ArcBITS Newsletter

ArcSys Hot Tip

Let's say you are look-ing at a list of transac-tions (or appoint-ments, visits, lab re-sults) that is 60 pages in length. Pressing page down repeatedly can be tedious. If you enter #27 in the Se-lect field, this will jump you to page 27 of the 60.

7 MONTHS LEFT UNTIL ICD-10 CUT-OVER!!

Rxnorm

Red Planet utilizes the Rxnorm data base provided by the National Library of Medicine as its source for medication names—a requirement of Meaningful Use. Over the years the data base has morphed and our understanding how it is assembled has evolved. The net result is that codes and names that you've been used could potentially be jumbled. This has made it a bit of challenge to make certain that your prescription data base is accurate as ArcSys provides Rxnorm updates to your system—usually every couple of months.
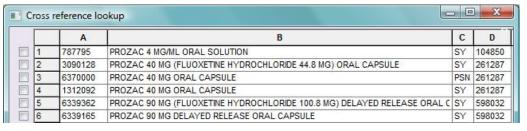
There are four primary components that make up an entry in the Rxnorm data base as implemented in Red Planet: 1) The atomic id, 2) the name, 3) concept id, and 4) the type. You would think that once these elements have been defined, they would never change. But they have and there in lies the rub and the challenge. Let's look at a sample of a medication as shown here:

ATOMIC	NAME.	CONCEPT	TYPE
943430	LORTAB	144254	BN
137559	FLUOXETINE	4493	IN
6358931	LORTAB 5 MG / 500 MG ORAL TABLET	857117	PSN
3610564	LORTAB 5/500 (HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE / APAP) ORAL TABLET	857117	SY
5080602	APAP 500 MG / HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE 5 MG ORAL TABLET [LORTAB]	857117	SY
5079203	ACETAMINOPHEN 500 MG / HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE 5 MG ORAL TABLET [LORTAB]	857117	SBD

The manufacturer may *change the name* from TABLET to ORAL TABLET. They may change EXTENDED RELEASE to 24 HR or 24HR. They may *eliminate* the old code and introduce a *new* code. Aspirin 81 MG, as an example, has 54 variations. To help know which one to select it is helpful to have an understanding of **Type**:

Type	Title	Description	Example
BN	Brand Name		Prozac
IN	Ingredient		Fluoxetine
PSN	Prescribable Name	Synonym of another type given for clarity and for display purposes in electronic prescribing applications. Only one PSN per concept.	Leena 28 Day Pack
SBD	Semantic Branded Drug	Ingredient + Strength + Dose Form + Brand Name	Fluoxetine 4 MG/ML Oral Solution [Prozac]
SY	Synonym	Synonym of another type, given for clarity	Prozac 4 MG/ML Oral Solution

When searching for a medication *to prescribe*, look for the entry that is flagged as a PSN,

first, then SY, and finally SBD. When searching for a medication to record as a *historical entry*, consider using the BN or IN entry since patients rarely recall their dosages.
Even though Meaningful Use is meant to standardize the method by which different com-puter systems share information, we suspect there will be interesting things to re-learn and discover about Rxnorm. Recommendations for improvements are always welcome.
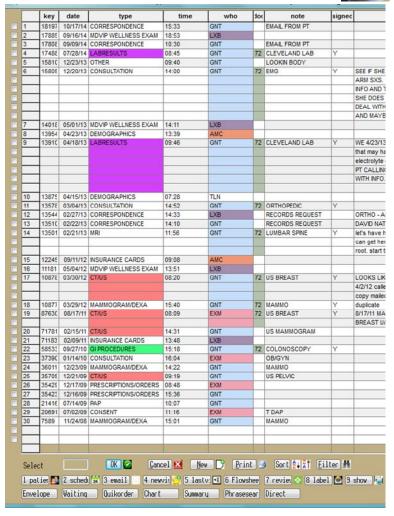
Multiple Column Colors

A new feature that is available in Red Planet is to allow multiple columns in a table display to have colors. This is an example of a list of scanned images where 3 columns have been defined to have colors: Type, Who, and Doc.
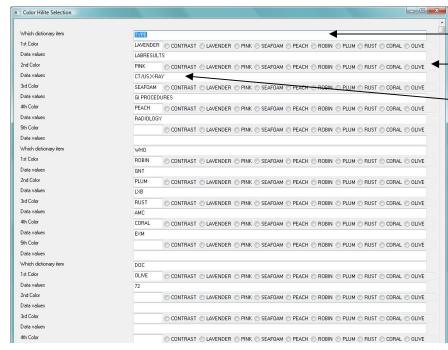
Setting up the multiple color columns is an easy task for a super user. Go into the FB program or click on the Tools icon on your main menu (far right button).

Select the file that you want to set up for column colors. In the example shown at right, the SI file was selected. Next, choose the Hilite option and click Ok. This will bring up the screen shown below.

You are allowed to have 4 columns defined for each file. Specify the field name to be "colored" in the tag "Which dictionary item". For each field chosen you can define 5 different colors for each data value out of the 10 available colors.

A word of advice: Less is more. Choosing too many columns, values, and colors can result in a very busy and hard-to-decipher display. Color should be used sparingly and primarily to draw attention to critical items.

Dictionary name

Color choices (10 available)

Can specify multiple values that will become this color in the column (use comma to separate)