

SNS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

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ADOPTION OF METRIC SYSTEM

The metric system is the legal standard of measurement for pharmacy and medicine in the United States. The metric system is based on the decimal system, and all units are described as multiples of 10.

What are the 3 system of measurement?

Systems of measurement have historically been important, regulated and defined for the purposes of science and commerce. Systems of measurement in use includes,

- The International System of Units (SI),
- The modern form of the metric system,
- The imperial system and
- United States customary units.

What are the two systems of measure used in a pharmacy?

- The most common systems of measurement used in the pharmaceutical practice are for volume and weight.
- Dry powdered drugs or pills will always have a label for the exact weight they bear.
- Some of the prefixes common to this are 'mg' and 'g' and feature in the packaging of the drug.

What are the 7 basic units of measurement in the metric system?

- In the modern form of the International System of Units (SI), the seven base units are: Metre for length,
- Kilogram for mass,
- Second for time,

- Ampere for electric current,
- Kelvin for temperature,
- Candela for luminous intensity and
- Mole for amount of substance.

How are drugs measured?

- Most drug dosages are measured by weight in grams, milligrams or micrograms.
- Certain special drugs have other metric units that measure properties other than weight.
- International Units are used to measure the power or action of a drug.

When did countries adopt the metric system?

In the 19th century, the metric system was adopted by almost all European countries: Portugal (1814); Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg (1820); Switzerland (1835); Spain (1850s); Italy (1861); Romania (1864); Germany (1870, legally from 1 January 1872); and Austria-Hungary (1876, but the law was adopted in 1871).



Four metric measuring devices:

- a tape measure in centimetres,
- a thermometer in degrees Celsius,
- a kilogram mass and
- a <u>multimeter</u> that measures potential in <u>volts</u>, current in <u>amperes</u> and resistance in <u>ohms</u>.