



**IMDRF** International Medical  
Device Regulators Forum

## FINAL DOCUMENT

**Title:** Maintenance of IMDRF AE Terminologies  
**Authoring Group:** IMDRF Adverse Event Terminology Working Group  
**Date:** 27 June 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Astapenko', written in a cursive style.

Elena M. Astapenko, IMDRF Chair

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## **Preface**

The document herein was produced by the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), a voluntary group of medical device regulators from around the world. The document has been subject to consultation throughout its development.

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## 1.0 Introduction

The Adverse Event Working Group (“AE WG”) organized under International Medical Device Regulators Forum (“IMDRF”) has developed a harmonized terminology for reporting adverse events (“IMDRF AE Terminology”) that are known or suspected to be linked to the use of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics.

Globally harmonized terminologies for adverse event reporting are a key requirement for more effective reporting, analysis and information exchange of adverse events and will reduce the burden for manufacturers and other reporters (e.g., sponsors).

Once developed and agreed upon, there will be a clear need for an agreed approach for maintenance of these terminologies, ensuring adjustments that may be required over time, especially for:

- a) technical updates and innovations (e.g., new devices, materials)
- b) other developing needs of intended users, such as AE reporters and regulatory authorities

The AE WG has considered the options for ongoing maintenance of the IMDRF AE Terminology. This document is intended to describe the basic procedures that should be followed in order to ensure the IMDRF AE Terminology remain up-to-date, adequate, and accurate following their initial publication.

## 2.0 Scope

This document sets forth the basic procedures for revising the IMDRF AE terminology described in Annexes A through G of the IMDRF document entitled, “IMDRF terminologies for categorized Adverse Event Reporting (AER): terms, terminology structure and codes (IMDRF/AE WG/N43)”.

## 3.0 Reference

- IMDRF/AE WG/N43 - IMDRF terminologies for categorized Adverse Event Reporting (AER): terms, terminology structure, and codes

## 4.0 Definition

“**Member Jurisdiction**” shall mean the jurisdiction to which a member of the AE WG belongs.

“**National Competent Authority**” shall mean any duly authorized regulatory authority affiliated with a national or regional entity, which is tasked with regulating medical devices and in vitro diagnostics in its jurisdiction.

“**Stakeholder Organization**” shall mean an organization that has any direct or indirect interest in medical devices or in vitro diagnostics (e.g. industry associations, professional associations, professional medical associations, patient associations, etc.).

## **5.0 IMDRF AE Terminologies Maintenance WG**

Maintenance of IMDRF AE terminology is conducted by a dedicated IMDRF WG called IMDRF AE Terminology Maintenance Working Group (“AETM WG”). The AETM WG consists of at least one member from each IMDRF Member Jurisdiction and, as appropriate, observers from other jurisdictions.

The AETM WG is chaired by one (1) Member Jurisdiction, on a rotational basis. The chairing jurisdiction also provides a secretariat for handling the request of modification(s) to, deletion(s) from, or addition(s) to the AE Terminologies (“Change Request(s)”) from stakeholders.

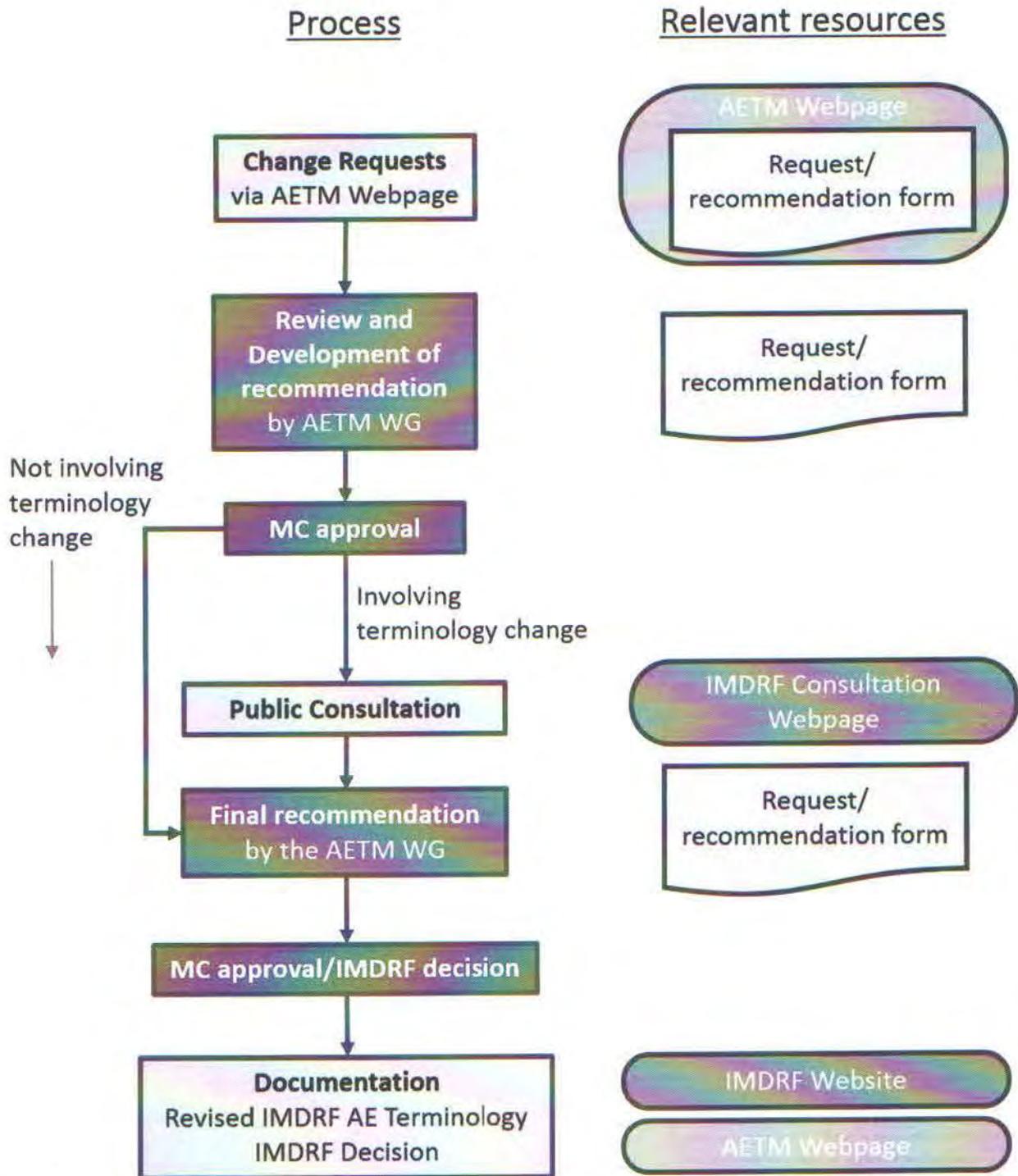
The AETM WG has a special webpage (“AETM Webpage”) on the IMDRF website (<http://www.imdrf.org/>) dedicated for collecting Change Requests.

## **6.0 Maintenance Process**

Maintenance of the IMDRF AE Terminology is subject to the approval of the Management Committee (“MC”) of IMDRF, and the maintenance process follows the steps outlined below:

- 1) Submission of Change Requests
- 2) Review and development of recommendation to the MC by the AETM WG
- 3) MC approval and Public Consultation
- 4) Final recommendation to the MC by the AETM WG
- 5) MC approval/IMDRF decision
- 6) Documentation of IMDRF decision on webpage

This process is conducted once per year.



Note: Terminology changes such as creating a new term or changing the definition of a term will be included in the public consultation process. Editorial changes will bypass the public consultation process and be incorporated in the final recommendations by the AETM WG.

Fig.1: IMDRF AE Terminology maintenance process

## 6.1 Submission of Change Requests

### 6.1.1 How to Submit

Change Requests may be submitted any time via the AETM Webpage by either 1) National Competent Authorities or 2) Stakeholder Organizations.

As the existing IMDRF AE Terminologies are comprehensive and have gone under public consultations, revisions shall be kept to the minimum necessary to cater for technological and regulatory changes.

Before submitting Change Requests, potential submitters should first consult past IMDRF decision documented in the Change Request Form posted on the AETM Webpage to ensure that their proposed change(s) were not already addressed (i.e., rejected) in the past. The same request may not be re-submitted unless a substantial and reasonable rationale for doing so is also submitted.

The secretariat shall compile a record of all Change Requests and maintain such record until final decisions are reached.

### 6.1.2 Request Form

Change Requests shall be submitted by completing the request form available on the AETM Webpage (Appendix A) and sending the completed form to the appropriate address as instructed in the AETM Webpage. Change Requests that do not provide sufficient details will not be considered.

The request form shall include each of the following items:

- **Terminology** (which of the seven annexes is subject to change?)
- **Proposed Change**
  - **Category of change** (Add, Delete, Modify)
  - **Code** (if the proposed change concerns a deletion or a modification of an existing term)
  - **Term** (provide proposed new or modified term)
  - **Definition** (provide proposed new or modified definition)
- **Location in the hierarchy** (Level, and parent term as appropriate)
- **Impact on other existing terms** (Describe the impact on existing terms and definitions. E.g. renaming of higher level terms)
- **Rationale for change** (adequate description of the proposed change)

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## **6.2 Review and development of recommendation by the AETM WG**

The AETM WG will conduct detailed reviews of the request primarily via regularly scheduled teleconferences.

The AETM WG shall discuss the relevance of the proposed change and present its recommendations to the MC to be considered for approval.

The recommendations shall be prepared using the template form (Appendix A) which will be published on the AETM Webpage as a full record of IMDRF decisions in the final step of this process.

## **6.3 MC approval and Public Consultation**

Once the MC approves the proposed recommendations, only those recommendations involving changes to the terminology will be posted on the IMDRF Consultation Webpage for public consultation for 60 days.

The recommendations not involving changes to the terminology will be documented and posted on the IMDRF webpage as described in the section 6.6.

## **6.4 Final recommendation**

The AETM WG will prepare its final recommendation for the change based on feedback from the MC and/or public consultation for final approval.

## **6.5 MC approval/IMDRF decision**

The MC will review the final recommendation at their face-to-face meeting or teleconference. Once the MC approves the final recommendation it will be advanced as an IMDRF decision.

## **6.6 Documentation of IMDRF decision on webpage**

After obtaining final approval for the recommendation from the MC, the AETM WG will revise the IMDRF AE terminology reflecting the IMDRF decision. The revised IMDRF AE terminology will be posted on the IMDRF website.

The revised documents will be designated with the inclusion of the text “(Edition X)” to its document identification code (where “X” represents the number of the current revision). Change history will be recorded accordingly in the guidance document.

In addition, the IMDRF decision will be published on the AETM Webpage in chronological order.

Appendix A: Request and Recommendation Form