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# SME Office NEWSLETTER

Information for SMEs in the EU regulatory environment for medicines.
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## Pharmaceutical development guidance

A questions and answers document on quality-by-design was released on 4 November 2013 (EMA/603905/2013). It focuses on 'design space verification', which aims at demonstrating that process parameters combined with attributes at pilot scale manufacturing are capable of delivering a product of appropriate quality on a commercial scale.

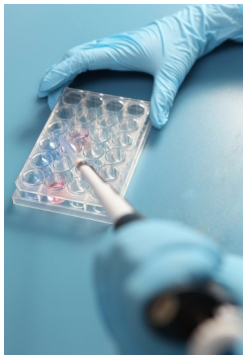
A draft guideline on the viral safety of urine-derived medicinal products was released for consultation until 31 May 2014 (EMA/CHMP/BWP/126802/2012). It addresses specific aspects to consider in the evaluation of viral and TSE-safety of products derived from human urine.

## Clinical development guidance

A draft addendum to the guidance on products developed for the treatment of hypertension was released for consultation until 31 March 2014 (EMA/CHMP/206815/2013). It provides details on the design of clinical studies in children of all age groups (0-18 years), with specific advice on populations with secondary forms of hypertension and methods to establish dosing recommendations.

A revised guideline on the clinical development of products for the treatment of HIV infection was released for consultation until 31 March 2014 (EMEA/CPMP/EWP/633/02 Rev. 3). It sets out a new definition of populations to be included in clinical trials, focusing on documented viral resistance rather than treatment history (treatment-naïve/treatment-experienced patients).

An addendum to the guideline on products intended for the treatment of bacterial infections will come into effect in May 2014 (EMA/CHMP/351889/2013). It outlines a new approach to facilitating the development of antibacterial agents targeted against multidrug-resistant pathogens where there are limited treatment options. It also provides guidance on requirements for indications where non-inferiority or superiority designs should be considered and cases where limited data might be acceptable.



A draft reflection paper on the data requirements for intravenous iron-based nanocolloidal products developed with reference to an innovator medicine was released for consultation until 28 February 2014 (EMA/CHMP/SWP/620008/2012). It guides sponsors in generating comparative quality, non-clinical and pharmacokinetic data to support a marketing authorisation for an intravenous iron-based nanocolloidal product claiming to be similar to another one already on the market.

A qualification opinion in mild and moderate Alzheimer's disease was adopted on 19 September 2013 (EMA/CHMP/SAWP/567188/2013). It qualifies a model for disease progression and trial evaluation for use in drug development for describing changes in cognition and for supporting trial designs.

A draft guidance on the development of medicines to prevent stroke and systemic embolic events in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation was released for consultation until 15 January 2014 (EMA/CHMP/623942/2013). It aims to complement the current guidance on antiarrhythmic products (CPMP/EWP/237/95) and its addendum on atrial fibrillation and flutter (EMA/CHMP/EWP/213056/2010), which do not cover stroke prevention.

A series of product-specific bioequivalence guidelines were released for consultation until 15 February 2014. It aims to ensure a consistent approach in the assessment of generic applications across all authorisation routes i.e. centralised, decentralised, mutual-recognition and national authorisation procedures. For each medicine, guidance is provided on the Biopharmaceutical classification system (BCS), type of bioequivalence study design, analyte (parent drug or metabolite) to be evaluated and bioequivalence assessment.

The substances concerned are as follows:

- Capecitabine
- Carglumic
- Dasatinib
- Erlotinib
- Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Disoproxil
- Imatinib
- Memantine
- Miglustat
- Oseltamivir
- Posaconazole
- Repaglinide
- Sirolimus
- Sorafenib
- Sunitinib
- Tadalafil
- Telithromycin
- Voriconazole

An updated questions and answers on pharmacokinetics was released on 14 November 2013 (EMA/618604/2008 Rev. 8).

It includes new topics on:

- Bioequivalence studies for generic applications of omega 3 fatty acid ethylesters in a soft gelatin capsule
- Biowaivers for medicinal products with multiple strengths
- Generic applications for Quetiapine Lambda 200, 300, 400 mg prolonged release tablets
- Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS) - classification of memantine

# Guidance for veterinary medicines

A revised reflection paper on injection-site residues (EMA/CVMP/520190/2007-Rev.1) was released for consultation until 30 April 2014. It includes considerations for the risk assessment and surveillance of residues and sets out an approach to develop appropriate Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for injectable substances.

A draft guideline on efficacy studies for intramammary products for use in dairy cattle was released for consultation until 30 April 2014 (EMEA/CVMP/EWP/141272/2011). It provides guidance on the design, conduct and reporting of pre-clinical and clinical studies submitted in a marketing authorisation or variation.

A revised guidance on the causality assessment of adverse events for veterinary medicinal products (EMA/CVMP/PhVWP/552/2003 – Rev.1) will come into effect on 1 January 2014.

A draft reflection paper on the risk of antimicrobial resistance transfer from companion animals was released for consultation until 31 January 2014 (EMA/CVMP/AWP/401740/2013). It discusses the need for data in marketing authorisations applications on the risks of transfer of resistance from bacteria from companion animals.

# Regulatory and procedural guidance

The following guidance documents have been published:

- Post-authorisation guidance for centralised dossiers on topics related to variations, withdrawn product notifications, marketing and cessation notification (Link).
- Questions and answers on signal management (Link)
- Questions and answers on transfer of marketing authorisation (Link)
- Fees incentives for 2014 (Link)
- Good pharmacovigilance practices (GVP) guidance on periodic safety update report (Module VII)
- GVP Product- or population-specific considerations: Vaccines for prophylaxis against infectious diseases (Link)

# Parallel EMA HTA – Scientific Advice

The videos and slides of the EMA-HTA workshop on parallel scientific advice which took place on 26 November 2013 have been published (Press release, Link to videos and slides).

The ongoing EMA HTA parallel scientific advice procedure will continue and be further optimised in 2014 in collaboration with stakeholders. Applicants for this procedure are welcome and further information is available on the EMA website (Link) or directly via email (spiros.vamvakas@ema.europa.eu).

Furthermore, a pilot programme on early HTA dialogue with product developers of medicinal products and medical devices will be conducted in 2014 through the SEED Consortium of HTAs ('Shaping European Early Dialogues'). The programme aims to perform 10 multi-HTA dialogues, 7 for pharmaceuticals (including advanced therapy medicinal products) and 3 for medical devices (including procedures and/or diagnostics, combined or not with other technologies) on key aspects of their development, to identify specific HTA needs related to the relative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness assessment, notably to patient population and type of evidence needed (design of trials, duration, type of events/endpoints, comparators). The call for expression of interest will remain open up to October 2014. Further information is available under this Link. Three of the 7 early dialogues for pharmaceuticals will be carried out as EMA-SEED parallel scientific advice procedures.

Please contact the SME office for further information.

# Meetings

Reports from the following meetings have been released:

- Workshop on development of new antibacterial medicines held in October 2012 (Link).
- Seventh stakeholders' forum on the pharmacovigilance legislation, held on 27 September 2013 (Link).
- EDQM/EMA joint meeting on raw materials used for the production of cell-based and gene-therapy products held on 3 April 2013 (Link).
- Best use of medicines legislation to bring new antibiotics to patients and combat the resistance problem held on 8 November 2013 (Link).

The following workshop has been announced:

- European conference on rare diseases and orphan products (ECRD 2014), Berlin, Germany, 8-10 2014 (Link).

# Registered SMEs

Currently, 1,253 companies have SME status assigned by the Agency. The names and profiles of these companies are published in the Agency's public SME Register.

If you would like to have your company details included in the SME Register, you must first apply for SME status at the Agency. See the How to apply section of the SME Office pages on the Agency's website for information on how to do this.

### About the SME Office

The SME Office was set up within the European Medicines Agency to address the particular needs of smaller companies.

The Office has dedicated personnel who can help SMEs by:

- responding to practical or procedural enquiries;
- monitoring applications;
- organising workshops and training sessions.

### Need more information?

Visit the European Medicines Agency website:

http://www.ema.europa.eu

In particular, these sections may interest you:

SME Office
Pre-authorisation (human medicines)
Pre-authorisation (veterinary medicines)

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