

# Oracle Life Sciences Empirica

## VAERS Signal Management Installation and Upgrade Instructions



Release 9.2.2.1  
F82918-01

The Oracle logo, consisting of a solid red square with the word "ORACLE" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font centered within it.

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Oracle Life Sciences Empirica VAERS Signal Management Installation and Upgrade Instructions, Release 9.2.2.1

F82918-01

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# Preface

This preface contains the following sections:

- [Documentation accessibility](#)
- [Related resources](#)
- [Access to Oracle Support](#)
- [Additional copyright information](#)

## Documentation accessibility

For information about Oracle's commitment to accessibility, visit the Oracle Accessibility Program website at <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=docacc>.

## Related resources

All documentation and other supporting materials are available on the [Oracle Help Center](#).

## Access to Oracle Support

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Contact our Oracle Customer Support Services team by logging requests in one of the following locations:

- English interface Customer Support Portal (<https://hsgbu.custhelp.com/>)
- Japanese interface Customer Support Portal (<https://hsgbu-jp.custhelp.com/>)

You can also call our 24x7 help desk. For information, visit <https://www.oracle.com/life-sciences/support/> or visit <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=trs> if you are hearing impaired.

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# 1

## Interactive VAERS Signal Management installation overview

- [Introduction](#)  
The Oracle Empirica Signal software is a web-based analysis environment for generating statistical scores for combinations of drugs and events in a drug safety database, and for detecting unexpected associations of drugs and events (signals).
- [About the installation process](#)  
The installation process for VAERS interactive Signal Management includes installing the VAERS Signal configuration on the Oracle Empirica Signal application server and enabling the Signal Management features.
- [Before you begin](#)  
To perform the installation you need access to the Oracle Empirica Signal 9.2.1 or later distribution media and required user names and passwords.

### Introduction

The Oracle Empirica Signal software is a web-based analysis environment for generating statistical scores for combinations of drugs and events in a drug safety database, and for detecting unexpected associations of drugs and events (signals).

If your organization is licensed for Signal Management, users can employ the Signal Management feature in Oracle Empirica Signal on VAERS data. The feature facilitates ongoing monitoring of safety signals by enabling users to perform statistical analyses on successive releases of the data.

A scripted form of VAERS Signal Management was originally released in 2010. In scripted VAERS Signal Management, monthly refreshes are initiated by running shell scripts on the server. Scripted VAERS Signal Management can be used with Oracle Empirica Signal versions 7.3.x and above.

Oracle Empirica Signal 9.2.1 introduced a new VAERS Signal Management that is interactive rather than scripted and enables configurable alerts. Interactive VAERS Signal Management can be installed with Oracle Empirica Signal 9.1.0.3 and above.

### About the installation process

The installation process for VAERS interactive Signal Management includes installing the VAERS Signal configuration on the Oracle Empirica Signal application server and enabling the Signal Management features.

You must perform these installation tasks:

- Install the interactive VAERS Signal configuration on the Oracle Empirica Signal application server.
- Configure the Oracle Empirica Signal application to enable the Signal Management features.

Follow the instructions in [Install and configure an interactive VAERS signal configuration](#) and [Post install \(recommended\)](#) to install.

## Before you begin

To perform the installation you need access to the Oracle Empirica Signal 9.2.1 or later distribution media and required user names and passwords.

To perform the installation, you need:

- Access to the distribution media for Oracle Empirica Signal 9.2.1 or higher, which contains `VAERS_Prep_3_0_0_x_xxx.zip`, a Zip archive file for interactive VAERS Signal Management.
- The user name, password, and TNS name of the Oracle Empirica Signal database user or SYS/SYSTEM account.
- The user name and password associated with a non-privileged user account on the Oracle Empirica Signal application server.
- Verification that R with Oracle Empirica Signal RGPS package is installed. Verify the installation by creating and executing a test MGPS run with Include RGPS option enabled. For more information on installing RGPS, see the *Empirica Signal 9.x Installation and Upgrade Instructions*.
- Review the *Release Notes* available in the [Oracle Help Center](#).

# 2

## Install and configure an interactive VAERS signal configuration

- [Install an interactive VAERS signal configuration](#)  
Perform these steps using the non-privileged user account on the application server.
- [Enable Signal Management in the Oracle Empirica Signal application](#)  
You enable the Signal Review site option to turn on the Signal Management features in Oracle Empirica Signal.
- [Establish aliases for VAERS data configurations](#)  
An interactive VAERS signal configuration can use aliases for Data configuration for 2D runs and Data configuration for 3D runs. If such aliases do not already exist, you can create them.
- [Edit the interactive VAERS signal configuration](#)  
The interactive VAERS signal configuration defines the behavior and content of the Signal Review page in the Oracle Empirica Signal application.
- [Make an interactive VAERS signal configuration available for further configuration](#)  
To further configure the signal configuration, a user needs to access the configuration from the Signal Review page. If you are the owner of the signal configuration, then you will have access.
- [Manage monitored drugs and signaling terms](#)  
You can use the interactive Signal Management feature in Oracle Empirica Signal to define the list of monitored products and signaling terms from the application user interface.
- [Validate the interactive VAERS signal configuration](#)  
After you specify the list of monitored products and signaling terms for the interactive VAERS signal configuration, you must validate the configuration to ensure that your changes are valid.
- [Refresh an interactive VAERS signal configuration](#)  
You refresh an interactive VAERS signal configuration to populate the data on the Signal Review page.
- [Make an interactive VAERS signal configuration available to users](#)  
To make an interactive VAERS signal configuration available to users, you must publish the configuration. Optionally, set the interactive VAERS signal configuration as the default for login groups.

### Install an interactive VAERS signal configuration

Perform these steps using the non-privileged user account on the application server.

1. If it does not already exist on the Oracle Empirica Signal application server, create the following directory:

```
/u01/stage/projects
```

2. Copy the `VAERS_Prep_3_0_0_x_XXX.zip` file from the distribution media to:



```
/u01/stage/projects
```

3. Change your current directory to `/u01/stage/projects` as follows:

```
cd /u01/stage/projects/
```

4. Unpack the `VAERS_Prep_3_0_0_x_xxx.zip` file into a temporary directory, for example:

```
$ unzip VAERS_Prep_3_0_0_x_xxx.zip -d /u01/stage/projects/  
The vaers_ism_prep subdirectory is created.
```

5. Navigate to the `vaers_ism_prep` subdirectory, for example:

```
$ cd /u01/stage/projects/vaers_ism_prep
```

6. Execute the following command to give execute permissions to all `.sh` files:

```
$ chmod u+x common/*.sh sigdet/*.sh site/*.sh
```

7. Navigate to `vaers_ism_prep/sigdet`, for example:

```
$ cd /u01/stage/projects/vaers_ism_prep/sigdet
```

8. Execute the following command to give write permissions to the database directory:

```
$ chmod u+w db
```

9. Execute the `main_install_sigmgmt.sh` script to initiate the installation:

```
$ ./main_install_sigmgmt.sh <signal database account name>@<TNS_name>  
where <signal database account name> is the Oracle Empirica Signal  
database user account name, for example, webvdme, and <TNS_name> is the  
TNS name that the application server uses to access the database server.
```

A password prompt appears.

10. Enter `<password>`, where `<password>` is the Oracle Empirica Signal database user account password.

A second password prompt appears.

11. Reenter `<password>`.

The database tables for the interactive VAERS signal configuration are populated. The `install_sigmgmt.log` file is created in the `sigdet/sigmgmt/install/log` subdirectory.

 **Note:**

If you enter the password incorrectly, an error such as this appears in the `install_sigmgmt.log` file: Error returned from execution of "sqlplus /NOLOG @db/connect webvdme @db/fetch\_next\_config\_id".

If the following error message appears, the VAERS Signal Mgmt project already exists:

```
ERROR at line 1:ORA-00001: unique constraint (WEBVDME.UC_PROJECTS1)  
violated
```

You can disregard the error.


12. If you have existing bi-weekly VAERS (WVAERS) datasets imported or installed locally, perform the following step to differentiate bi-weekly VAERS (WVAERS) from monthly (VAERS).
  - As the SYS or SYSTEM user, execute the `update_wvaers_source.sql` script, for example:
 

```
$ sqlplus SYSTEM/<system password>@<TNS_Name> @db/
update_wvaers_source.sql
```

## Enable Signal Management in the Oracle Empirica Signal application

You enable the Signal Review site option to turn on the Signal Management features in Oracle Empirica Signal.

For more information, see the *User Guide and Online Help*.


1. Log in to the Oracle Empirica Signal application as a superuser.
2. In the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
3. In the Administer System section, click **Set Site Options**.
4. From the **Show menu items** list, select **Signal Review**.
5. Optionally, select the following Signal Management options:
  - From the **Show menu items** list, select **Allow Free Text Signal Comments**. This allows users to enter free text comments when, on the Signal Review page, they filter a product-event combination or add a comment when reviewing a signal summary. Regardless of the setting of this option, users can select from a list of predefined comments.
  - In the **Notes for Signal Management Interactions Graph** text box, enter text to display at the bottom of the Interactions page for a product-event combination on the Signal Review page.
  - In the **Product-event combination comment length** text box, enter the maximum length of detailed comments for product-event combinations on the Signals Review page.
6. Click **Save**.


You must log out and log back in for the changes to take effect.

## Establish aliases for VAERS data configurations

An interactive VAERS signal configuration can use aliases for Data configuration for 2D runs and Data configuration for 3D runs. If such aliases do not already exist, you can create them.

To add or edit aliases, you must have the Manage Aliases user permission.

1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
2. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Aliases**.
3. From the **Target Type** drop-down list, select **Configuration**.

4. Perform one of the following:
  - To add a new alias, click the **Add Alias** link.
  - To edit an alias, click the **Row Action menu** (  ) for the alias, and then click **Edit**. You can edit only aliases that you have created, except that if you have the Administer Users permission, you can edit aliases created by any user in your login group.
5. In the **Alias Name** field, enter an alias name.
6. From the **Target Type** drop-down list, select **Configuration**.
7. From the **Target** drop-down list, select the target.  
 Select the most recent quarter for Target.

Alias Name	Target (example)
Latest VAERS	2020Q4: VAERS (S)

8. Click **OK**.



## Edit the interactive VAERS signal configuration

The interactive VAERS signal configuration defines the behavior and content of the Signal Review page in the Oracle Empirica Signal application.

For example, the signal configuration specifies the data configurations and variables Oracle Empirica Signal uses for data mining runs. For more information, see the *User Guide and Online Help*.

Review the default settings of the interactive VAERS signal configuration and change the settings as needed.



You must have the Manage Signal Configurations user permission to edit a signal configuration.

1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon (  ).
2. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
3. Click the interactive VAERS signal configuration's **Row Action menu** (  ), and then click **Edit**.
4. On the Edit Signal Configurations page, edit the fields as needed.  
 For more information, see Edit a signal configuration in the *User Guide and Online Help*.
5. Click **Save**.  
 Oracle Empirica Signal validates the signal configuration. In case of any error or warning, a message appears at the top of the page.

## Make an interactive VAERS signal configuration available for further configuration

To further configure the signal configuration, a user needs to access the configuration from the Signal Review page. If you are the owner of the signal configuration, then you will have access.

Follow the steps below to publish the configuration to a user with Manage Signal Configurations permission.

1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
2. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
3. Click the interactive VAERS signal configuration's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Publish**.
4. Select **Publish to Users** to publish to individual users with Manage Signal Configurations permission.

## Manage monitored drugs and signaling terms



You can use the interactive Signal Management feature in Oracle Empirica Signal to define the list of monitored products and signaling terms from the application user interface.

You can manage the products to monitor and the following signaling terms:

- Designated medical events
- Custom terms
- Targeted medical events
- Listed events for a monitored product



For more information about monitoring products and maintaining signaling terms, see Add, edit, or change the name of a monitored product and Manage events and custom terms in the *User Guide and Online Help*.

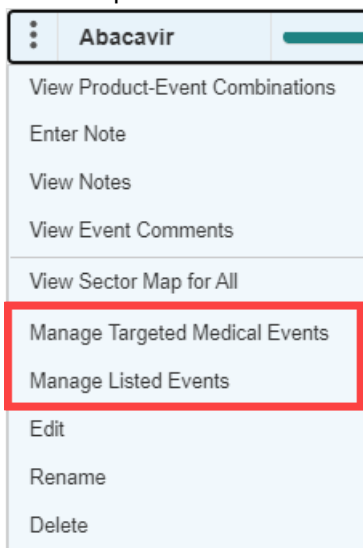
### To modify the list of monitored products and signaling terms:


- The interactive signal configuration must be selected for your user.
  - You must have the Manage Signaling Terms user permission.
1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Signal Review** icon ().  
The Products page appears.
  2. If the interactive signal configuration is not displayed in the **Signal Configuration** drop-down list, select it.
  3. From the **Manage Reference Data** menu () in the upper right corner, select **Add Product** or **Manage Custom Terms**.

- To add or edit products, fill in the fields according to the table in *Add, edit, or change the name of a monitored product in the User Guide and Online Help*. To manage signaling terms, see *Add, edit, or delete a custom term in the User Guide and Online Help*.

**To manage events:**

- In the left navigation pane, click the **Signal Review** icon (.
- If necessary, filter the Products table by selecting a product grouping from the **Products By** drop-down list, then selecting a card.
- Click the product's **Row Action** menu () and select the appropriate command.



- To manage designated medical events, click the **Manage Reference Data** menu () in the upper right corner, and select **Manage Designated Medical Events**.
- Follow the steps in *Manage events and custom terms in the User Guide and Online Help*.

## Validate the interactive VAERS signal configuration



After you specify the list of monitored products and signaling terms for the interactive VAERS signal configuration, you must validate the configuration to ensure that your changes are valid.

During validation, Oracle Empirica Signal checks the signal configuration to ensure that:

- Referenced data configurations exist.
- Referenced data configurations are valid.
- Referenced variables exist in each data configuration and are of the correct type. For example, Oracle Empirica Signal checks whether event variables in the data configuration are of type *Event*.
- Variables referenced in custom term queries exist in each data configuration you referenced in the signal configuration.

For more information, see the *User Guide and Online Help*.



You must have the Manage Signal Configurations user permission to validate a signal configuration.

1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
2. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
3. Click the signal configuration's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Validate**.
4. On the Signal Configuration Validate page, review the list of findings.
5. Click **Continue**.

## Refresh an interactive VAERS signal configuration

You refresh an interactive VAERS signal configuration to populate the data on the Signal Review page.

To initiate a refresh, you must have the Manage Signal Configuration and Create Data Mining Runs user permissions. For more information, see the *User Guide and Online Help*.

1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
2. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
3. Click the interactive VAERS signal configuration's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Refresh**.
4. On the Refresh Signal Management page, specify when to perform the refresh:
  - **Run as soon as possible**—The refresh is executed immediately.
  - **Do not run until**—The refresh is executed on the date and time that you specify.
5. To receive an email notification when the refresh is complete:
  - a. Select the **Email me when complete** check box.
  - b. Enter one or more email addresses using a comma to separate each address.

The email addresses associated with your Oracle Empirica Signal user name appear by default. To change these email addresses, contact your site administrator.
6. Click **Submit**.

The Refresh Submitted page appears.
7. Click **Continue**.



The Signal Management Refreshes page appears. The refresh is listed in the table.

A refresh takes several hours to complete. After the status of the refresh changes to Completed, the contents of the Signal Review page are updated.

## Make an interactive VAERS signal configuration available to users

To make an interactive VAERS signal configuration available to users, you must publish the configuration. Optionally, set the interactive VAERS signal configuration as the default for login groups.

You must be a superuser to perform the following steps.

1. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ()
2. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
3. Click the interactive VAERS signal configuration's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Publish**.
4. Select **Publish to Login Groups** to publish to each login group that will use VAERS Signal Management (or to **All**).

Optionally, you can make an VAERS signal configuration the default for each login group that will use it.

### **Note:**

Once the signal configuration is published to login groups, users will be able to select it on the Signal Review page even if it is not the default for their login group.

1. From the left navigation pane, click **Settings**.
2. In the Manage Users section, click **Edit Login Groups**.
3. Perform the following for each login group to which you published the interactive VAERS signal configuration:
  - a. Click **Edit**.
  - b. Select the interactive VAERS signal configuration in the **Signal Management Configuration** drop-down list.
  - c. Click **Save**.

### **Note:**

To access the Signal Review page and interactive VAERS Signal Management, users must have at least the View Signal Management permission. Users who are currently logged in to Oracle Empirica Signal must log out and log back in.

4. Proceed to [Post install](#).

# 3

## Upgrade the VAERS signal configuration from 9.2.1 to 9.x

- [Upgrade the VAERS signal configuration from 9.2.1 to 9.x](#)  
The required upgrade for VAERS signal management is done as part of the Oracle Empirica Signal 9.x upgrade.

## Upgrade the VAERS signal configuration from 9.2.1 to 9.x

The required upgrade for VAERS signal management is done as part of the Oracle Empirica Signal 9.x upgrade.



# 4

## Post install (recommended)





- **Post install**  
Define product property values, edit products, and add or edit alert types for the signal configuration.

### Post install

Define product property values, edit products, and add or edit alert types for the signal configuration.

After you have performed your first refresh on a signal management configuration, you can start taking advantage of the features introduced in Oracle Empirica Signal 9.x.



To define product property values, edit products, and add or edit alert types, you must have the Manage Signal Configurations, View Signal Management, and Manage Signaling Terms user permissions.

1. Define values for new product fields: **Complexity level**, **Organization**, and **Category**.
  - a. Log in to the Oracle Empirica Signal application with Manage Signal Configurations permission.
  - b. In the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
  - c. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
  - d. Click the interactive VAERS signal configuration's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Edit Product Fields**.
  - e. Consult the *User Guide and Online Help* to see additional actions you can perform.
2. Assign values for product fields.
  - a. Log in to the Oracle Empirica Signal application as a user with View Signal Management and Manage Signaling Terms permissions.
  - b. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Signal Review** icon ().
  - c. Click a product's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Edit**.

#### **Note:**

Complexity level, Birthdate, and Review period (if enabled) are product properties that can have alert calculation impact.

- d. Consult *User Guide and Online Help* for further possible steps.
3. Add/edit/activate Alert Types for the next refresh:

- a. Log in to the Oracle Empirica Signal application as a user with Manage Signal Configurations and View Signal Management permissions.
  - b. In the Oracle Empirica Signal application, in the navigation pane on the left, click the **Settings** icon ().
  - c. In the Configure System section, click **Manage Signal Configurations**.
  - d. Click an interactive VAERS signal configuration's **Row Action menu** () , and then click **Edit Alert Types**.
  - e. You can:
    - Add an alert type.
    - Edit an existing alert type, including designating an alert type as tracked or informational.
    - Activate or deactivate an alert type for the next refresh.
  - f. Consult *User Guide and Online Help* for further details.
4. When you are finished, refresh the Oracle Empirica Signal configuration to reflect all the changes made.

# 5

## Change log

Date	Part number	Description
August 2023	F82918-01	Updated the document for the 9.2.2.1 release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retitled the document and product to reflect Oracle Health Sciences is now Oracle Life Sciences.</li><li>• Updated the link to the Oracle Support Cloud in the Preface.</li></ul>
April 2023	F71146-01	For the 9.2.2 release: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated version numbers and file names.</li><li>• Added Chapter 3, Upgrade the VAERS signal configuration from 9.2.1 to 9.x.</li></ul>
July 2022	F56147-01	Original version of this document (9.2 release).