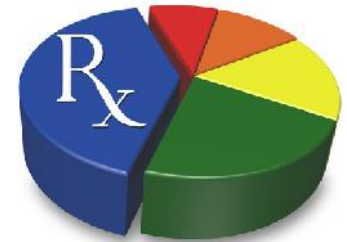


Question: I have a couple of questions regarding the pharmacy data. The **Quantity dispensed** field contains some very large numbers. What do they mean? What are the units? Is there any relationship between **Drug units of Measure** field and **Quantity Dispensed** field?



Answer: Yes, there is a relationship between **Quantity Dispensed** and **Drug Units of Measure** and also **Days Supply**. Different **Drug Units of Measure** and **Days Supply** impact the value of **Quantity Dispensed**. **Quantity Dispensed** is defined as the number of metric units of medication dispensed. **Days Supply** are the number of days the prescription will last if taken as prescribed. **Drug Units of Measure** are the units of measure for drug dispensed using the following values:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
EA	Each
F2	International Units
GM	Grams
ML	Milliliters
MG	Milligram
MEQ	Milliequivalent
MM	Millimeter
UG	Microgram
UU	Unit

QUANTITY DISPENSED EXAMPLES

- **QUANTITY DISPENSED** of 'ORALYTE ELECTROLYTE ' is 15,000 for 30 days, where DRUGUNITOFMEASURE= 'ML' (e.g. Liquid)
- **QUANTITY DISPENSED** of 'PREDNISONE' is 810 for 90 days, where DRUG UNIT OF MEASURE= 'EA' (e.g. Tablet)

Quantity Dispensed, the **Drug Units of Measure**, and **Days Supply** can in combination be used to calculate dosage.

Dosage Calculation Example

If a 15-day supply consists of 30 pills at 200 mg per pill, then the daily dose would be 400 mg/day according to the following formula:

$$\text{Daily Dose} = (\# \text{ Units Dispensed} * \text{Strength per Unit}) / (\text{Days Supplied})$$

Question: I have a couple of questions regarding the pharmacy data. The **Quantity dispensed** field contains some very large numbers. What do they mean? What are the units? Is there any relationship between **Drug units of Measure** field and **Quantity Dispensed** field? *(continued)*



Answer: For **Drug Units of Measure**, to illustrate the variation in metric units other than weight that measure drug properties, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health provides to pharmacists the following three examples:

Drug Units of Measure Examples

- **“Each”** is used when referring to the following dosage forms: capsule, diaphragm, disc, patch, plaster, suppository, suture, tablet, troche, and wafer.
- **“ML”** is used when referring to the following dosage forms: aerosol liquids (note: some formulations are powders, use “gm”), elixirs, emulsions, extracts, mouthwash, oils, shampoos, liquid soaps, solutions, sprays, suspensions, syrups, tinctures.

For example: A pharmacist dispensed 1 package of 10 morphine sulfate syringes, each syringe containing 2 mL of 10 mg/mL morphine. The total volume dispensed is 20 mL and the **Quantity Dispensed** reported will be “20”.

- **“GM”** is used when referring to the following dosage forms: aerosol powders (note: some formulations are liquids, use “mL”), creams, crystals, gels, jellies, granules, ointments, powders.