

British / American Review to Begin in Version 6.0

(Updated 10 October 2002).

The MSSO is aware of the many inconsistencies that exist with the British and American terms that are currently in MedDRA. By convention, the British terms appear at the PT level and above in the hierarchy. American versions of the terms appear at the LLT level.

During Version 6.0, and continuing into subsequent versions of MedDRA, the MSSO will begin reviewing the existing British and American spellings of terms in order to add in missing terms and process corrections as needed. We will notify subscribers via broadcast email that we have posted our intended changes on the web. They will be posted for a short period of time to allow for subscriber input prior to implementation. Throughout this review we will be paying particular attention to the following:

- a) **Lexical variants** (natural word order) – The MSSO will review to ensure the concept exists in both a US and UK variant, but will not be adding all equivalent lexical variant variations into MedDRA should they not already exist. The addition of the British / American counterpart will be analyzed and restricted to the variant with the natural word order. For example, if UK PT Haemorrhagic tumour exists, and US LLT Hemorrhagic tumor exists, and US LLT Tumor hemorrhagic exists, the MSSO will not add in the UK version of Tumour Haemorrhagic.
- b) **Incorrect ½ and ½ versions** – There exist incorrect term versions that contain both US and UK spellings within the same term. The MSSO will identify the correct British variant (i.e. UK PT Faeces clay-coloured versus UK LLT Faeces clay-colored). All erroneous variants will either:
 - 1) Be made non-current if both a US and UK version already exist.
 - 2) Be renamed if there exists only one version of the term (either only US or only UK) and the other is an erroneous combination. In these cases, the term will be renamed to the correct counterpart using the same MedDRA Code.
- c) **Currency mismatches** – There exist US / UK term matches where one version of the term is current, and the other non-current. In these cases, the MSSO will analyze the validity of each of the terms and will chose the most appropriate status for the term variants. Most likely, if one variant is already non-current, the other will also be made non-current.
- d) **NOS term matches** – No equivalent terms containing NOS will be added to MedDRA. The blank / generic term, if not already present, will be added without adding the NOS onto the term.

Because there are so many terms that have been identified as having an alternative British spelling, the MSSO will begin the review by only pulling specific word groupings. We will begin with "(o)edem". As we proceed with the review, we will continue to choose specific word groupings (terms / roots) that occur most frequently in the terminology.

Please be aware that this review may produce a large number of change requests that will be generated. Subscribers are welcome to make comments on posted reviews. The MSSO is aware that there are recoding requirements for terms that are made non-current. We will, therefore, scrutinize the terms prior to flagging them non-current.