



SME Office

NEWSLETTER

Information for SMEs on the EU regulatory environment for medicines.
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Scientific guidelines for human medicines

ICH guidelines

An ICH guideline M10 and related FAQ on the validation of bioanalytical methods and study sample analysis that are expected to support regulatory decisions ([EMA/CHMP/ICH/172948/2019](#); [EMA/CHMP/ICH/660315/2022](#)) will come into effect on 21 January 2023. It focuses on the validation of the bioanalytical methods generating quantitative concentration data used for pharmacokinetic and toxicokinetic parameter determinations. It supersedes the guideline on bioanalytical methods validation ([EMA/CHMP/EWP/192217/2009 Rev. 1 Corr. 2](#)).

An ICH guideline E19 on the use of selective safety data collection that may be applied in specific late-stage clinical trials, pre-approval or post-approval will come into effect on 16 March 2023 ([EMA/782210/2022](#)). It provides guidance on the use of selective safety data collection, which refers to the reduced collection of certain types of data in a clinical trial with a view to carry out clinical trials with greater efficiency by streamlining the approach to data collection.

An ICH guideline S1B (R1) on how to evaluate the carcinogenic potential of pharmaceuticals will enter into force on 16 March 2023 ([EMA/774371/2022](#)). It outlines weight of evidence approaches to the evaluation of carcinogenic potential that may obviate the need for the routine conduct of two long-term rodent carcinogenicity studies for those pharmaceuticals that need such evaluation. Weight of evidence approaches refer to the use of scientific judgment in the evaluation of the totality of the

data derived from one long-term carcinogenicity study along with other appropriate experimental investigations to enhance the assessment of carcinogenic risk to humans.

The following guidelines were also released for consultation:

- A draft ICH Guideline Q5A (R2) on viral safety evaluation of biotechnology products derived from cell lines of human or animal origin which outlines the data to be submitted in marketing authorisation applications ([EMA/CHMP/ICH/804363/2022](#)). Consultation is open until 10 February 2023.
- A draft ICH guideline M11 on clinical electronic structured harmonised protocol which sets out harmonised standards for the format and content of a clinical protocol to support consistency across sponsors and the electronic exchange of protocol information ([EMA/CHMP/ICH/778799/2022](#)). Consultation is open until 26 February 2023.

Good practices

A guideline on the responsibilities of a sponsor with regards to handling and shipping of investigational medicinal products for human use ([EMA/INS/GMP/258937/2022](#)) came into effect in June 2022. The guideline lays down principles for the management of investigational medicinal products for use in a clinical trial and in accordance with Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

The following guidance documents were also updated:

- Guidance for applicants/MAHs involved in GMP, GCP and GVP inspections coordinated by EMA ([Link](#))

- [Q&A](#) on GMP and GDP, to include information on requirements and checks at reception of veterinary medicinal products before being transferred to saleable stock.
- [Q&A](#) on GCP, including information on bioequivalence trials monitoring.

Other guidelines of interest

Annex 1 of Volume 4 EU Guidelines for Good Manufacturing Practice for Medicinal Products for Human and Veterinary Use on the manufacture of sterile medicinal products ([Link](#)) was revised to include new sections on Pharmaceutical Quality System (PQS), utilities, quality risk management (QRM) principles and contamination control strategy (CCS). In addition, it provides guidance for the use of new technologies to increase efficiency and reduce the risk of contamination or quality defects.

A revised guideline on the evaluation of medicinal products indicated for the treatment of bacterial infections ([CPMP/EWP/558/95 Rev 3](#)) came into effect on 1 December 2022. This guideline merges, revises and adds to the guidance previously included in the Guideline on the evaluation of medicinal products indicated for treatment of bacterial infections ([CPMP/EWP/558/95 Rev 2](#)) and its Addendum ([EMA/CHMP/351889/2013](#)). In addition, a document on Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints was also published ([Link](#)) which details specific concentrations of active substances expected to have an effect on a clinical infection produced by a given pathogen.

Data Analysis and Real-World Interrogation Network (DARWIN EU)

The Data Analysis and Real-World Interrogation Network (DARWIN EU®) is a federated network which gives the European medicines regulatory network, EMA and the European Commission, access to results from analysis of data from real-world healthcare databases across the EU with a view to support decision making throughout the lifecycle of a medicine. EMA has selected the first set of data partners to collaborate with DARWIN EU ([EMA/856996/2022](#)) which have access to real-world healthcare data from hospitals, primary care, health insurance, biobanks and disease-specific patient registries. EMA has also initiated the launch of the first three studies to be provided by DARWIN EU®. More information can be found in the dedicated press release ([Link](#)).

Clinical trials

On 31 January 2023, the clinical trial information system (CTIS) will become the single-entry point for sponsors and regulators of clinical trials for the submission and assessment of clinical trial data, following a one-year transition period after the launch of CTIS on 31 January 2022 ([link](#)). EMA is offering several training sessions that cover the various functionalities of CTIS, providing an opportunity for sponsors to receive practical advice and ask questions to CTIS experts in real-time. Please refer to the [Clinical Trials Information System: training and support webpage](#) for further information concerning CTIS training sessions as well as other relevant resources ([CTIS Highlights newsletters](#), [CTIS Sponsor Handbook](#), [CTIS training materials](#)).

Facilitating Decentralised Clinical Trials in the EU

Traditionally, clinical trials have been conducted at specific clinical trial sites, to which patients had to travel to. The aim of decentralised clinical trials (DCTs) is to make it easier for patients to participate in clinical trials by reducing the need to travel to central trial sites. The European Commission (EC), the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) and EMA have published [recommendations](#) that aim to facilitate the conduct of DCTs. This is an outcome of their joint initiative to Accelerate Clinical Trials in the European Union ([ACT EU](#)). More information can be found in the dedicated press release ([Link](#)).



Scientific advice pilots

Simultaneous national scientific advice

In November 2022, the EU Innovation Network launched the second phase of the simultaneous national scientific advice (SNSA) pilot. SNSA is intended for applicants seeking scientific advice from more than one national competent authority (NCA) at the same time. This pilot will focus on scientific advice to facilitate clinical trials in the EU and will run until the end of 2024. Guidance on the process ([EMA/896928/2022](#)) and on documentation requirements have been published ([EMA/896929/2022](#)) together with an application form ([link](#)) and a list of participating NCAs ([Link](#)). More information can be found [here](#) and in the EMA dedicated webpage on innovation ([Link](#)).

Medical device manufacturers

For certain high-risk devices, the Regulations on Medical Devices ([Regulation \(EU\) 2017/745](#)) and on In Vitro Diagnostic Devices ([Regulation \(EU\) 2017/746](#)) require notified bodies to consult expert panels before issuing a CE certificate. EMA will launch a pilot enabling the expert panels to provide scientific advice for manufacturers of high-risk medical devices. This type of scientific advice refers to intended clinical development strategies and clinical investigation proposals for class III and IIb high-risk medical devices meant to administer or remove medicinal products from the body. The pilot is expected in February 2023. EMA will provide further information on related criteria for selection, templates for submission and timelines closer to the launch. Please refer to the EMA dedicated webpage for more information ([Link](#)).

Regulatory guidance

Procedural guidance for the consultation of EMA by a notified body on companion diagnostics came into effect on 1 July 2022 ([EMA/198592/2022](#); [EMA/619893/2022](#)). This guidance refers to the initial consultation procedure to EMA by notified bodies on a companion diagnostic medical device and follow-up consultation in case of changes affecting the performance, the intended use or the suitability of the device in relation to the medicinal product concerned. Applicable forms to be used by notified bodies were also published ([Link](#)).

A guideline on the information to be included in the product information (SmPC, Labelling and Package Leaflet) for advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) containing genetically modified cells was published ([EMA/CAT/CHMP/158266/2021](#)).

Revised guidance on EMA development support and evaluation procedures for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines ([EMA/213341/2020 Rev.4](#)) was published on 3 August 2022. Revisions include updates stemming from the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2022/123 on a reinforced role for EMA in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices, the role of EMA Emergency Task Force (ETF) and updated contact details.

A revised guidance on parallel EMA/EUnetHTA 21 Joint Scientific Consultation ([EMA/410962/2017 Rev.6](#)) was published on 28 September 2022 to include modifications to meeting formats and working parties.

Guidance for applicants seeking EMA scientific advice and protocol assistance was extensively revised and published on 14 October 2022 ([EMA/798877/2022 Rev. 14](#)).

Revised [Q&A](#) and Annex to the European Commission guideline on 'Excipients in the labelling and package leaflet of medicinal products for human use' on boric acid and borates used as excipients in medicinal products for human use were released on 28 July 2022 ([EMA/CHMP/302620/2017 Rev. 2](#)).

The following documents were updated:

- Explanatory notes on general fees payable to EMA ([Link](#));
- Q&A for marketing authorisation holders / applicants on the CHMP Opinion for the Article 5(3) of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 referral on nitrosamine impurities in human medicinal products ([EMA/409815/2020 Rev.13](#));
- EU IDMP Implementation Guide (EU IG) for the submission of data on medicinal products on e.g. the implementation requirements of the ISO IDMP standards for the EU ([Link](#));
- Post-authorisation guidance ([EMEA-H-19984/03 Rev.100](#)) including guidance on e.g. Type II variation application and product information;
- Pre-authorisation guidance ([EMA/821278/2015](#)) on dossier preparation, GCP/GMP inspections and sharing of EMA assessments/inspections with 3rd parties;
- EudraVigilance registration documents ([EMA/503894/2018](#)) and EMA EudraVigilance Registration Manual ([EMA/13454/2020, Rev. 13](#));
- Guidance for applicants/MAHs involved in GMP, GCP and GVP inspections coordinated by EMA ([EMA/274221/2021](#));
- Q&A on GCP ([Link](#)) on e.g. monitoring of bioequivalence clinical trials, oversight of trial activities;
- Q&A on clinical pharmacology and pharmacokinetics ([Link](#)) on e.g. requirements for parenteral oily solutions;
- Procedure for the review of European Union herbal monographs and European Union list entries - Revision 3 ([EMA/HMPC/124695/2011 Rev. 3](#));

- Union guidance on record keeping and archiving of documents obtained or resulting from pharmacovigilance inspections ([EMA/INS/PhV/773932/2022 – Rev 01](#));
- IRIS guides on access to IRIS, inspections, scientific advice requests and parallel distribution applicants:
 - IRIS guide to registration and Research Products Identifiers (RPIs) ([Link](#))
 - IRIS guide for applicants - How to create and submit scientific applications, for industry and individual applicants ([Link](#))
 - IRIS guide for Parallel Distribution applicants ([Link](#))

New Quality Innovation Expert Group

EMA has set up in September 2022 an operational expert group, the Quality Innovation Expert Group (QIG), to support innovative approaches for the development, manufacture, and quality control of medicines. These include new technologies, digitalisation, novel materials and novel devices, in line with the priorities highlighted in EMA's Regulatory Science Strategy to 2025 ([Link](#)). The role of the QIG is to ensure that the European medicines regulatory network keeps pace with innovation, identifies and addresses gaps in the regulatory framework and increases predictability for developers of innovative technologies. More information can be found in a dedicated press release ([Link](#)) and [here](#).

Veterinary medicines

Scientific guidance

A draft guideline on the development and data requirements of potency tests for veterinary cell-based therapy products ([EMA/CVMP/NTWP/179287/2022](#)) was released for consultation until 28 February 2023. The document aims to provide guidance on the requirements for developing and implementing a suitable potency assay or a combination of assays, which is linked to relevant biological properties of a cell-based product and further to clinical efficacy.

A draft concept paper on a guideline on data requirements for post authorisation studies for antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products under Article 36(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 ([EMA/CVMP/AWP/201064/2022](#)) was released for public consultation until 31 January 2023. The document sets out when in an application concerning an antimicrobial medicinal product, the marketing authorisation holder may be required to conduct such studies in order to ensure that the benefit-risk balance remains positive.

A draft reflection paper on the application of Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 for certain categories of variations ([EMA/CVMP/64911/2021](#)) was released for consultation until 28 February 2023. It outlines potential criteria to support the demonstration of a reduction in the antimicrobial or antiparasitic resistance or an improvement of the benefit-risk balance.

A draft reflection paper on the environmental risk assessment of ectoparasitocidal veterinary medicinal products used in cats and dogs was released for public consultation until 31 March 2023 ([EMA/CVMP/ERA/31905/2021](#)). It provides CVMP views on the current state of scientific discussions on potential environmental impact of ectoparasitocidal products used in companion animals.



Regulatory and procedural guidance

The following revised guidance documents were published:

- Guidance on substances considered as not falling within the scope of Regulation (EC) No. 470/2009 with regard to residues of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin ([EMA/CVMP/519714/2009](#));
- Incident management plan for medicines for veterinary use that defines a strategy for the rapid and efficient handling of any events considered incidents relating to any veterinary medicinal products authorised in the European Union ([EMA/711053/2010-Rev.3](#));
- [Q&A](#) on Pre-authorisation guidance under the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/6) on e.g. eligibility to the centralised procedure, legal basis and requirements for duplicate applications;
- [Q&A](#) on the description of adverse events in the product information and a list of changes to combined VeDDRA list of clinical terms for reporting suspected adverse reactions in animal and humans to veterinary medicinal products for 2022 ([Link](#));
- Union procedure on the preparation, conduct and reporting of EU veterinary pharmacovigilance inspections ([EMA/INS/PhV/604648/2022](#)) and Union guidance on record keeping and archiving of documents obtained or resulting from pharmacovigilance inspections ([EMA/INS/PhV/773932/2022 – Rev 01](#)).

Events of interest

Upcoming events

EIC / EMA Info Day on Regulatory support for the development of innovative medicines and technologies – 31 January 2023

The Info Day will provide an overview of the range of support that innovators in the pharmaceutical sector can access at EMA to optimise their development programmes. It highlights platforms for early regulatory dialogue, the Priority Medicines (PRIME) scheme and Scientific Advice. The Info Day is targeted at EIC-funded beneficiaries in the pharmaceutical and med-tech sectors, and it is also open to beneficiaries of other EU programmes. Information about the Info Day, including the agenda, can be found in the event page ([Link](#)).

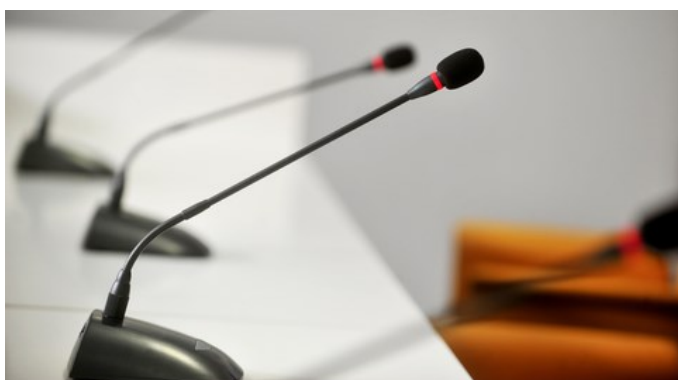
Regulatory and scientific virtual conference on RNA-based medicines – 2 February 2023

The conference aims to promote the development of RNA-based medicines by identifying scientific and regulatory opportunities and challenges of RNA-based innovative medicines, facilitating dialogue between industry/academia and regulators, raising awareness on scientific and regulatory aspects and identifying gaps in regulatory science. The conference focuses on emerging RNA technologies beyond vaccines and is open to all stakeholders. Information on this event, including the agenda and registration details, is available [here](#).

- Webinar on submissions of parallel distribution notifications for centrally authorised products (CAPs) (09/06/2022) ([Video recording and Presentations](#))
- First industry standing group (ISG) meeting (21/06/2022) ([Presentations](#))
- Eighth meeting of the industry stakeholder platform on the operation of the centralised procedure for human medicines (27/06/2022) ([Presentations](#))
- Industry stakeholder platform on research and development support (11/07/2022) ([Presentations](#))
- Meeting of the , Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative (CTTI)/FDA Patient Engagement Collaborative (PEC) and EMA Patients and Consumers Working Party (PCWP) (15/07/2022) ([Presentations](#))
- DADI PDF electronic application forms (eAF) training webinar (26/07/2022) ([Video recording and presentations](#))
- EMA regular press briefing on COVID-19 and monkeypox (02/09/2022) ([Video recording](#))
- IRIS for Good Pharmacovigilance practice (GVP) inspections training session for industry users (07/09/2022) ([Video recording and Presentations](#))
- Union Product Database: webinar on variations not requiring assessment (VNRAs) for marketing authorisation holders (08/09/2022) ([Video recording and presentations](#))
- Multi-stakeholder workshop: Patient experience data in medicines development and regulatory decision-making (21/09/2022) ([Video recording and Presentations](#))
- Second Industry Standing Group (ISG) meeting (26/09/2022) ([Presentations](#))
- ACT EU multi-stakeholder meeting on decentralised clinical trials (04/10/2022) ([Video recording and Presentations](#))
- Second European Medicines Agency and Affordable Medicines Europe bilateral meeting (16/11/2022) ([Meeting highlights](#))
- Second Veterinary Big Data stakeholder forum (23/11/2022) ([Presentations](#))
- First European Medicines Agency - Vaccines Europe meeting (28/11/2022) ([Meeting highlights](#))
- EMA/HMA Big Data Stakeholder Forum 2022 (01/12/2022) ([Presentations](#))

Other news of interest

- Best practices to fight antimicrobial resistance, ICMRA report ([Link](#))
- Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU (ACT EU) multi-annual work plan 2022-2026 ([Link](#))
- Big Data Steering Group workplan 2022-25 ([Link](#))
- Information on the raw data proof-of-concept pilot for industry ([EMA/174598/2022](#))



Past Events

- Multistakeholder workshop on EMA's extended mandate (01/04/2022) ([report](#))
- EMA webinar for fact checkers: Safety of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics (22/03/2022) ([Video recording](#))
- Digital application dataset integration (DADI) and Product Management Service (PMS) webinar - Variations form for human medicinal products - What will happen at go-live (16/05/2022) ([Video recording and Presentations](#))

Registered SMEs

Currently, 1329 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 [Applying for SME status](#) 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;
- setting up briefing meetings to discuss their regulatory strategy;
- organising info days 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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