

HOMEOPATHY CATEGORY REVISION – 2024 UPDATE

The Homeopathy category was launched in the 1991 edition of the DeCS vocabulary, in collaboration with experts from [Associação Paulista de Homeopatia](#) (APH). It is one of the 5 exclusive DeCS categories and is managed by BIREME/PAHO independently of the MeSH thesaurus. The DeCS Homeopathy category descriptors are used to index articles and documents in the area in the [VHL](#) (Virtual Health Library) databases. Homeoindex is a specific data base for Homeopathy which holds around [13000 documents](#) and groups publications in Portuguese, Spanish, French, English, Italian, German and Esperanto.

Up to the 2023 edition, the HP category had around 2000 descriptors, 86% being exclusive to DeCS and 14% were also present in MeSH categories.

This revision is considered a good practice to thesaurus management. The last review of the descriptors that make up the Homeopathy category was carried out more than 10 years ago.

The present review of the Homeopathy category began in 2022 and is expected to be completed for the 2025 DeCS edition. The quantitative aspects presented here refer to the current status (February, 2024) of the 2024 edition.

Terminology Review Committee

In 2024, the review Committee was composed by:

Homeopathic Physicians:

Álvaro Mesquita Junior
Ariovaldo Ribeiro Filho
Flávio José Dantas de Oliveira
Francisco José de Freitas
Luiz Alberto Iso Fischer Abramides
Luiz Darci G. Siqueira
Marcelo Pustiglione
Paulo Rosenbaum
Rosana Mara Ceribelli Nechar
Vera Lucia de Vasconcelos Chaves

Homeopathic Pharmacists:

Amarilys de Toledo Cesar
Karen Berenice Denez

Librarian:

Leonardo Adriano Ragacini (APH)

This committee is made up of prominent homeopathic specialists from several states in Brazil. The coordination of the group has been in charge of Dr. Álvaro Mesquita Jr, from [Associação Paulista de Homeopatia](#) (APH).

The main activities of the expert committee are: reviewing the BIREME/PAHO/WHO update proposal; prepare recommendations related to the update proposal; and review, where

appropriate, the recommendations resulting from the public consultation at the end of the update period.

Characteristics of the changes

1 – Technical amendments:

- a) review of superordination or subordination relationships within concept hierarchies,
- b) review of descriptor scope notes,
- c) spell check (descriptor name).

2 - Inclusion of new descriptors to reflect their frequency in scientific literature in specific databases.

3 – Deletion of descriptor records.

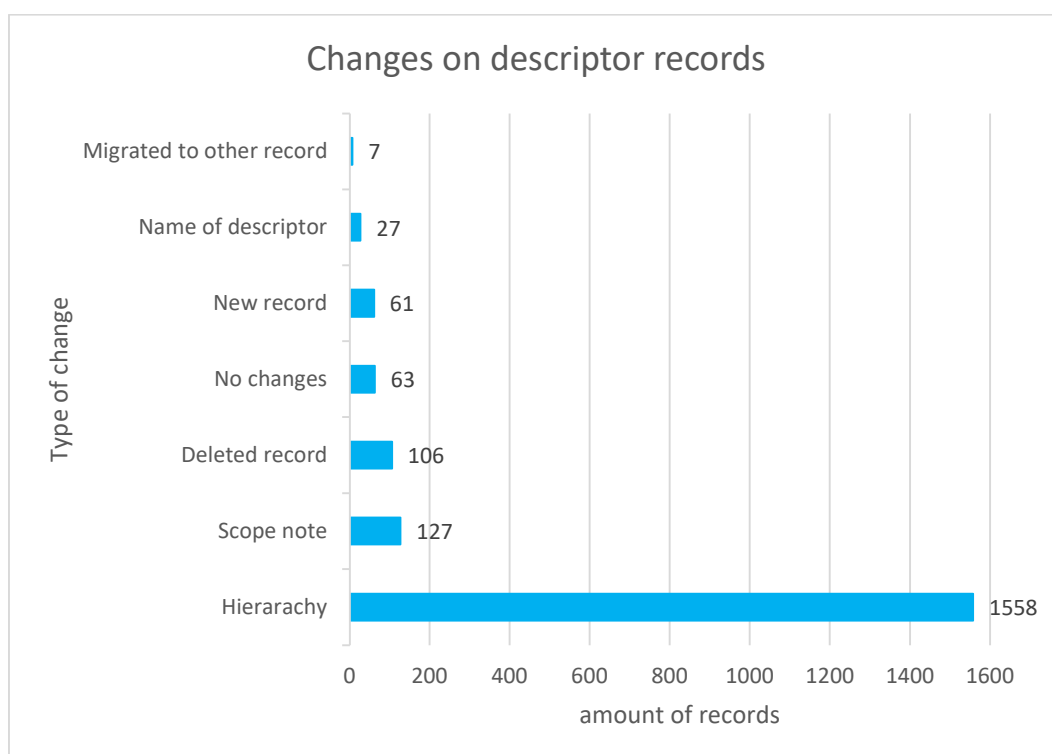
4 - Migration by converting a descriptor to an entry term or vice-versa.

Quantitative data of changes

Up to the current stage of the terminological review, the analysis covered 1949 descriptor records.

Type of change	Amount of changed records
Deletion of the record from category	106
Hierarchy	1558
Migration	7
Descriptor name	27
Scope note	127
New record	61
Without changes	63

The figure below graphically shows such changes.

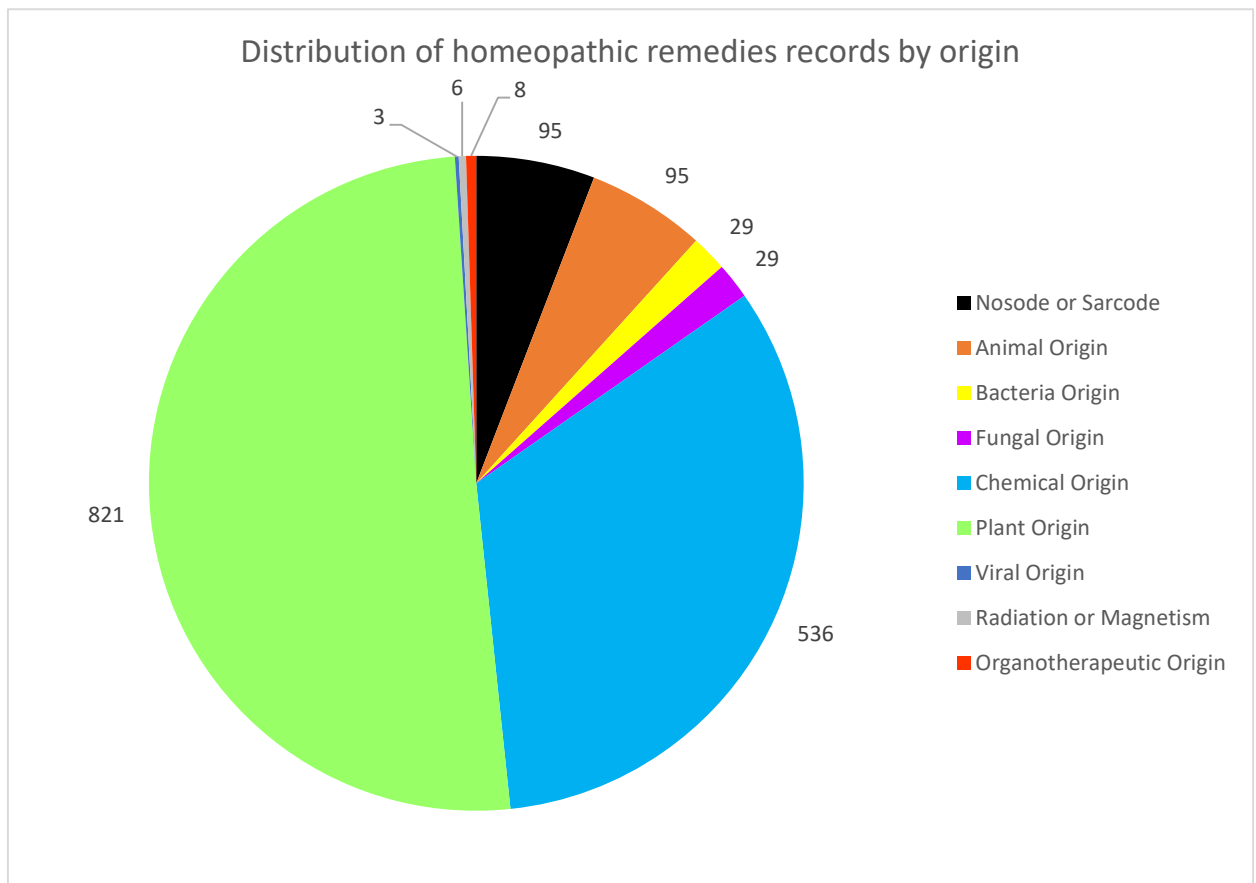


Main changes

The biggest change in the Homeopathy category of the DeCS is related to the reconfiguration of the homeopathic remedies descriptor hierarchy, which moved more than 1600 descriptor records, as were indicated in the figure above. Up to the 2023 edition, the descriptors were organized into subcategories alphabetically. Remedy records are now sorted by origin. To achieve this, the following subcategories were created:

- Homeopathic Remedy from Nosodes or Sarcodes
- Homeopathic Remedy from Animals
- Homeopathic Remedy from Bacteria
- Homeopathic Remedy from Fungi
- Homeopathic Remedy from Chemicals
- Homeopathic Remedy from Plants
- Homeopathic Remedy from Virus
- Homeopathic Remedy from Radiation or Magnetism
- Organotherapeutic Homeopathic Remedy

The dispersion of remedy descriptors can now be seen in the following diagram:



Another contribution to the increase in the number of new descriptors, listed below, was the reinsertion of DeCS-only descriptors that had been absorbed by MeSH concepts, in addition to the addition of new homeopathic concept descriptors. There are 64 new descriptors in the Homeopathy category in the 2024 edition:

Aconitum lycoctonum	Actaea spicata
Adlumia fungosa	Anilinum Sulphuricum
Aralia racemosa	Araninum
Aristolochia colombiana	Aristolochia milhomens
Asarum europaeum	Astragalus mollissimus
Caela zacatechichi	Calcarea Stibiato-Sulphurata
Cecropia mexicana	Chelidonium
Chelidonium majus	Emunctory Kinetics
Citrus limonum	Citrus vulgaris
Cynodon dactylon	Reactional Eritema
Eugenia jambosa	Galinsoga parviflora
Ilex aquifolium	Jatropha urens
Juglans cinerea	Juniperus sabina
Lactuca virosa	Lycopus europaeus
Magnolia glauca	Manihot utilissima
Homeopathic Remedy from Nosodes or Sarcodes	Homeopathic Remedy from Animals
Homeopathic Remedy from Bacteria	Homeopathic Remedy from Fungi
Homeopathic Remedy from Chemicals	Homeopathic Remedy from Plants
Homeopathic Remedy from Virus	Homeopathic Remedy from Radiation or Magnetism
Organotherapeutic Homeopathic Remedy	Medusa
Mucuna pruriens	Myrtus pimenta
Negundium americanum	Nidus edelis
Nuphar lutea	Nymphaea odorata
Okoubaka aubrevillei	Oleum Caryophyllatum
Onopordum acanthium	Opuntia humifusa
Origanum creticum	Raphanistrum arvense
Prunus virginiana	Repertory, Boger
Repertory, Ariovaldo Ribeiro Filho	Repertory, Mello Moraes
Repertory, Jahr	Solanum oleraceum
Crossed Symptoms	Veratrum album
Sensation Disorders	Verbascum nigrum
Veratrum viride	

On the other hand, the eliminated descriptors were those that had characters causing retrieval error, or that were meaningless in the structure, or that were replaced by others that already existed in the vocabulary.

Deleted descriptor records, including those for terms that migrated to other records:

Abreviations as Topic	Homeopathic Remedy J
Autohemotherapy	Homeopathic Remedy K
Autosugestión	Homeopathic Remedy L
Chronology como Asunto	Homeopathic Remedy M
Secondary Effect	Homeopathic Remedy N
Clinical Trials as Topic	Homeopathic Remedy O
Plant Extracts	Homeopathic Remedy P
Homeopathic Pharmacy	Homeopathic Remedy Q
Pharmacopoeias, Homeopathic as Topic	Homeopathic Remedy R
Formulaire, Homeopathic as Topic	Homeopathic Remedy S
Drug Incompatibility	Homeopathic Remedy T
Homeopathic Remedy A	Homeopathic Remedy U
Homeopathic Remedy B	Homeopathic Remedy V
Homeopathic Remedy C	Homeopathic Remedy W
Homeopathic Remedy D	Homeopathic Remedy X
Homeopathic Remedy E	Homeopathic Remedy Y
Homeopathic Remedy F	Homeopathic Remedy Z
Homeopathic Remedy G	Organon: Paragraphs 1 to 10
Homeopathic Remedy H	Organon: Paragraphs 101 to 110
Homeopathic Remedy I	Organon: Paragraphs 11 to 20

Organon: Paragraphs 111 to 120	Repertory: Teeth Section
Organon: Paragraphs 121 to 130	Repertory: Stomach Section
Organon: Paragraphs 131 to 140	Repertory: Expectoration Section
Organon: Paragraphs 141 to 150	Repertory: Extremities Section
Organon: Paragraphs 151 to 160	Repertory: Fever Section
Organon: Paragraphs 161 to 170	Repertory: Throat Section
Organon: Paragraphs 171 to 180	Repertory: External Throat Section
Organon: Paragraphs 181 to 190	Repertory: Generalities Section
Organon: Paragraphs 191 to 200	Repertory: Female Genitalia Section
Organon: Paragraphs 201 to 210	Repertory: Male Genitalia Section
Organon: Paragraphs 21 to 30	Repertory: Illusions Section
Organon: Paragraphs 211 to 220	Repertory: Laringe and Trachea Section
Organon: Paragraphs 221 to 230	Repertory: Stool Section
Organon: Paragraphs 231 to 240	Repertory: Nose Section
Organon: Paragraphs 241 to 250	Repertory: Eye Section
Organon: Paragraphs 251 to 260	Repertory: Ear Section
Organon: Paragraphs 261 to 270	Repertory: Taste Section
Organon: Paragraphs 271 to 280	Repertory: Chest Section
Organon: Paragraphs 281 to 291	Repertory: Skin Section
Organon: Paragraphs 31 to 40	Repertory: Prostate Section
Organon: Paragraphs 41 to 50	Repertory: Mind Section
Organon: Paragraphs 51 to 60	Repertory: Respiración Section
Organon: Paragraphs 61 to 70	Repertory: Recto Section
Organon: Paragraphs 71 to 80	Repertory: Kidney Section
Organon: Paragraphs 81 to 90	Repertory: Sleep Section
Organon: Paragraphs 91 to 100	Repertory: Caught Section
Pinus silvestris	Repertory: Transpiration Section
Repertory: Abdome Section	Repertory: Nails Section
Repertory: Hearing Section	Repertory: Urethra Section
Repertory: Food and Drink Section	Repertory: Urine Section
Repertory: Bladder Section	Repertory: Vertigo Section
Repertory: Mouth Section	Repertory: Vision Sección
Repertory: Head Section	Tautotherapy
Repertory: Chill Section	Animal Tinctures
Repertory: Face Section	Fresh Plant Tinctures
Repertory: Back Section	Dry Plant Tinctures

A great deal of effort was focused on revising the scope notes to update them to the DeCS thesaurus standard. Indexing annotations and entry terms have also been added or modified.

Finally, 3% of the descriptor records remained unchanged compared to previous editions.

The review is expected to be complete by 2025 DeCS edition.

