Variations and progress in worksharing

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Variations and progress in worksharing

The aim of this presentation is to:

• focus on worksharing (what it is, types of worksharing requests, number of applications and areas for improvement)

• highlight certain variations and how the EMA works to reduce administrative burden where possible (classifications, inclusion of Croatian translations etc.)
Progress in worksharing

What is worksharing?

Legal base is Article 20 of Commission Regulation 1234/2008:

“......where a minor variation of type IB, a major variation of type II or a group of variations in the cases of point (b) of Article 7(2) which does not contain any extension relates to several marketing authorisations owned by the same holder, the holder of such authorisations may follow the procedure laid down in paragraphs 3 to 9 of this Article.”
Progress in worksharing

Different reference authorities depending on which types of product are included in the application -

- EMA as reference authority;
  - Two or more Centrally Authorised Products (CAPs) (CAP-only WS)
  - One or more CAPs + nationally authorised products (NAPs)/MRP/DCP (CAP-NAP WS)
- National competent authority as reference authority;
  - More than one NAP/MRP/DCP

N.B. EMA must be reference authority where a CAP involved
Progress in worksharing

• **One** integrated submission package

• For work-sharing involving CAPs the outcome is a **CVMP opinion** (and sometimes a Commission Decision) – national follow-up required for NAPs involved in CAP/NAP worksharing

• A **mixed outcome** (where a group of variations has been submitted for work-sharing) is possible i.e. some positive and some negative

• Aim is to **avoid duplication** of work
Progress in worksharing

Workshared applications can include many different products but must always comply with:

- **Same** change or **same group** of changes to each product
- **No** product-specific assessment necessary
- **Same** marketing authorisation holder

Timetable – 60 days (90 days for e.g. non-food target species)
Progress in worksharing

**Types** of EMA worksharing requests

- Requests include not only Type IB and Type II variations but also “IG” applications and large *groups* of variations.

- IGs are IA variations which are “work-shared” between CAPs – the worksharing procedure does not apply to Type IA/IA_{IN} variations but under Article 7(2) of the Regulation where the same Type IA is to be submitted for a number of products to the same relevant authority a single notification may cover all such variations.

- In addition, it is also possible to group Type IA or IA_{IN} variations with a Type IB or Type II variation being submitted for a worksharing procedure. In such case, the review of the Type IA or IA_{IN} variation will be performed as part of the worksharing procedure.
Progress in worksharing

Types of EMA worksharing requests

• Mostly *quality/manufacturer* changes

• *IGs* are frequently *quality* and *DDPS/QPPV* related
Progress in worksharing

**Number of applications:**

EMA gaining in experience -

Since 1 January 2010  **22 WS** applications (includes groups)  
(includes 6 CAP/NAP WS)

“IG” requests (IAs)  **23 IG** applications
Progress in worksharing

Areas for improvement in the process:

• Some disappointment expressed initially by applicants that EMA was not able to accept informal workshared applications whereas CMDv could;

• Future amendment to guidance – needs to be less restrictive and allow Type IAs across procedures e.g. Detailed Description of the Pharmacovigilance System (DDPS) across all authorisations?
Progress in worksharing

Areas for improvement in the process:

- Centrally authorised products – may need an amendment to the Commission Decision – this increases the time to approval;
- Commission Decisions amend/update product annexes per product so product information changes for each product may be needed;
- Working to streamline communication between NCAs and EMA during worksharing procedures where EMA is reference authority.
Progress in worksharing

Areas for improvement in the process:

• Worksharing is welcomed but comments received indicate that the procedure is too long for minor changes!

• Type IB workshares to be done as Type IBs? i.e. 30 days and not 60 days?

• Aim was to reduce the administrative burden
Variations

- Procedural and Classification guidance was updated in 2013
- Some classification changes occurred – mainly due to human pharmacovigilance legislation

- The following examples – there may be others! – are particular variations which need to be highlighted
Variations

A.8 - comes about due to Falsified Medicines legislation (human only) – **not** applicable to VMPs
Variations

**C.I.3** - changes in the SPC further to PSUR: current wording means it is no longer applicable to veterinary medicines

CAPs - **C.I.4 z** (MRP/DCP – C.1.3 z) – both Type IB by default (reflects previous guidance)
Variations

Safety, Efficacy, PhV Variations: **Pharmacovigilance System**

If you have used the previous classification guidance take care here! The principles are the same **BUT numbering has changed:**

- Type IA: Changes to an existing PhV system (C.I.9)
- Type IB: New PhV system *previously assessed* for another product of same MAH (C.II.7)
- Type II: New PhV system *not previously assessed* for another product of same MAH (C.II.7)
Variations

Incorporating Croatian translations into CAP annexes

Guidance on the website but possibilities more limited for veterinary medicines – no Article 61(3):

• Include the Croatian translations in any on-going procedure affecting the Annexes or

• Incorporate the Croatian language versions in the 12-monthly update procedure (i.e. without a variation) or

• Use a C.II.6 (IA) variation procedure in order to effect the change (which is effective immediately after the EMA notification, even if not appearing on the Commission’s website)
Variations

• EMA aims to be pragmatic but also needs to stay within the requirements;

• Where possible Type IB by default classification is used

• Any queries for centrally authorised products? ----
Vet applications team

Please send email to vet.applications@ema.europa.eu and the team will be happy to help you!

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Thank you for your attention!