With the January 2021 Emtree release we added 1,617 new preferred terms: 457 drug terms and 1,198 non-drug terms (including 202 new medical devices). Emtree now counts almost 89,000 preferred terms and more than 430,000 synonyms. These are the highlights of the release.

Emtree and COVID-19

A continuing Emtree priority for 2021 is the facilitation of indexing and retrieval of COVID-19- and SARS coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)-related content in Embase. We keep focus on the detection and integration of relevant terminology in Emtree.

To stay up to date with recent developments in healthcare and science we started following additional sources such as COVID-19-related clinical trials that are made available via ClinicalTrials.gov (a database of the U.S. National Library of Medicine). Clinical studies are a rich source for new concepts or additional synonyms that we are glad to incorporate to enrich Emtree.

In this Emtree version we added:

Drugs:	56 new drugs specifically related to COVID-19. The structure of the interferon, vaccine, and viral protein subbranches was updated and extended.
Medical devices:	115 in vitro diagnostic test kits: "SARS coronavirus 2 immunology test kit" and "SARS coronavirus 2 nucleic acid test kit" (added as narrower terms of "SARS coronavirus 2 test kit". Relevant device trade names for COVID-19 test kits were moved to these narrower terms.
Diseases:	inflammation/geriatric-related disorders and more synonyms to some pulmonary diseases to help coverage of COVID-19 comorbidities.
Procedures:	addition of a branch for (some COVID-19-relevant) "swabbing"-techniques.
Anatomy and cell lines: addition of 13 COVID-19-related cells	
Organisms:	4 new SARS-CoV-2 isolates

Medical devices

We incorporated 173 GMDN terms and definitions to existing and new concepts. This provides Emtree with a connection to terms as used by FDA's GUDID. When the spelling of US-translated GMDN terms differed from the original GMDN terms in UK English we demoted these to become alternative labels so that the Emtree 'GMDN agency' section now only shows original GMDN terms and definitions.

We added 283 device trade names, including FDA approved devices till November 2020. In total we added 1,070 alternative labels to medical device concepts.

Drugs and chemicals

We incorporated 419 new drug concepts including:

- the United States Adopted Names (USAN) published from July until October 2020;
- names of newly approved drugs, drugs under consideration, orphan drug assignments and drug trade names as published by the FDA, EMA and MHRA in the period July–September 2020 (included);
- the content of lists #123 and #124 (COVID-19 special edition) of proposed INNs as published by the WHO and we processed published corrections on previous lists;
- the nanomaterial branch was updated and expanded with 65 new concepts.

MeSH 2021 annual update

All new MeSH terms and changes for 2021 as published by the NLM were incorporated into Emtree.

Other additions Emtree 2021.01

Branch	Additions and changes
Medical devices	 Addition of 202 new device concepts including: 115 in vitro diagnostic test kits; "SARS coronavirus 2 immunology test kit" and "SARS coronavirus 2 nucleic acid test kit" (added as narrower terms of "SARS coronavirus 2 test kit", relevant device trade names for COVID-19 test kits have been moved to these narrower terms; 25 concepts related to culture medium; 10 "on-a-chip"-devices.
Diseases	 Addition of 121 disease concepts including: necrosis/gangrene, diabetic complication, sleep-related disorder, gait disorder, West Nile virus-related disease 12 experimental diseases Expansion of disease susceptibility branch
Procedures	 Additions of: 23 new 'biopsy'-concepts; "exercise"-, "stress test"-, and "tolerance test"-concepts.
Parameters	 Expansion of reproduction-related parameters; Addition of 8 time-related parameters.
Anatomy and cell lines	 Addition of: 13 COVID-19-related cells, "macrophage"- and "lung alveolar cell"-type concepts, 2 anatomical concepts and concepts to the 'epidermal layer'-branch; Expansion of the sensory receptor branch.
Organisms	 45 new organisms including: 4 new SARS-CoV-2 isolates Additions to the "crustacean" branch Influenza D virus and Deltacoronavirus
Society and environment	 Addition of: a "resource shortage" branch; "detention center"-related concepts, concepts to the "alternative medicine"- and "traditional medicine"-branches, to the "social problem"-branch, "ethics"- and "bias"-branches, the "economics"-branch (in particular 13 "incentive"-related concepts as a new branch); Expansion of "weapon"-branch.
Biological functions	Additions to "metabolism" and addition of 7 new concepts to the "behavior"-branch