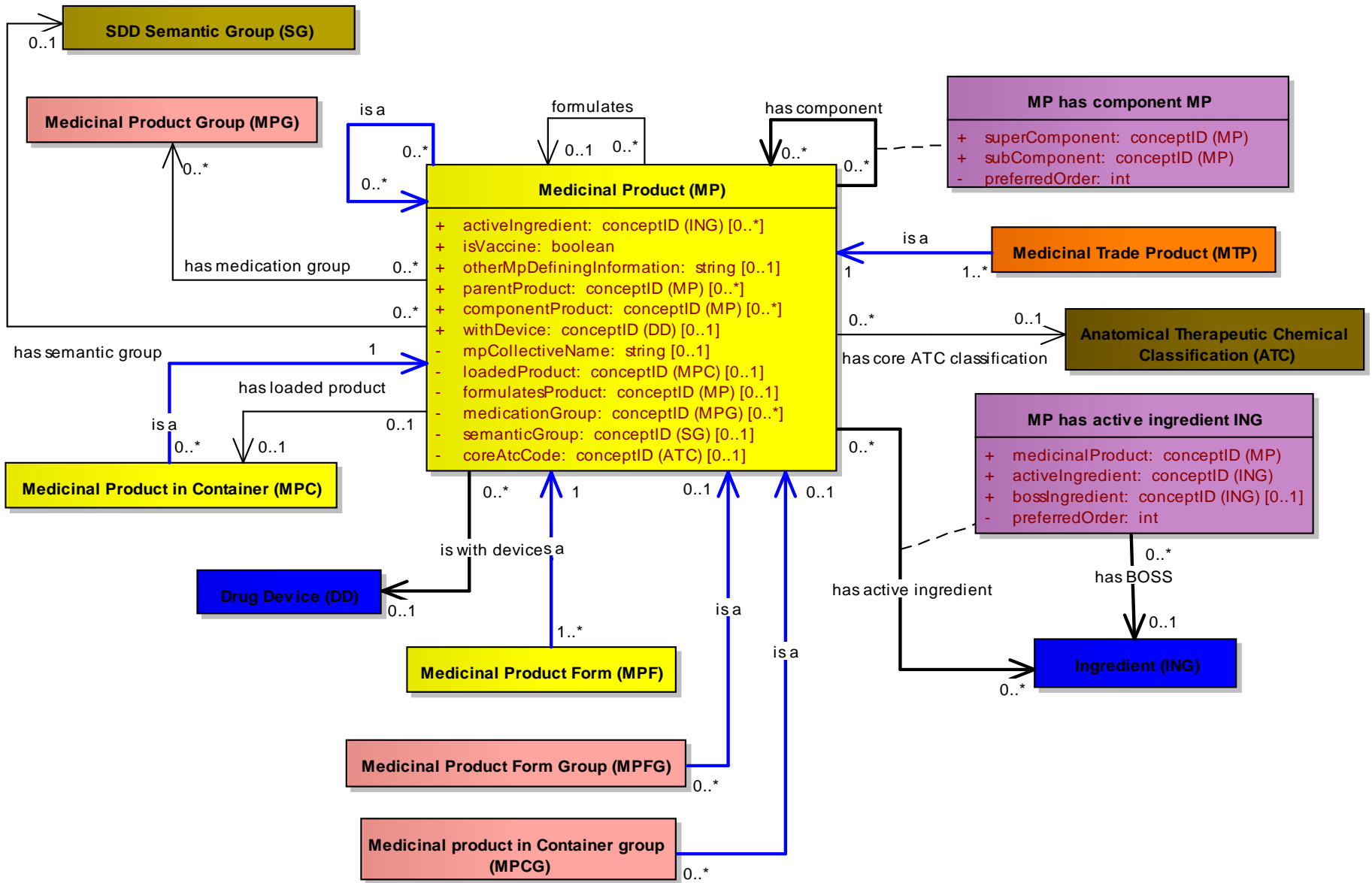
# SNOMED CT Hierarchies

class SNOMED Concept



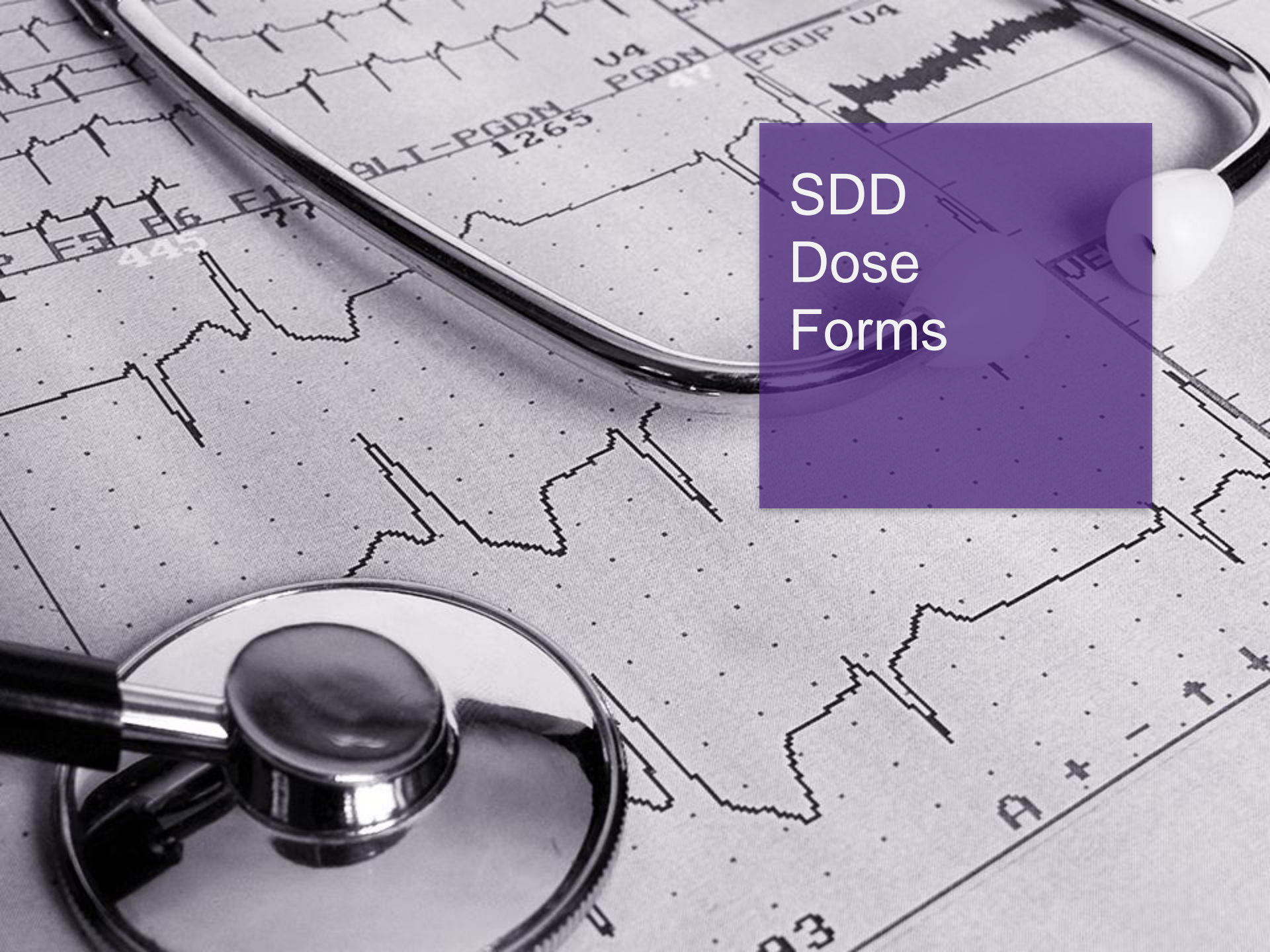
# MP Class Diagram

class MP







A grayscale photograph of a medical monitor displaying an ECG waveform. A silver stethoscope is positioned over the monitor. A white, round pill is visible on the right side of the monitor. A purple rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'SDD Dose Forms'.

SDD  
Dose  
Forms



# Dose Form – Defining Characteristics

- **State of Matter**  *e.g. Solid, Semi-Solid, Liquid, Gas*
- **Primitive Dose Form**  *e.g. Tablet, Capsule, Solution*
- **Release Characteristic**  *e.g. Extended-Release*
- **Delivery Device**  *e.g. Powder Inhaler*
- **Administration Method**  *e.g. Injection, Nebulisation*
- **Transformation Method**  *e.g. Reconstitution, Dispersion*
- **Formulated Route**  *e.g. Oral, Rectal, Intramuscular*
- **Site Prepared For**  *e.g. Eye, Scalp*
- **Administrable Dose Form** *e.g. Oral Suspension*
- **Dose Form Qualifier** *e.g. Film-Coated, Soft*
- **Proprietary Name** *e.g. TESTOCAP, DIVULE*

# DF Example: *Prolonged-Release Film-Coated Oral Tablet*

*Product: HARNAL OCAS [Tamsulosin]*

- State of Matter
- Primitive Dose Form
- Release Characteristic
- Delivery Device
- Administration Method
- Transformation Method
- Formulated Route
- Site Prepared For
- Administrable Dose Form
- Dose Form Qualifier
- Proprietary Name

*Solid*

*Tablet*

*Prolonged-Release*

*Oral*

*Mouth*

*Film-Coated*





# DF Example: *Intramuscular Injection Solution*

*Product: KANAMYCIN MEIJI [Kanamycin]*

- State of Matter
- Primitive Dose Form
- Release Characteristic
- Delivery Device
- Administration Method
- Transformation Method
- Formulated Route
- Site Prepared For
- Administrable Dose Form
- Dose Form Qualifier
- Proprietary Name

*Liquid*

*Liquid ← Solution*

*Injection*

*Intramuscular*

*Muscle*



# DF Example: *Vaginal & Rectal Suppository*

*Product: CYCLOGEST [Progesterone]*

- State of Matter *Solid*
- Primitive Dose Form *Suppository*
- Release Characteristic
- Delivery Device
- Administrable Dose Form
- Transformation Method

• Formulated Route	<i>Vaginal</i>	<i>Rectal</i>
• Site Prepared For	<i>Vagina</i>	<i>Rectum</i>

- Administration Method
- Dose Form Qualifier
- Proprietary Name

# DF Example: *Intravenous Infusion & Nebulisation Solution*

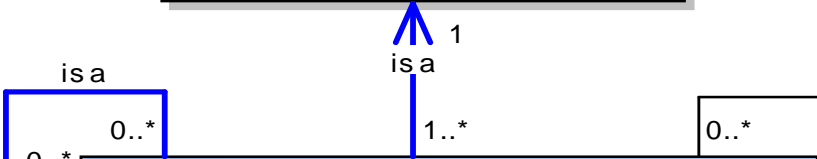
*Product: RELENZA [Zanamivir ]*

- State of Matter *Liquid*
- Primitive Dose Form *Liquid ← Solution*
- Release Characteristic

• Delivery Device		<i>Nebuliser</i>
• Administrable Dose Form		
• Transformation Method		
• Formulated Route	<i>Intravenous</i>	
• Site Prepared For	<i>Vein</i>	
• Administration Method	<i>Infusion</i>	<i>Nebulisation</i>

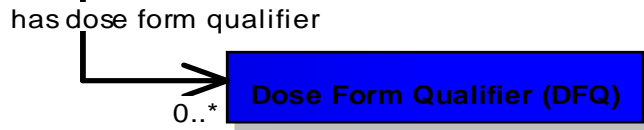
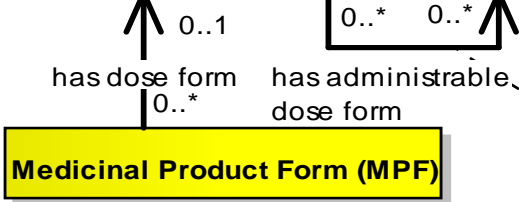
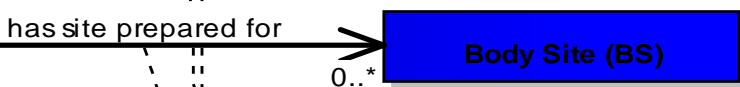
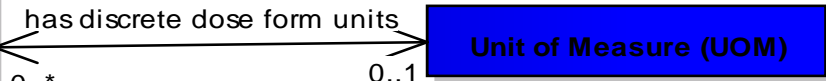
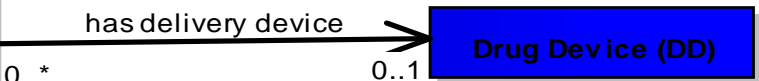
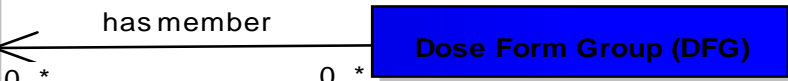
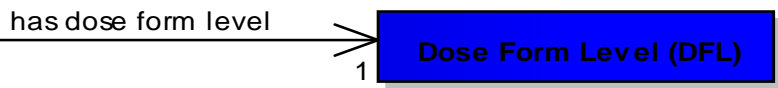
- Dose Form Qualifier
- Proprietary Name

**Drug dose form (qualifier value)**



**Dose Form (DF)**

- + parentDoseForm: conceptID (DF) [0..\*]
- + releaseCharacteristic: conceptID (RC) [0..1]
- + formulatedRoute: conceptID (RA) [0..\*]
- + administrationMethod: conceptID (AM) [0..\*]
- + sitePreparedFor: conceptID (BS) [0..\*]
- + deliveryDevice: conceptID (DD) [0..1]
- + administrableDoseForm: conceptID (DF) [0..\*]
- + transformationMethod: conceptID (TM) [0..\*]
- + doseFormQualifier: conceptID (DFQ) [0..\*]
- doseFormLevel: conceptID (DFL)
- productTerm: descriptionID (DF) [0..1]
- waterProductTerm: descriptionID (DF) [0..1]
- discreteDoseFormUnits: conceptID (UOM) [0..1]
- isDiscrete: boolean
- shortName: string [0..1]



Attribute Group

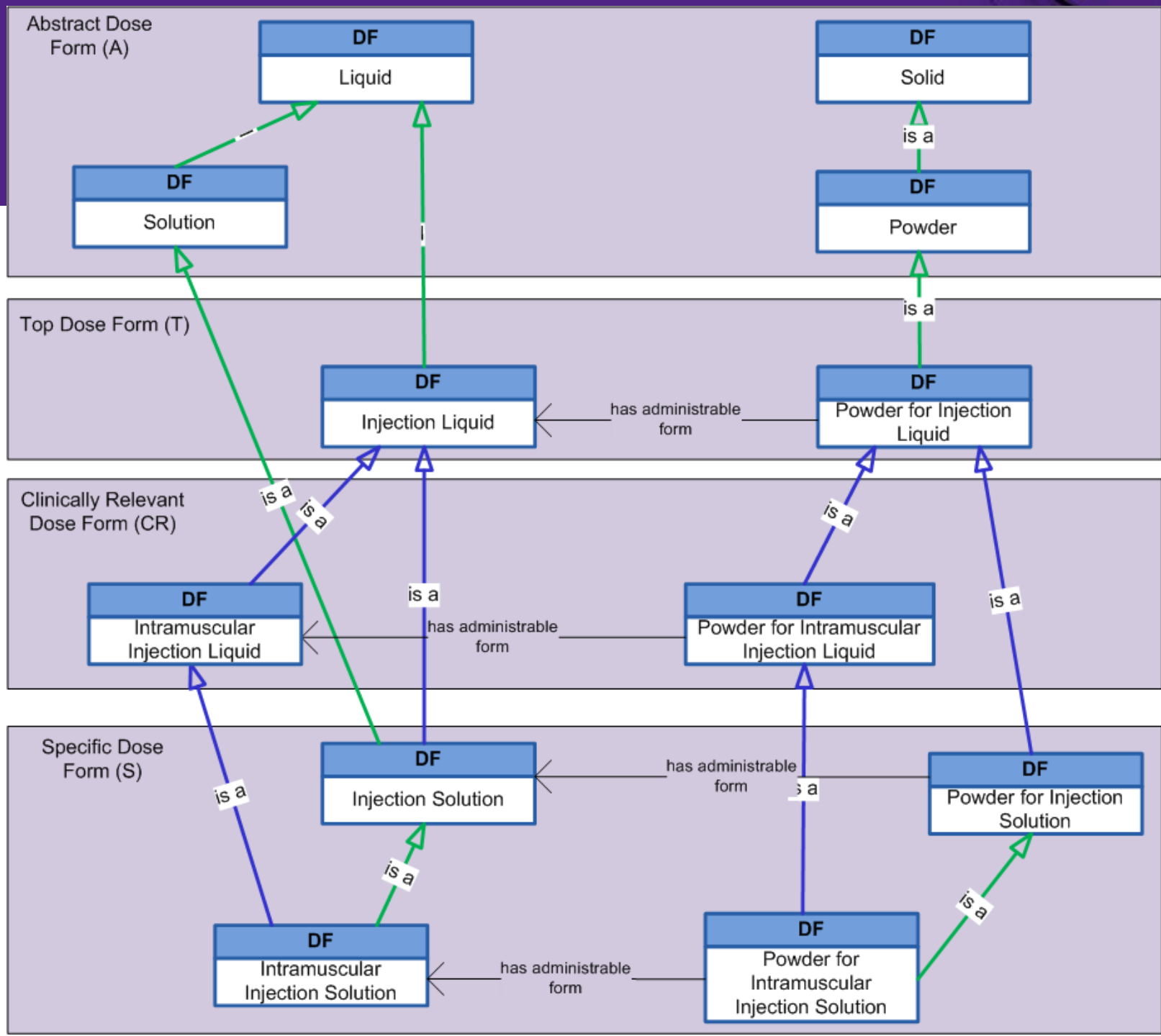
**Dose Form Synonym Plural (DFSP)**

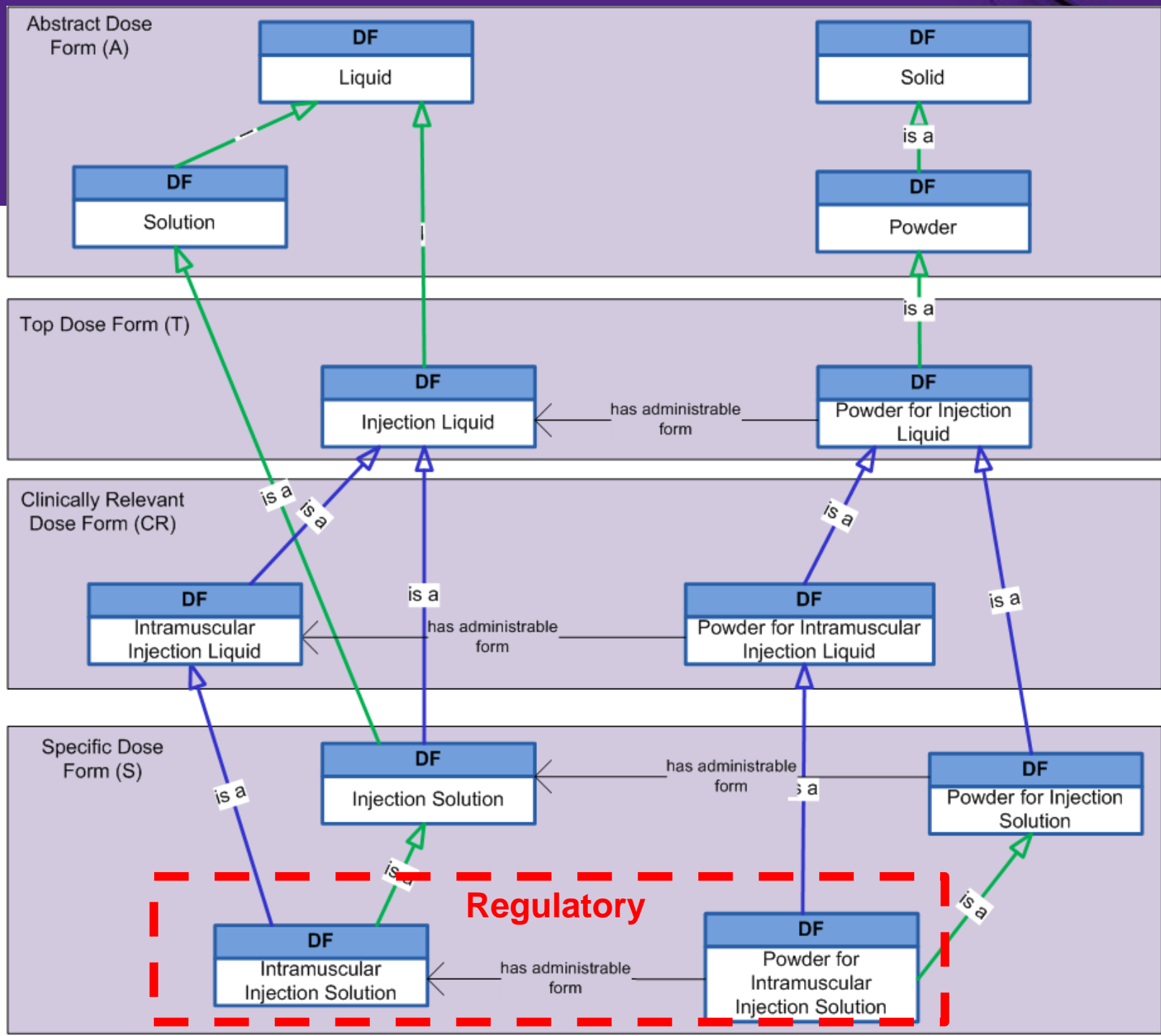
- synonym: descriptionID (DF)
- synonymPlural: string

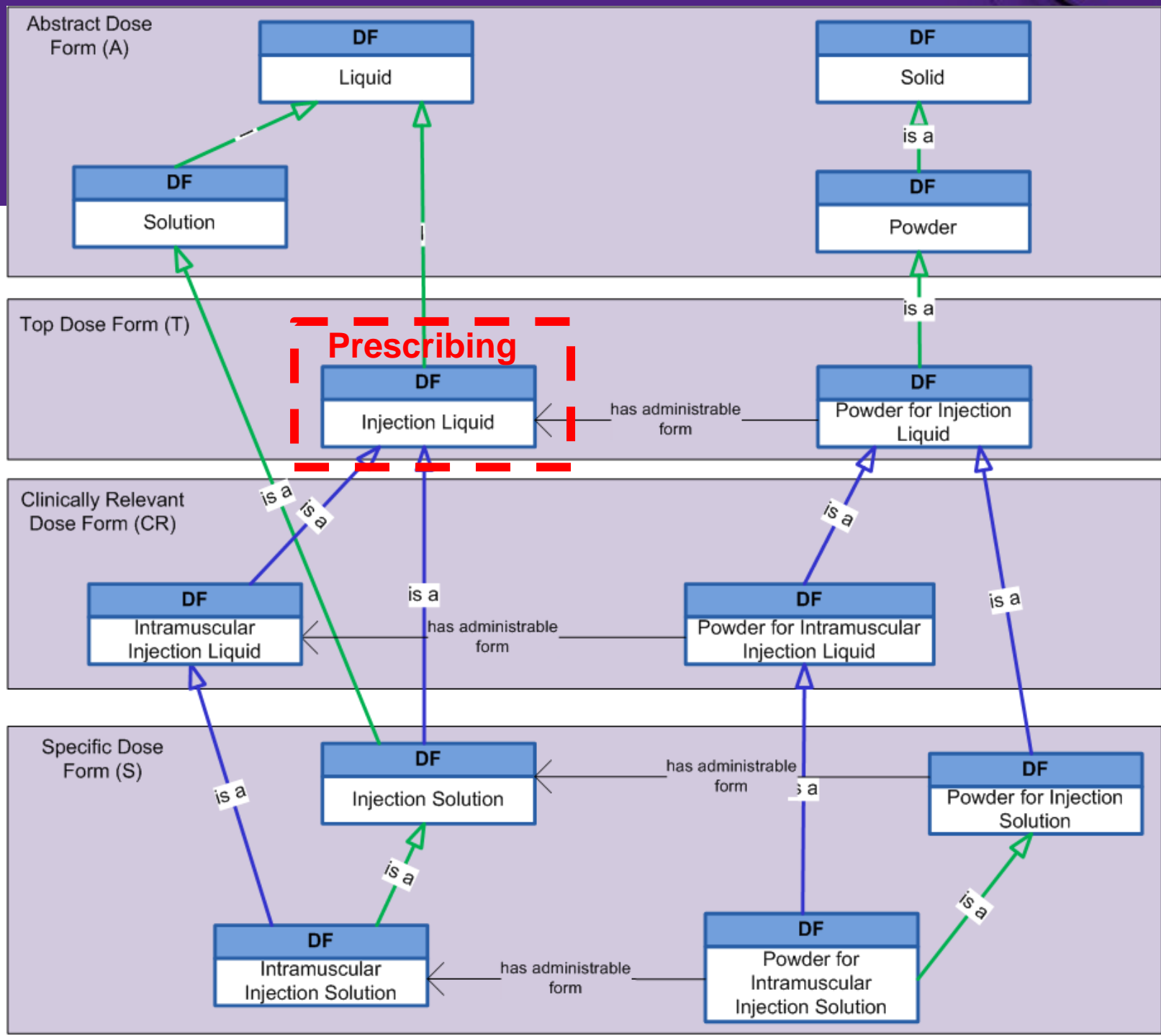
# Dose Form Descriptions

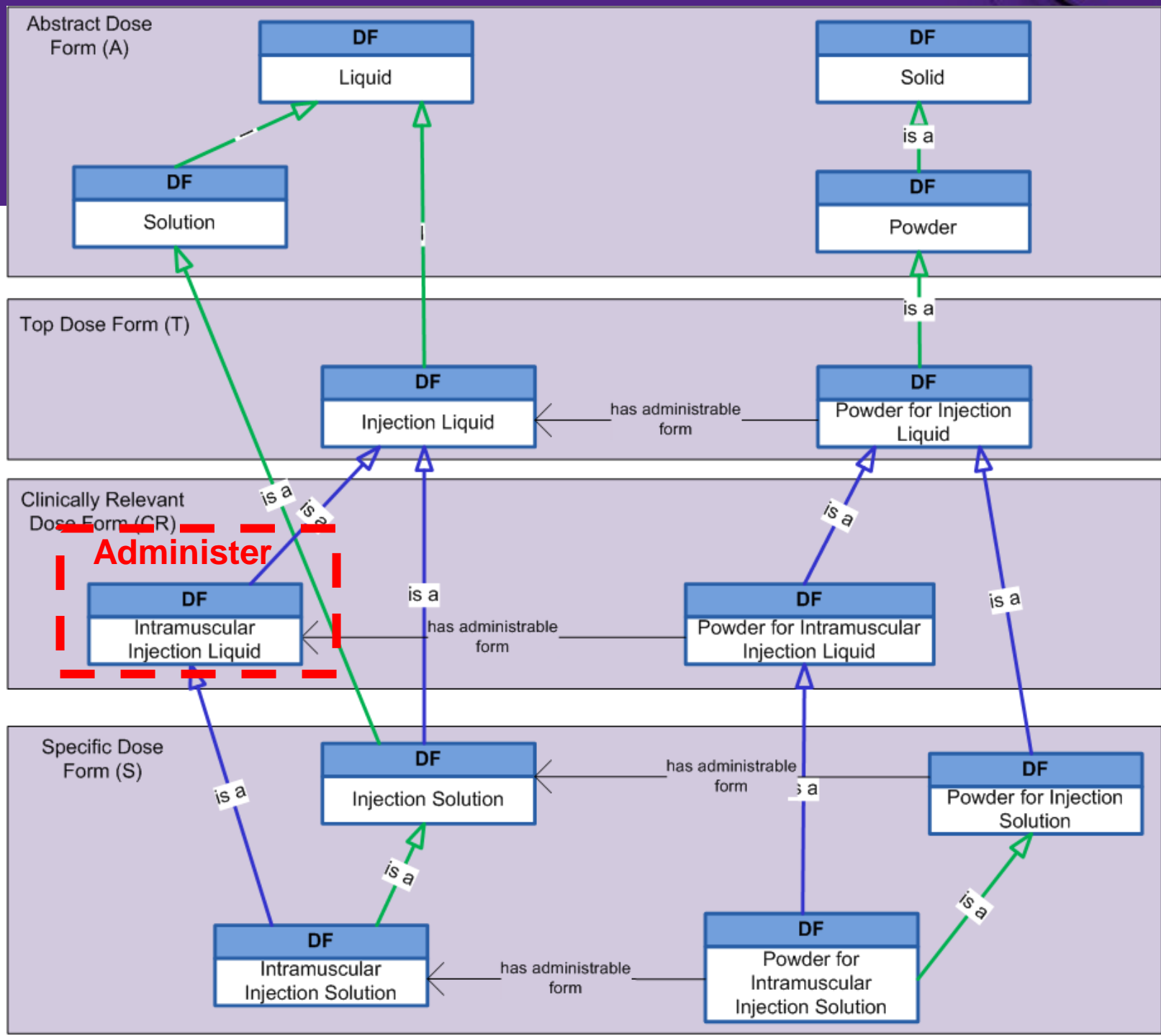
Fully Specified Name	Full Name	Preferred Term	Product Term	Short Name
Oral Tablet dose form (qualifier value)	Oral Tablet	Oral Tablet	<b>Tablet</b>	Tab
Ophthalmic Liquid: Drops dose form (qualifier value)	Ophthalmic Liquid: Drops	Ophthalmic Drops	<b>Eye drops</b>	Eye/d
Liquid: For Intravenous Injection dose form (qualifier value)	Liquid: For Intravenous Injection	Intravenous Injection Liquid	<b>Intravenous Injection</b>	IV Inj
Powder: For Reconstitution To Liquid: For Injection dose form (qualifier value)	Powder: For Reconstitution To Liquid: For Injection	Powder For Injection Liquid	<b>Injection Powder</b>	Inj Pwdr
Oral Capsule: For Oral Inhaler dose form (qualifier value)	Oral Capsule: For Oral Inhaler	Oral Inhaler Capsule	<b>Inhaler Capsule</b>	INH Cap

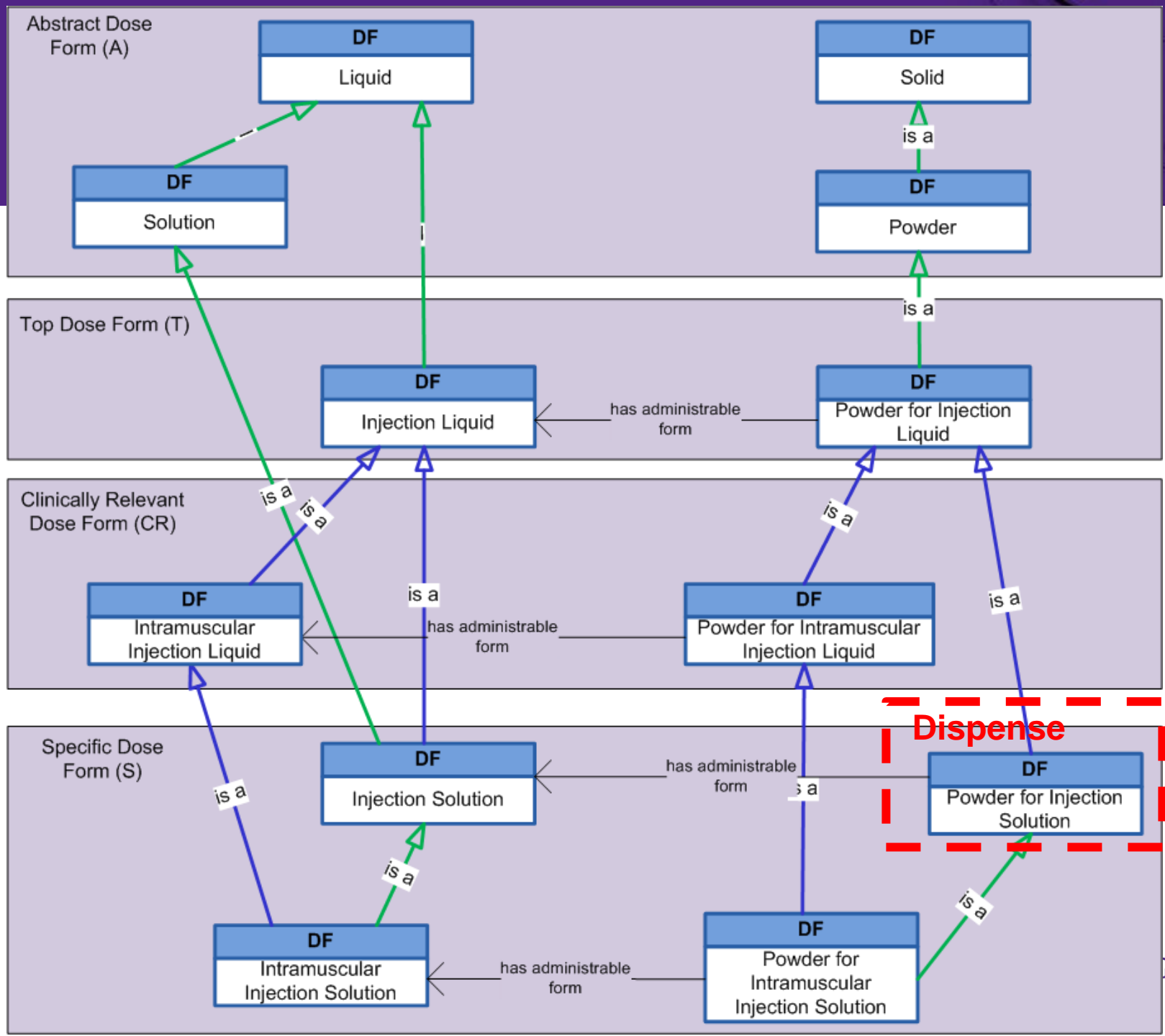




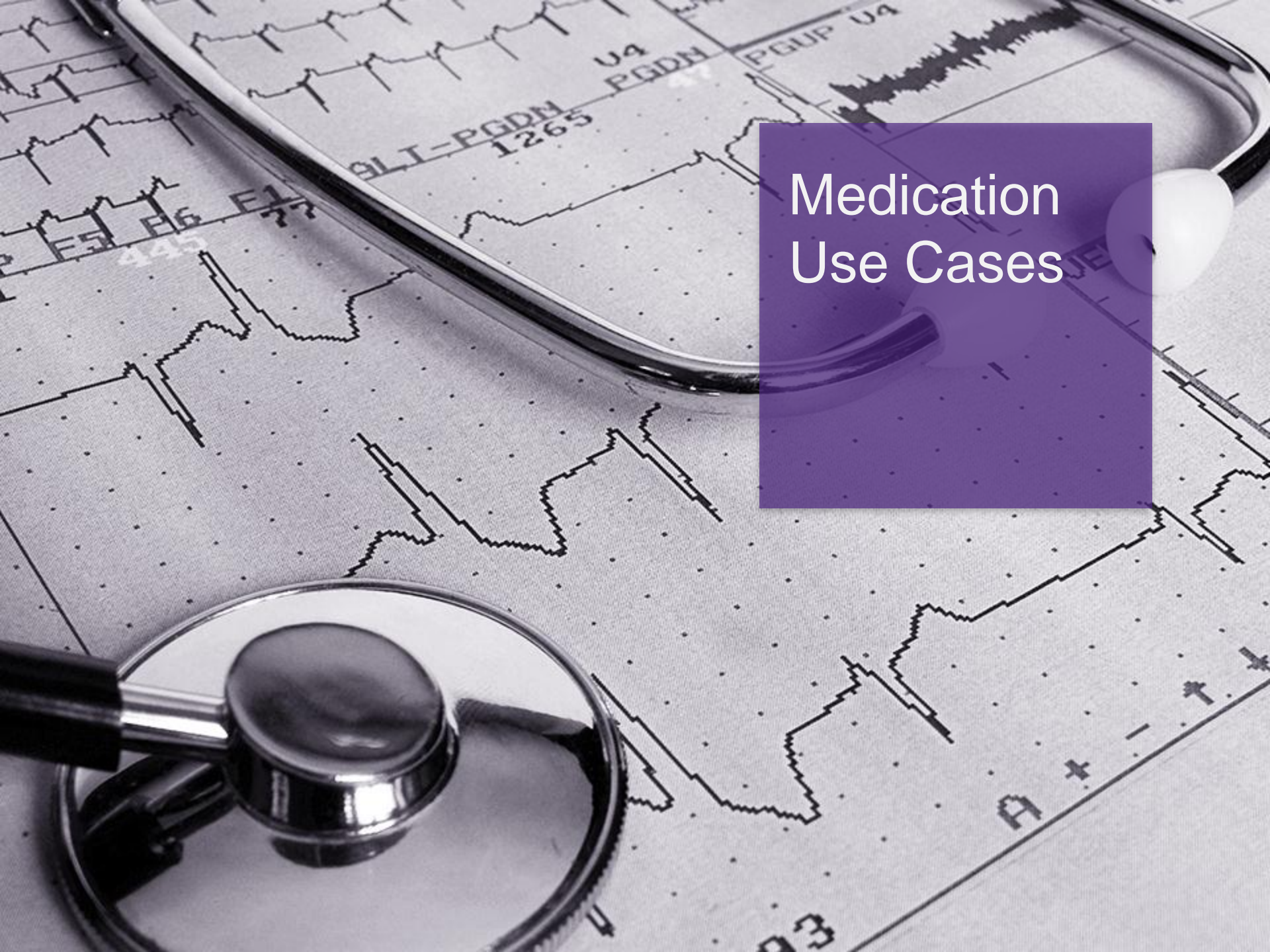










The background of the slide is a grayscale photograph of a medical ECG strip. A silver stethoscope is positioned over the strip, with its chest piece in the lower-left corner and its earpieces extending towards the top-right. A single white, oval-shaped pill is placed on the right side of the strip. The ECG strip itself shows several lead waveforms, with labels such as 'U4', 'PGDN', 'PGUP U4', 'ALI-PGDN 1265', 'F3', 'F6', 'F7', and 'A+' visible. A purple rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Medication Use Cases' in white.

# Medication Use Cases

# Linking Prescribing with Dispensing

## Prescribing System

Patient: 1234567

Drug: Amoxicillin Capsule

Route: Oral

Dose: 500 mg

Frequency: Three times per day

Duration: 10 days

## Dispensing System

?



**Prescribing**



**Dispensing**

# Linking Prescribing with Dispensing

Prescribing System
Patient: 1234567
Drug: Amoxicillin Capsule
Route: Oral
Dose: 500 mg
Frequency: Three times per day
Duration: 10 days

Dispensing System
Patient: 1234567
Item: AMOXICAP [Amoxicillin] 500 mg Capsule
Quantity: 30 capsules
Route: Oral
Dose: 1 capsule
Frequency: Three times per day
Dose Duration: 10 days

Dispensing System
Patient: 1234567
Item: STRIMOX [Amoxicillin] 250 mg Capsule
Quantity: 60 capsules
Route: Oral
Dose: 2 capsules
Frequency: Three times per day
Dose Duration: 10 days



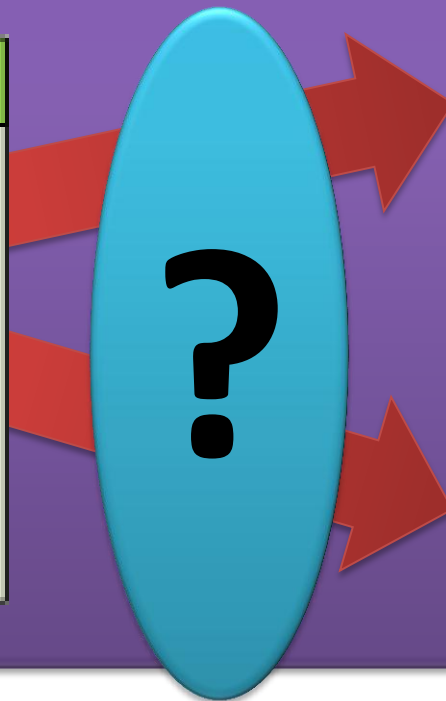
**Prescribing**



**Dispensing**

# Linking Prescribing with Dispensing

Prescribing System
Patient: 1234567
Drug: Amoxicillin Capsule
Route: Oral
Dose: 500 mg
Frequency: Three times per day
Duration: 10 days



Dispensing System
Patient: 1234567
Item: AMOXICAP [Amoxicillin] 500 mg Capsule
Quantity: 30 capsules
Route: Oral
Dose: 1 capsule
Frequency: Three times per day
Dose Duration: 10 days

Dispensing System
Patient: 1234567
Item: STRIMOX [Amoxicillin] 250 mg Capsule
Quantity: 60 capsules
Route: Oral
Dose: 2 capsules
Frequency: Three times per day
Dose Duration: 10 days



**Prescribing**



**Dispensing**





# Linking Prescribing with Dispensing

## Prescribing System

**Patient:** 1234567

**Drug:** Amoxicillin Capsule

**Route:** Oral

**Dose:** 500 mg

**Frequency:** Three times per day

**Duration:** 10 days



## Dispensing System

**Patient:** 1234567

**Item:** AMOXICAP [Amoxicillin] 500 mg Capsule

**Quantity:** 30 capsules

**Route:** Oral

**Dose:** 1 tablet

**Frequency:** Three times per day

**Dose Duration:** 10 days



**Prescribing**



**Dispensing**



The image features a black and white photograph of an ECG tracing on a grid. A silver stethoscope is positioned over the tracing, with its chest piece in the lower-left corner and its tubing extending towards the top-right. A purple rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Implementation and Tooling'. The ECG tracing shows several leads, with labels such as 'U4', 'PGDN', 'PGUP U4', 'ALI-PGDN 1265', 'F3', 'F6', 'F7', and 'A+' visible. The overall composition suggests a medical or healthcare context related to data analysis and tool implementation.

# Implementation and Tooling

# Implementation

## Currently

- Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)
  - Step-down-care from hospitals to nursing homes
  - Used for documentation of medication lists
- Medication Advancement Fund (MAF)
  - Used for submission of subsidy data

## In Development

- National Electronic Health Record (NEHR)
  - Mapping from source systems to SDD for consistency
- General Practice System (CLEO)
  - SDD reference sets for prescribing, dispensing and inventory (+trans closure)
- Community Hospitals (CHCS)
  - SDD reference sets for prescribing, dispensing and inventory (+trans closure)
- Acute Care Use
  - Prescribing and dispensing reference sets (based on automated rules)
- Standard Drugs List (SDL)
  - To standardise descriptions for publishing list of subsidized drugs
  - Analysis of data submitted by institutions will use SDD

# Tooling Journey (1 of 2)

- AT FIRST we:
  - Used Excel spreadsheets
  - For internal data development (e.g. dose forms)
  - NOT for producing releases (limited ability to safely create/maintain SNOMED CT extension ids)
- CURRENTLY we:
  - Use an internally developed Access database
  - Have developed processes to:
    - Create SDD concepts, relationships and descriptions
    - Perform dual-independent reviews
    - Map existing drug terms to SDD concepts
    - Create and maintain SNOMED CT extension ids
    - Support versioning of codes and releases
    - Perform quality checks on data prior to release
  - However, concepts, descriptions and relationships created manually

# Tooling Journey (2 of 2)

- NEXT we will move to:
  - Import data from a number of sources (including regulatory data)
  - Allow source data for each product to be edited and cleaned
  - Automatically create/update hierarchies
  - Automatically create descriptions (e.g. FSN, FN, PT, SN)
  - Perform more sophisticated quality checks
  - Provide extended support for mapping of existing drug terms
  - Automatically generate use-case-specific reference sets
  - Automatically build transitive closures to link use-case-specific reference sets
  - Allow healthcare orgs to add local extemporaneous drugs



A black and white photograph of a medical scene. In the foreground, a silver stethoscope is partially visible, with its chest piece resting on a white ECG (heart rate) strip. The ECG strip shows several lead waveforms. A white, oval-shaped pill is placed on the right side of the strip. A semi-transparent purple rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "Demonstration and Questions".

Demonstration  
and  
Questions