EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP)

Concept paper on the need for revision of guideline on clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (CPMP/EWP/561/98 Rev.1)

Agreed by CNS Working Party	May 2011
Adoption by CHMP for release for consultation	23 June 2011
End of consultation (deadline for comments)	30 September 2011

The proposed guideline will replace the guideline on clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (CPMP/EWP/561/98 Rev.1).

Comments should be provided using this template. The completed comments form should be sent to cnswpsecretariat@ema.europa.eu

Keywords	*Multiple sclerosis, Clinical Trials, Disease Modification, Symptomatic Treatments, Paediatrics*

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1. Introduction

The increase in applications of new products in the treatment of multiple sclerosis and numerous scientific advices given concerning multiple sclerosis indicates that the treatment of multiple sclerosis is a moving and changing field. In addition the current treatment options have changed the multiple sclerosis population.

In the discussions mostly the same items, as stated in the problem statement below, are subject of debate. New treatment options e.g. immunosuppressants prompt to reconsideration of treatment targets, target population, trial design, choice of endpoints, among others. In the dawn of treatments intended to improve residual impairment, the design of clinical trials for specific symptomatic improvement needs discussion. In addition, the current guidance lacks recommendations with respect to data needed in the paediatric population.

Hence several additions and changes in this guideline as well a reconsideration/reconfirmation of existing principles are needed.

2. Problem statement

The current guideline is not entirely up to date and should cover the latest scientific developments with regard to treatment targets; patient population and defining what kind of data are needed in children and adolescents.

3. Discussion (on the problem statement)

In the proposed update of the guidance document, the following issues will be discussed:

- Treatment targets e.g. Disease Modifying Treatments , symptomatic treatments
- Target population: clinically isolated syndrome, RRMS/ SPMS / PPMS
- Study designs for populations at risk e.g. patient at high risk of progression
- Clinical trial design depending on treatment target / population
- Need for (long term) efficacy studies
- Conditions where placebo controlled trials / comparative trials are needed
- Conditions were superiority or non-inferiority studies are needed
- Appropriate endpoints, including disability, relapse prevention, role of MRI variables, functional assessments, symptomatic improvement
- When and which long term safety data needed depending on the mechanism of action of an agent
- Place of combinations therapies , add-on study designs
- Amount of data needed in the paediatric / adolescent multiple sclerosis population
- Clinical development plan of products with new mechanism of action versus known mechanism of action

4. Recommendation

To ensure uniformity of clinical studies and to set standards, the CNS Working Party (CNSWP) recommends revising the guideline clinical investigation of medicinal products in the treatment of multiple sclerosis in general.

5. Proposed timetable

It is planned to publish a draft revised guideline no later than Q2 2012. The draft revised guideline will be available for 6-month consultation before its finalisation.

6. Resource requirements for preparation

The preparation of the revised guideline will involve the CNS-WP, PDCO, BSWP, SAWP and SAG-CNS (if relevant).

7. Impact assessment (anticipated)

It is expected that the revised "Guideline on the clinical investigation of medicinal products in the treatment of multiple sclerosis" provides guidance for pharmaceutical companies with respect to methodology, assessment tools, measurements, clinically relevant outcomes, etc. for clinical investigation in multiple sclerosis. Furthermore, the revised guidance should ensure uniformity and comparability of the performed clinical studies for the indication multiple sclerosis in the European Union.

8. Interested parties

European College of Neurologists.