

Korea Pharmaceutical Information Service

Health Insurance

Review & Assessment Service

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Korea Pharmaceutical Information Service

Under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act, HIRA runs the Korea Pharmaceutical Information Service (KPIS) which collects and manages the supply records of all finished drugs (domestically produced and imported) distributed in Korean market. HIRA is building national statistics infrastructure on drug distribution from production to consumption by connecting KPIS data with claims data.

KPIS utilizes GS1 standard barcode and RFID tag to identify and collect drug information swiftly which contributes to efficient information sharing and resource management.

Information Management from Production to Consumption

Manufacturers and importers should send “product information report” to HIRA within 30 days from the drug approval (register). HIRA assigns the KD code (Korea Drug Code) and notify it on the KPIS web site. The KD code is used in the benefit claims form as the EDI code.

The 13-digit KD code is assigned to the minimum package unit. The first 3 digits are the country code, the next 4 digits are manufacturer code, the next 5 digits are product code (content, package unit), and the last digit is verification number.

Composition of KD Code

Digit	3	4	5		1
Meaning	Country code	Manufacturer code	Product code		Verification number
Example	880	6400 - 6299	Product code (with content)	Package unit	
			0001 - 9999	1 - 9	
		Used as EDI Code			

※ Total Number of KD Code: 152,521 (Number of drugs: 62,709), As of Dec . 2012

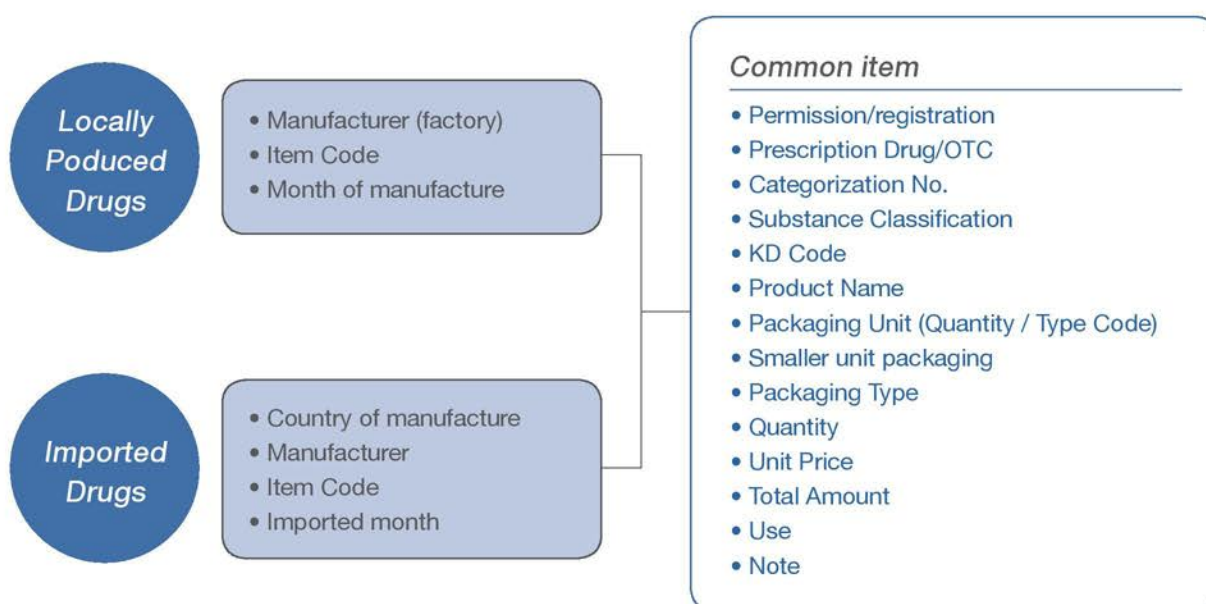
The KD code is stored on the barcode or RFID tag on the product label. KPIS investigates the adherence of mandatory use of the barcode. Cases of misuse or lack of the barcode are reported to the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety. The product is subject to suspension from 15 days to 6 months depending on the degree of violation.

※ RFID (Radio-frequency identification) is the wireless non-contact use of radio-frequency to transfer and process data, which can replace barcode. Information stored on RFID tags can be read by the reader without contact. Unlike barcodes that can only be read one at a time, RFID tags can be read hundreds at a time, which enhances the efficiency significantly.

KPIS receives production and import records of drugs on a quarterly basis through the Korea Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and Korea Pharmaceutical Traders Association. When manufacturers, importers and wholesalers supply finished drugs to providers or wholesalers, KPIS receives the supply records on a monthly basis.

Commonly collected items are categorization number, substance classification, KD code, and etc. For locally manufactured drugs, information on manufacturer, factory, the month of manufacture is collected. For imported drugs, information on country of manufacture, manufacturer, the imported month is collected. All collected items are as follows.

Data Collection of Locally Produced and Imported Drugs



Data collected through KPIS are crosschecked with HIRA's claims data for transaction monitoring. If there is a significant discrepancy, an investigation will launch to make drug distribution more transparent. Another crosscheck is done with product information data from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety to prevent and recover the distribution of unsafe drugs. The government uses the data in drug price policy setting and statistics production. Pharmaceutical companies use the data in their operations to check product distribution.

