ACT EU Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Methodology Guidance: A patient-centred approach to methodologies

23 November 2023

Virtual meeting / EMA, Amsterdam, Meeting Room 1C and Webex

To facilitate the ACT EU vision of better, faster, and optimised clinical trials in Europe, continuous developments in clinical trial methodology are essential. The European Medicines Regulatory Network (EMRN) provides guidance on clinical trial methodology, supporting stakeholders in the implementation of new innovative approaches for the conduct and design of clinical trials. Early multi-stakeholder input is critical in the development of regulatory guidance to ensure that the needs of all relevant stakeholders are taken into account.

The workshop brings together a broad range of regulatory experts and representatives from key stakeholders, such as industry, academia, patient representatives, health technology assessment bodies and payers, to share their and understand other stakeholder's perspectives on selected clinical trial methodology topics while putting patients at the centre.

The main aim is to identify the current challenges from different stakeholders' perspectives and propose a way forward to inform the future work of the EMRN.

This workshop is open to all stakeholders.

ACT EU Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on Methodology Guidance: A patient-centred approach to methodologies

23 November, 09:30 – 17:30 CET, Room 1C and Webex

Co-chairs: Kit Roes and Monique Al

09:00 Joining and technical checks

09:30 Welcome and opening speech

Chairs: Monique Al (CTCG) - Kit Roes (MWP)

Opening remarks from the EMA **5'**
Emer Cooke (EMA)

Opening remarks from Heads of Medicines Agencies **5'**
Karl Broich (HMA)

Opening remarks from the European Commission **5'**
Isabelle Clamou (European Commission)

Opening remarks from the meeting chairs **10'**
Monique Al (CTCG) & Kit Roes (MWP)

Scope of the day and instructions for the break-out sessions **5'**
Ditte Zerlang Andersen (DKMA)

10:00 Session 1: Morning Breakout sessions

Room 1C (broadcast)	Room 0B (broadcast)	Room 1B	Room 2B
Session A	**Session B**	**Session C**	**Session D**
Complex trials I	**Paediatric Trials**	**Pragmatic trials**	**Digital Endpoints**

Room 1C

Breakout session A: Complex clinical trials, enabling innovative designs

Moderators: Olga Kholmanskikh (FAMHP), Frank Petavy (EMA)

Setting the scene with an introduction to the CCT Q&A **5'**
Olga Kholmanskikh (FAMHP)

Patients' journey studies **5'**
Laura Arenare (Istituto Nazionale Tumori, IRCCS - Fondazione G.Pascale)

EFSPI perspective on Complex Clinical Trials **5'**
Kaspar Rufibach (Roche) & Nicky Best (GSK)

The experience of the DRUP trial **5'**
Sahar van Waalwijk van Doorn-Khosrovani (CZ)

Discussion **70'**
All

Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary **30'**
Lorenzo Guizzaro (EMA)

Room 0B

Breakout session B: Paediatric clinical trials

Moderators: Anette Solli Karlsen (Norwegian Medicines Agency) and Dina Apele-Freimane (State agency of Medicines of Latvia)

Setting the scene **5'**
Dominik Karres (EMA)

Regulatory perspective **5'**
Monique Al (Central Committee on Research involving Human Subject (CCMO))

Ethics perspective **5'**
Wolfgang Berdel (Association of Medical Ethics Committees in Germany)

Industry perspective (EFPIA) **5'**
Solange Corriol Rohou (AstraZeneca)

Patients' perspective **5'**
Begonya Nafria Escalera (Sant Joan de Déu Research Foundation)

Discussion **65'**
All

Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary **30'**

Room 1B

Breakout session C: Pragmatic trials, definition and usefulness

Moderators: Claire Bahans (Research Ethics committees, FR), Frederik Grell Noergaard (DKMA)

Industry perspective (EFPIA) **5'**
Nafsika Kronidou Horst (Roche)

HTA perspective **5'**
Beate Wiesler (HTA)

Academic perspective **5'**
Denis Lacombe (EORTC)

Ethical perspective **5'**
Rudolf Huber (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich)

Discussion **70'**
All

	Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary	**30'**
Room 2B	**Breakout session D: Validation of digital endpoints**	
	Moderators: Jesper Kjaer (DKMA) & Thorsten Vetter (EMA)	
	Setting the scene *Jesper Kjaer (DKMA)*	**5'**
	Academic perspective *Martin Daumer (School of Computation, Information and Technology)*	**5'**
	Industry perspective (EFPIA) *Lada Leyens (Takeda)*	**5'**
	Academic perspective - experience with EMA qualification procedure *Laurent Servais (Oxford University)*	**5'**
	Discussion *All*	**60'**
	Break	**10'**
	Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary	**30'**
12:00	**Coffee break**	
12:20	**Session 2: Report from morning breakouts**	
	Chairs: Monique Al (CTCG) - Kit Roes (MWP)	
	Complex trials I *Lorenzo Guizzaro (EMA)*	**10'**
	Paediatric Trials *Dina Apele-Freimane (State agency of Medicines of Latvia)*	**10'**
	Pragmatic trials *Elke Stahl (BfArM)*	**10'**
	Digital Endpoints *Jesper Kjaer (DKMA)*	**10'**
13:00	**Lunch**	

14:15 Session 3: Afternoon Breakout sessions

Room 1C (broadcast)	Room 0B (broadcast)	Room 1B	Room 1A
Session E	**Session F**	**Session G**	**Session H**
Beyond RCTs	**Patient-centricity**	**Decentralised Trials**	**Complex Trials II**

Room 1C

Breakout session E: Beyond Randomised Clinical Trials

Moderators: Elke Stahl (BfArM), Antoine Vanier (Haute Autorité de Santé), Frank Petavy (EMA)

Ethical perspective **5'**
Pierre Henry Bertoye (MOH - Human Research and Practice Division)

HTA perspective **5'**
Antoine Vanier (Haute Autorité de Santé)

Industry perspective (EFPIA) **5'**
Mouna Akacha (Novartis)

Academic perspective **5'**
Denis Lacombe (EORTC)

Discussion **70'**
All

Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary **30'**

Room 0B

Breakout session F: Patient-centricity, diversity and representativeness in clinical trials

Moderators: Anneliene Jonker (World Duchenne Organization / UPPMD) and Mårten Wendt (CTCG)

Setting the scene **5'**
Louise Veltrop-Duits (Central Committee on Research involving Human Subject (CCMO))

Ethical and academic perspective **5'**
Tarec Christoffer El-Galaly (Aalborg University Hospital and Danish Medical Research Ethics Committees)

Industry perspective (EFPIA) **5'**
Mireille Muller (Novartis)

Patients' perspective **5'**
Michal Rataj (European Patients Forum)

Discussion **70'**
All

Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary **30'**

Room 1B **Breakout session G: Decentralised clinical trials, new directions**

Moderators: Monique Al (CCMO), Wolfgang Berdel (Assoc of Medical Ethics Committees, DE)

Patients' perspective *Christine Dehn (German Heart Foundation)*	**5'**
Academic perspective *Mira Zuidgeest (Trials@home)*	**5'**
Industry perspective (EFPIA) *Alison Bond (Amgen)*	**5'**
Data analysis perspective (EFSPI) *David Wright (Astra Zeneca)*	**5'**
Discussion *All*	**70'**
Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary *Tiina Holmberg (EMA)*	**30'**

Room 1A **Breakout session H: Complex clinical trials, focus on platform trials**

Moderators: Elina Asikanius (FIMEA), Benjamin Hofner (PEI)

Setting the scene *Benjamin Hofner (PEI)*	**5'**
Academic perspective *Saskia Litiere (EORTC)*	**5'**
Industry perspective (EFPIA) *Tobias Mielke (Johnson & Johnson)*	**5'**
HTA perspective *Beate Wieseler (IQWiG)*	**5'**
Discussion *All*	**60'**
Break	**10'**
Wrap up and key messages to report to plenary	**30'**

16:15 Coffee break

16:40 Session 4: Report from afternoon breakouts

Chairs: Monique Al (CTCG) - Kit Roes (MWP)

Beyond RCTs **10'**

Elke Stahl (BfArM)

Patient centricity **10'**

Anneliene Jonker (World Duchenne Organization / UPPMD)

Decentralised Trials **10'**

Tiina Holmberg (EMA)

Complex Trials II **10'**

Elina Asikanius (FIMEA)

17:20 Closing remarks

Chairs: Monique Al (CTCG) - Kit Roes (MWP)

The next steps for ACT EU **5'**

Florian Lasch (EMA)

Closing remarks **5'**

Peter Arlett (EMA)

Short explanation of the focus of break-out sessions

Complex clinical trials (I), enabling innovative designs

This session will be dedicated to collecting feedback on what are the factors that may enhance the possibility and ability for sponsors to plan and execute innovative or complex trials (e.g. patients' journey studies) in the EU. These factors can be both statistical and operational.

Paediatric clinical trials

Input on innovative scientific and regulatory methodologies in paediatric drug development will be collected, for instance on n=1 trials in rare diseases, extrapolation of existing data or specific requirements in the conduct of clinical trials in a paediatric population.

Pragmatic trials, definition and usefulness

The session on pragmatic clinical trials will explore their definition and practical utility in real-world healthcare settings, the new opportunities provided by the cluster provision in the CTR and how pragmatic trials offer valuable insights into treatment effectiveness and their significance in shaping evidence-based practices.

Validation of digital endpoints

Increasingly, digital technologies, including digital endpoints, are becoming part of the conduct of clinical trials for medicinal products. This session will be focused on the opportunities and challenges in validating digital endpoints.

Complex clinical trials (II), platform trials

This session will be dedicated to collecting feedback on platform trials and on testing more than one hypothesis in one experiment.

Decentralised clinical trials, new directions

The European Medicine Regulatory Network published a recommendation paper on clinical trials with decentralised elements last year. In this session new perspectives based on experiences and challenges in practice as well as topics currently not addressed in the recommendation will be discussed for future updates.

Patient-centricity, diversity and representativeness in clinical trials

This session will be dedicated to collect input on the strategies to design clinical trials according to the patient needs and to achieve better representation of diverse populations.

Beyond Randomised Clinical Trials

This session will be dedicated to methods and points to consider in order to ensure validity, reliability, and interpretability of results for subsequent stages of drug development or potential use in regulatory decision-making when trials are not randomised or have an external control.

List of speakers

Ditte Zerlang Andersen	Coordinator of the ACT EU Priority Action on Clinical Trial Methodologies and EU Project Manager, Special Adviser, Danish Medicines Agency (DKMA)
Emer Cooke	Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA)
Florian Lasch	Co-lead of the ACT EU Priority Action on Clinical Trial Methodologies and Biostatistics Specialist, European Medicines Agency (EMA)
Isabelle Clamou	Policy officer at DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE) at the European Commission (EC)
Karl Broich	Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) and chair of the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA)
Kit Roes	Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board (MEB), Professor for Biostatistics at Radboud UMC and Chair of the Methodology Working Party (MWP)
Monique Al	Special Advisor at the Central Committee on Research involving Human Subject (CCMO) and vice-chair of the Clinical Trials Coordination Group (CTCG)
Peter Arlett	Head of Data Analytics and Methods Task Force, European Medicines Agency (EMA)