# Substitution component

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## **Substitution component**



- ► IDMP standards provide the conditions for exact representation of medicinal products across countries.
- It allows to recognize any medicinal product from anywhere in the world.
  - It allows to identify precisely a medicinal product from Country A, so that a similar medicinal product can be identified in Country B.
  - Smart substitution provides an additional service, on top of IDMP, which provides, in a controlled and transparent way, similar pharmaceutical products, to allow more choices for replacement, while respecting the essence of the targeted medicinal product.



# **Substitution Challenge**



- Currently, Member States are in Routine Operation with some (sometimes all) the MyHealth@EU services.
- According to the number of exchanged documents until Q3/2022 (D7.1)
  - ► For eP, a significant number of them have been exchanged, but there is a gap between 90.000 ePrescriptions and "only" 35.000 eDispesations.
- ➤ Currently substitution in MyHealth@EU is limited to a "selection" of fully equivalent medicinal products. The potentialities of "substitution methodology", proposed by UNICOM should be considered by the MyHealth@EU ePrescription Cluster to extend safe substitution.



# **Substitution Definition (Generic Substitution)**



Challenge: Difficult to have same brand product in all countries.

**Need/Definition:** Immediate identification of an equivalent (pharmaceutical) product for dispensation.

Country A → Country B

Modified Substance or Product name (+ dose form + strength) → Different Product (Generic Substitution)

Patient should get his/her medication with doses needed for the treatment period.



## Substitution approach 1/2



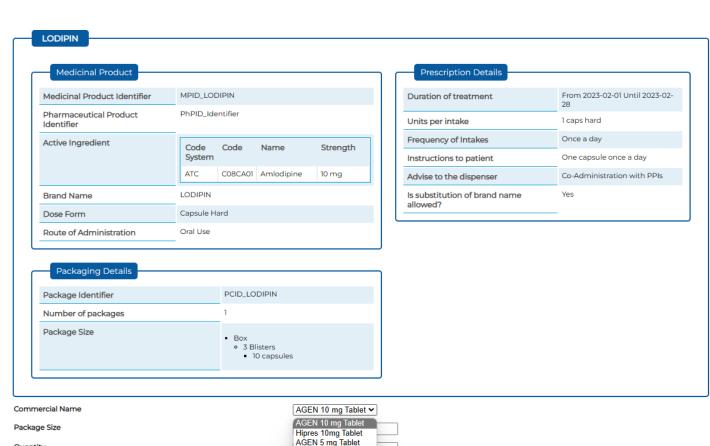
- Rule based approach
  - 1. a set of rules based on substance,
  - 2. a set of rules based on dose form,
  - 3. a rule for those cases that we know should never be substituted.
  - 4. Future rules (Strength, package etc)
- Rules are local for each member state (Not global)
- Administrative (National) rules for substitution out of scope.
- Smart Substitution component does not cover therapeutic substitutions. Only generic substitution



# Substitution approach 2/2



- The A-Country (origin) sends the chemical (or modified) substance (or Brand product and easily acquire the chemical substance) with the associated dose form and strength that exists in its products-drugs' database (eg. Amlodipine besilate 5mg tablet)
- In B-Country:
  - Initially we apply the local rules if substitution is allowed.
  - A rule transforms the "Amlodipine besilate" to "Amlodipine" and this is the reference substance we use for smart substitution with the same dose form and strength.
  - If we do not have a product with the same dose form the necessary rules are applied to identify equivalent.





Hipres 5 mg Tablet

#### Use Case scenario: Patient Facing App



The following use case was presented live in IHE Connectation in Rennes 2023



- A. Patient from Greece: in need for a medication refill in Italy. Able to use his Patient-Facing Application (PFA)
- B. Healthcare provider (HCP) in Italy: a dispenser (pharmacist) able to hand over the information of the equivalent medication to the patient and possibly dispense an OTC medication or a prescriber (physician) who can prescribe an equivalent medication, according to the local rules (Country Italy local rules)







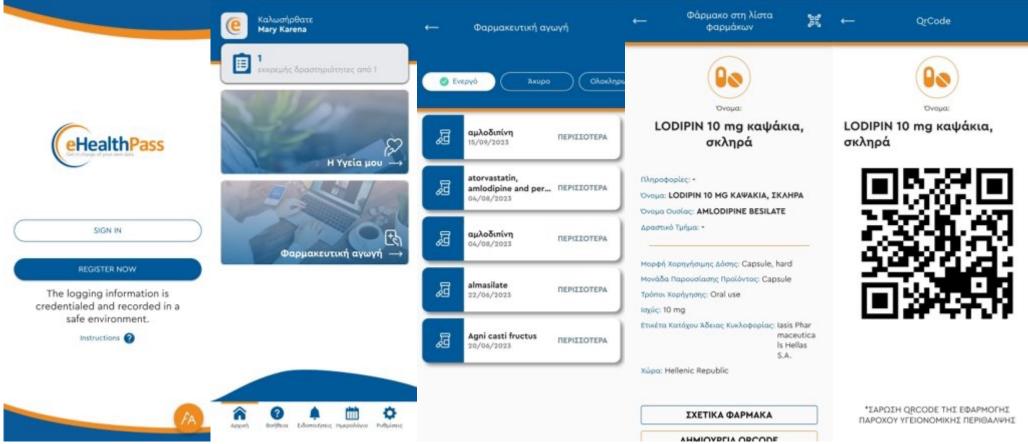




#### Use Case scenario: Patient Facing App – IHE Connectathon



During an unexpectedly extended stay in a foreign country, the patient is in need of a **refill** of **amlodipine**. He shows the HCP the **QR code** for the drug needed.





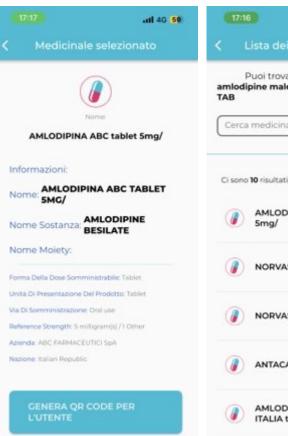


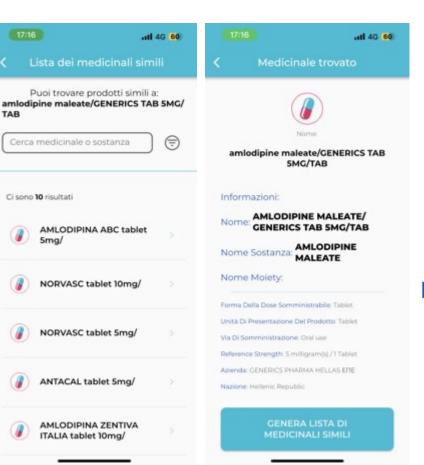
#### Use Case scenario: Patient Facing App – IHE Connectathon



The HCP recognizes that the medicine comes from a foreign country. Thanks to his/her App, can identify the similar medicine marketed in his/her country. He/she shows the patient the new drug.









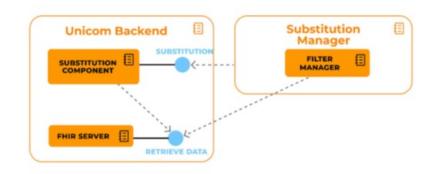
Healthcare professional will choose the most appropriate of the given choices

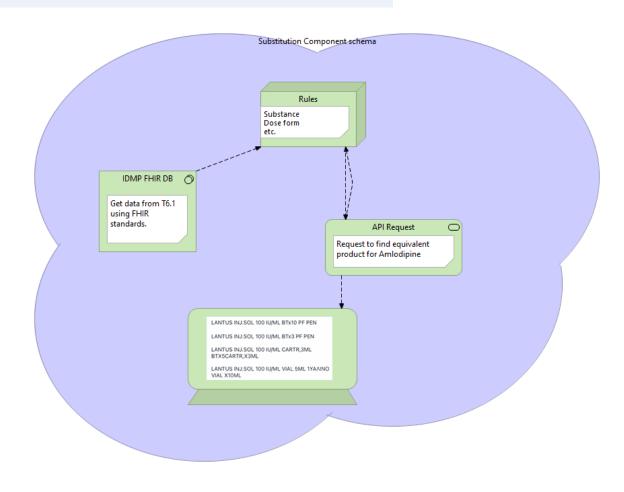


# Substitution component infrastructure



- FHIR API call to the Substitution Component to get the list of equivalent medications
- Substitution component interacts with the UNICOM FHIR server to retrieve data
- Processing through a rule's server
- API response to client request in FHIR R5







# **Substitution component**



- In UNICOM substitution is not limited to select the exact same medicinal product.
- Following the methodology, we can have generic substitution
  - Use this process as a starting point for something new (continuous work in cooperation with beneficiaries)
  - Evolve in MyHealth@EU

Thank you ...

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