

## Drug Identification Number

### **What is a DIN?**

The Drug Identification Number (DIN) is the number located on the label of prescription and over-the-counter drug products that have been evaluated by the Therapeutic Products Directorate (TPD) and approved for sale in Canada.

### **When is a DIN issued?**

Once a drug has been approved, the Therapeutic Products Directorate issues a DIN which permits the manufacturer to market the drug in Canada. For drugs where there is minimal market history in Canada, there is a more stringent review and the drug is required to have a Notice of Compliance and a DIN in order to be marketed in Canada.

### **What purpose does a DIN serve?**

A DIN lets the user know that the product has undergone and passed a review of its formulation, labeling and instructions for use. A drug product sold in Canada without a DIN is not in compliance with Canadian law.

The DIN is also a tool to help in the follow-up of products on the market, recall of products, inspections, and quality monitoring.

### **Do DINs only appear on prescription drugs?**

No. A DIN is assigned to all approved prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

### **Do medicinal herbs require a DIN?**

Yes. If a manufacturer wants to sell a medicinal herb or market a herb with drug claims, the product requires a DIN.

**Is there a significance or special meaning for the numbers in the DIN?**

No. Numbers are assigned sequentially and have no particular meaning.

**Can a product defined as a drug be sold without a DIN?**

No. If a product defined as a drug under the *Food and Drugs Act* is sold without a DIN, it is not in compliance with Canadian law and regulatory action will be taken.

**What is a GP?**

The Therapeutic Programme no longer issues General Public (GP) numerical identifiers. They have now been replaced by DINs. Similar to DINs, GPs were used to identify proprietary medicines - products that may be purchased without prescriptions in any retail outlet. An example is fluoride toothpaste.

**Do I need a DIN to sell a drug product in Canada?**

Yes. If a product defined as a drug under the *Food and Drugs Act* is sold without a DIN, it is not in compliance with Canadian law.

**For Further Information**

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[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb-dgps/therapeut](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb-dgps/therapeut)

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