

# Units of Measure

## What's new in this release?

Some additional information about the uL and Plaque forming units. Refer to the FSN format section below.

**The below sections are currently under review due to the Immunization Redesign**

**If you have questions or need information, please [contact us](#)**

## Units of Measure

### General considerations

- Representation of the units will first be taken from UCUM Standard (The Unified Code for Units of Measure)
- Units are plural when it is grammatically appropriate
- US spelling is preferred over UK spelling.

For example: Milliliter vs millilitre: milliliter is preferred

- When a number precedes the unit it will take a 's' if greater than 1

For example: Enderix B 20 micrograms per milliliter suspension for injection GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (product)

- If we decided to add a synonym with the unit symbols, the UCUM format (mL) would be preferred

### The FSN format

The unit is part of the strength information which is found only in FSN, where the units of measure should not be abbreviated, and always expanded.

- Lf (limit of flocculation)
  - The term 'unit' is added and will be singular or plural if more than one (1) unit

For example: 2 LF / 0.5 ML vs 2 limit of flocculation units per 0.5 milliliter

- ELISA units
  - Curly braces will not be used

For example: 1440 ELISA Units/mL will become 1440 ELISA units per 0.5 milliliter

- B
  - In UCUM B = bel but this description does not seem to be appropriate for drug strength
  - It could be translated in 'billion cells', but we will not enter this strength in the FSN, because too difficult to express clearly.

For example: Instead of "Vivotif 10 billion cells enteric coated capsule Crucell Switzerland LTD (product)" we will have: "Vivotif enteric coated capsule Crucell Switzerland LTD (product)"

- ug or uL
  - This is represented by microgram or microliter

For example: FSME-IMMUN 2.4 micrograms per 0.5 milliliter suspension for injection Baxter AG (product)

For example: ACAM2000 250000 to 1250000 plaque forming units per 2.5 microliter powder and diluent for solution for percutaneous scarification Emergent Product Development Gaithersburg Inc. (real clinical drug)

- Plaque forming units (PFU)
  - The abbreviation is expanded in the FSN
  - Curly braces are not used
  - Exponential number cannot be represented in SNOMED CT
  - The term 'unit' is added and will be singular or plural if more than one (1) unit

For example: Varivax III 1350 plaque forming units powder and diluent for solution for injection Merck Canada Inc. (product)

- 1.0 mL
  - There are inconsistencies using 1.0 mL or /mL
  - UCUM guidelines are followed to be consistent with lab existing content.
  - 1.0 will not be added to the FSN

For example: Recombivax HB 10 micrograms per milliliter suspension for injection Merck Canada Inc. (product)

- iU

- This is represented by 'International unit'

For example: Imovax Rabies 2.5 international units per milliliter powder for solution for injection Sanofi Pasteur SA (product)

- CCID50

- In UCUM, defined as : cell culture infectious dose 50% unit
- The above definition will not be part of the FSN, it will rather be represented as follow:

Strength: 1000000 CCID50 /ML for Rotarix will become:

Rotarix 1000000 units per milliliter oral suspension GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (product)