

CHAPTER 3

DRUG DEVELOPMENT

1. PROCESS FROM DEVELOPMENT TO APPROVAL

The provisions of Article 14 of the “Law for Ensuring the Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Drugs and Medical Devices” (Law No. 145, 1960; hereinafter referred to as the Law) after revision according to the Law for Partial Amendment of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law (Law No. 84, 2013) stipulate that, when a person with an intention to manufacture and market a drug has filed an application for approval of the manufacture and marketing of the drug, designated reviews should be conducted for the drug to be applied regarding the components/contents, dosage and administration, and indications of, and adverse reactions, etc., and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare shall give an approval for each product. When an application for approval is filed, evidence sufficient for proving the quality, efficacy, and safety of the application-related drug need to be presented using the documents with ethical and scientific validity and reliability on the basis of the medical and pharmaceutical academic standards at that time point (PFSB Notification No. 1121-(2) dated November 21, 2014).

When an application for approval of a drug is filed, the data of the results of clinical trials and other data must be attached (Article 14, Paragraph 3 of the Law).

This section explains the outline of the matters related to the drug development including procedures for clinical trials, interview advice meetings and approval review

New drugs are defined as drugs with active ingredients, dosage, administration route, or

indications, which are clearly different from those of drugs, which have already been approved for manufacture and marketing.

1.1 Development of New Drugs

It is important to collect evidence sufficient for proving the quality, efficacy and safety during the course of drug development. Results to show quality, efficacy, and safety of new drugs must be obtained in nonclinical and clinical studies. The nonclinical studies include physicochemical studies and animal studies on pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and toxicity. The clinical studies usually consist of Phase I, II and III studies (or human pharmacology, therapeutic exploratory, therapeutic confirmatory, and therapeutic use categories). On starting each phase of clinical studies, it is necessary to adequately confirm the safety of the drug product from the results of nonclinical studies or of previous clinical studies.

The Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Act specifies that the data submitted to obtain approvals must be obtained and compiled according to the standards specified in its Article 14, Paragraph 3. Related ordinances include the Ordinance on Standards for Conduct of Clinical Trials (GCP) (MHW Ordinance No. 28 dated March 27, 1997, partially revised by MHLW Ordinance No. 9 dated January 22, 2016; the Ordinance on Standards for Conduct of Nonclinical Studies on the Safety of Drugs (GLP) (MHW Ordinance No. 21, March 26, 1997, partially revised by MHLW Ordinance No. 114 dated June 13, 2008) and Standards for the Reliability of Application Data (Article 43 in the Enforcement Regulations) which were enforced from April 1, 1997. Therefore, the acceptance of the data is conditioned on adherence to the standards. It is important that studies to obtain data for approval reviews should be performed by standard methods whenever possible in order to assure proper evaluations of drugs. Reviews on

compliance with these standards are performed by the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) at the request of the MHLW.

A flowchart from development to approval of new drugs is shown in **Fig. 8** Flowchart of New Drug Development and Approval.

1.2 Procedures for Clinical Trials

For clinical studies (trials) to be conducted for collection of data to be submitted in marketing approval application of a new drug, etc., the Law and the GCP specified sponsor's responsibility for submitting a notification of the clinical trial plan in advance and matters that a sponsor must comply with in requesting a medical institution to conduct a clinical trial.

Scope of GCP includes not only clinical trials in patients but also Phase I studies in healthy volunteers, bioequivalence studies in human, studies for additional indication of an approved drug and post-marketing clinical trials after marketing. Furthermore, its partial amendment 2003 specifies investigator-initiated clinical trials as well.

According to the new GCP, when a clinical study is requested, a contract for clinical trials can be concluded only when 30 days have passed from the initial notification of the study protocol is received by the PMDA (at least 2 weeks for subsequent notifications, as a rule). The sponsor must report to the authorities any severe adverse reactions or infections that occur during the study, and the authorities may undertake on-site inspections concerning GCP compliance in the sponsor's facilities and the medical institution performing the study when problems arise during the study. For drugs required in emergencies to prevent diseases that have a major effect on the life or health of the patient or to prevent other damage to the health, clinical study protocols may be submitted within 30 days after the start of the study (Notifications No. 0531-(8) of the Evaluation and

Licensing Division of PFSB dated May 15, 2003).

At the time of the clinical trial protocol notification, a system by which the PMDA reviews the contents of the initial notification at the request of the MHLW is now specified by law, and a "clinical trial consultation system" in which the PMDA gives guidance and advice concerning study protocols has also been established (refer to Section 1.4: Interview Advice Meetings).

It is necessary to submit clinical trial (protocol) notifications in the following instances:

- (1) Drugs with new active ingredients
- (2) Drugs with new administration routes (excluding bioequivalence studies)
- (3) New combination drugs, drugs with new indications or new dosage and administration (excluding bioequivalence studies)
- (4) Drugs containing the same active ingredients with the drugs with new active ingredients, for which the reexamination period has not been completed yet (excluding bioequivalence studies)
- (5) Drugs considered to be biological products [excluding (1) to (4)] (excluding bioequivalence studies)
- (6) Drugs manufactured using gene recombinant technology [excluding (1) to (5)] (excluding bioequivalence studies)

The types of clinical trial protocol notifications and documents to be submitted are shown below.

- (1) Clinical trial protocol notifications (when notifications are first made for drugs with new active ingredients or new routes of administration and new combination drugs, they must be submitted at least 31 days before the planned start date of the trial stated in the contract with the medical institution performing the clinical study. Otherwise, they must be submitted at least 2 weeks before the planned date of the trial.)
 - a. Document that gives the reason why the request for the clinical study was judged to be

scientifically appropriate (from the 2nd notification, it should include a description of the results of new clinical studies since the previous notification and a summary of information)

- b. Clinical study protocol
- c. Explanatory materials and consent form used for obtaining informed consent
- d. Sample of the case report form (CRF) (The sample is not required if information to be contained in the CRF is explicitly stated in protocol.)
- e. Latest investigator's brochure

In response to issuance of the guideline of the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH), "Assessment and Control Of DNA Reactive (mutagenic) Impurities in Pharmaceuticals to Limit Potential Carcinogenic Risk (ICH-M7)," the protocol notifications submitted on January 15, 2016 or later have to include "Document on assessment and control of DNA reactive (mutagenic) impurities" as an attachment in addition to those of the above a. to e. (Notification No. 1110-(3) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB dated November 10, 2015, partially modified with Notification No. 0627-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division dated June 27, 2018).

When a protocol notification of a protein drug manufactured from established cell line is submitted for the first time, reference documents on the quality of the investigational product covering the following information have to be attached separately (Office Communication dated December 14, 2015).

- Manufacturing flow chart of the investigational product
- Whether the cell line is contaminated with infectious agents or not
- Whether conditioned culture medium before purification is contaminated with pathogens such as bacteria, mycoplasma and aberrant virus or not

- Conformity to the Standard for Biological Ingredients if a human or animal-derived raw material is used
- Virus safety of the investigational product if animal cells or biological raw material is used in its manufacture
- Removal states of impurities and transient specifications for safety-related test parameters under specification tests of the drug substance and drug product

Concerning the protocol notifications to be submitted on October 1, 2019 or later, attachment of the final reports of the nonclinical safety studies (toxicity study and safety pharmacology study) used as the rationale for creation of the investigators' brochure has become necessary for the protocols for the clinical trials using a drug that is administered to humans for the first time (Office Director's Notifications No. 0620003 and No. 0620004 of PMDA dated June 20, 2019).(2) Notification of changes in clinical study protocols (submitted as a rule for each clinical trial protocol notification before changes in notification items) Data related to the changes as required:

- (3) Clinical study discontinuation notification (This notification must be submitted for each clinical trial protocol notification without delay when a clinical study is discontinued.) Data related to the reason for discontinuation as required (including information on study subjects collected until discontinuation):
- (4) Clinical study completion notification (This notification must be submitted for each clinical trial protocol notification without delay when a notification of completion of the clinical study is received from all medical institutions and recovery of the investigational product is completed.)
- (5) Development discontinuation notification (to be submitted, when development for the drug is discontinued as a whole in Japan.)

From April 1, 2011, attachments to the clinical trial notification (including protocol revision notification, clinical trial completion notification, clinical trial discontinuation notification and development discontinuation notification) are required to be submitted in electronic format as well as in paper format (Notification No. 0531-(8) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 31, 2013).

In view of an increase of international multi-center clinical trials, the sponsor of a clinical trial is required to include information concerning international clinical trials in the clinical trial notification submitted on or after April 1, 2008 (Notification No. 0321001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 21, 2008). Additionally, in view of a trend of development of drugs with associated companion diagnostics relating to the individualized medicine, a sponsor is required to include whether a companion diagnostics is being developed for the drug with its development status, if any, in the remarks in a clinical trial notification of a drug to be submitted since February 1, 2014 (Notification No. 0701-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 1, 2013).

When the plan of a trial of a product deemed as a combination product at the time of marketing is submitted, a phrase, "trial of a combination product," shall be stated on the space for remarks, and a plan of a clinical trial shall be submitted either as a drug, device, processed cells, etc. (Notification No. 1024-(2) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB, Notification No. 1024-(1) of the Medical Devices Division, PFSB, Notification No. 1024-(9) of the Safety Division, PFSB, and Notification No. 1024-(15) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFSB all dated October 24, 2014, revised by Notification No. 1122-(4) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB, Notification of No. 1122-(10) of the Medical Device Evaluation Division, PSEHB, Notification No. 1122-(7) of the Safety Division,

PSEHB, and Notification No. 1122-(4) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division of PSEHB dated November 22, 2016).

1.3 Safety information on Adverse Reactions and Infections during the Study

Safety information obtained during the study must be reported promptly, as is specified in "Clinical Safety Data Management" (Notification No. 227 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated March 20, 1995; ICH-E2A).

In the revision of the Enforcement Regulations of the Law in April 1997 for which the ICH guidelines served as a reference, the obligation to report adverse reactions, etc. related to the investigational product, including those occurring in foreign countries, to the Minister was specified by law. These provisions are outlined below.

- A: 7-Day reports** (When either of the following events is suspected to be caused by an adverse reaction of the investigational product concerned or by an infection suspected of being caused by the investigational product concerned, and the event is not expected from the description in the investigator's brochure of the investigational product concerned: the report must be made within 7 days.)
 - a) Death
 - b) Cases that might result in death
- B: 15-Day reports** (For the following events: the report must be made within 15 days.)
 - a) Any of the following events suspected to be caused by an adverse reaction of the investigational product concerned or by an infection suspected of being caused by the investigational product concerned, which is not expected from the description in the investigator's brochure of the investigational product concerned.

- Any case that requires hospitalization for treatment or prolongs the duration of hospitalization.
 - Disability
 - Cases that might result in disability
 - Other medically serious condition
 - Congenital diseases or abnormalities in the next generation
- b) Predicted deaths or events that might result in death.
- c) Measures related to safety problems of the investigational product concerned, including discontinuation of manufacture and/or marketing in a foreign country.
- d) Research reports showing the possibility of causing cancer or other serious diseases due to adverse reactions, etc. of the investigational product concerned.

The Enforcement Regulation of the Law, which was modified in February 2008 require the sponsor to report to the MHLW cases of serious ADRs, etc. expected according to the IB periodically at 6-month intervals. Later, this reporting period was changed to 1-year intervals by further revising the Enforcement Regulations (Ministerial Ordinance No. 161 entitled “Ordinance for Partially Modifying the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law Enforcement Regulations, etc.” dated December 28, 2012) to harmonize the period with relevant ICH guidelines.

Basic standards for periodically reporting safety information during the development phase, common to all drugs, etc., are available in “Development Safety Update Report (DSUR)” (Notification No. 1228-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB dated December 28, 2012: ICH E2F)

Any manufacturer or marketing authorization holder who has submitted plan of a trial of a product deemed as a combination product at a market shall be obligated to report any malfunction of a part of device or equipment in the combination product as specified for malfunction reports of medical devices

(Notification No. 1024-(2) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB, Notification No. 1024-(1) of the Medical Devices Division, PFSSB, Notification No. 1024-(9) of the Safety Division, PFSSB, and Notification No. 1024-(15) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFSSB all dated October 24, 2014, revised by Notification No. 1122-(4) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB, Notification of No. 1122-(10) of the Medical Device Evaluation Division, PSEHB, Notification No. 1122-(7) of the Safety Division, PSEHB, and Notification No. 1122-(4) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division of PSEHB dated November 22, 2016).

1.4 Interview advice meetings

The PMDA has established a consultation system for clinical study protocols to improve and reinforce the quality of clinical studies. The consultations and review work have been united under the same teams in the Review Department. With the increasing demand for clinical trial consultations, improvements have been made in the quality of consultations with respect to preparation for consultations, implementation of consultations, preparation of records, etc. as measures to meet the demands for those requesting consultations (Notification No. 0302070 of the PMDA dated March 2, 2012, partially revised on July 1, 2019). Main items of the interview advice meeting handled by the PMDA are as described below. Details of the consultation items, the latest information on consultation fees, and application procedures for interview advice meeting are available at the following homepages of the PMDA. <http://www.pmda.go.jp/review-services/f2f-pre/consultations/0007.html>

Preparatory consultation is also available to assure smooth interview advice.

(1) Clinical trial consultation

- Consultations on procedures
- Consultations before start of expanded trials

of drugs

- Consultations on bioequivalence studies
- Consultations on safety
- Consultations on quality
- Consultations before start of Phase I studies
- Consultations before start of early Phase II studies
- Consultations before start of late Phase II studies
- Consultations after completion of Phase II studies
- Consultations before license application
- Consultations on plans of post-marketing clinical studies of drugs, etc.
- Consultation at completion of post-marketing clinical studies of drugs, etc.
- Additional consultations on drugs
- Consultations on plans to use drug registry

(2) Consultations on preliminary assessment of new drugs

Assessment of data in preparation for license application (preliminary assessment of data concerning the following areas planned to be submitted for application in order to identify potential issues to be addressed during review):

- Quality
- Nonclinical: Toxicology
- Nonclinical: Pharmacology
- Nonclinical: Pharmacokinetics
- Phase I studies
- Phase II studies
- Phase II/III studies

(3) Consultations on eligibility for priority review and conditional accelerated approval for new drugs

In consultations on eligibility for priority review, eligibility for priority review is evaluated and a report is prepared for new drugs other than the drugs covered by the SAKIGAKE designation system or orphan drugs for which the applicant desires priority review before application for approval. In consultations on eligibility for conditional

accelerated approval, eligibility for conditional accelerated approval is evaluated and a report is prepared for new drugs for which the applicant desires conditional accelerated approval before application for approval.

Procedures for handling priority review are available in Notification No. 0122-(12) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB and Notification No. 0122-(2) of the Medical Device Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated January 22, 2016.

The consultation fee is different between the case of only priority assessment consultation and that in conjunction with the consultation before license application.

- Consultations on the applicability of priority review status
- Consultations on the applicability of priority review status (consultation in conjunction with that before license application)
- Consultations on the applicability of conditional accelerated approval status
- Consultations on the applicability of conditional accelerated approval status (consultation in conjunction with that before license application)

(4) Consultations on the applicability as pharmacogenomics markers or biomarkers

- Assessment of applicability
- Assessment of major aspects of clinical trial design
- Additional consultation (on the applicability)
- Additional consultation (on major aspects of clinical trial design)

(5) Consultations on epidemiological surveys

- Consultations on the procedure of epidemiological surveys of drugs
- Consultations on the plan of epidemiological surveys of drugs
- Additional consultation on epidemiological surveys of drugs

(6) Consultations for preliminary confirmation of the revision of package inserts and

consultations on the revision of package inserts

- (7) Consultations on the use of drug registries**
(8) Consultations on surveys of reliability of drug registries

- (9) Consultations on generic drugs**
- Consultations on bioequivalence of generic drugs
 - Consultations on quality of generic drugs

(10) Consultations on generic drugs before start of clinical studies or license application

- Switch OTC drugs
- Major aspects of clinical trial design
- Rationale for clinical development as a new generic drug

(11) Consultations on GCP/GLP/GPSP of a drug

(12) Simple consultations

Brief consultations with reviewers in charge of the approval review of generic prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, etc. as well as the registration of drug master files

- Generic drugs
- Non-prescription drugs
- Quasi drugs
- Drugs for controlling harmful insects and animals
- New drugs
- GCP/GLP/GPSP inspection of a drug
- GMP/QMS inspection
- GCTP inspection
- Simple consultation for preliminary confirmation of drug change notification
- Simple consultation for preliminary confirmation of generic drug change notification

(13) Post-interview consultations on drugs

These are additional consultations for matters for which both of PMDA and the consulter agreed to be addressed later in an interview advice meeting. Matters such as data evaluation should

not be addressed in a post-interview consultation, because those should have been addressed already in the previous interview advice meeting. A post-interview consultation may be recorded at an extra charge, if required by the consulter.

(14) Preparatory consultation or meeting

Preparatory consultations or meetings prior to formal consultation to sort out consultation items and assure smooth interview advice. In the preparatory consultation, data are not evaluated and official meeting records are not issued.

(15) Consultations on compliance review with reliability standards

Based on data planned to be submitted together with the application form, guidance and advice are provided to the applicant concerning GCP and GLP compliance of drugs that have undergone “the evaluation of drug products for the designation of priority interview advice” and of new drugs that have undergone “a preparatory consultation or meeting”.

(16) Consultations on compliance review for drug reexamination

Guidance and advice are provided to the applicant concerning compliance of the following documents with the reliability standards: applicable documents are planned to be attached in the application for drug reexamination and are related to the previously completed post-marketing clinical study, drug use-results survey or special drug use-results survey.

(17) Consultations on compliance review for data used as the rationale for revision of package inserts of drugs

Guidance and advice are provided to the applicant concerning reliability of the documents regarding clinical trials used as the rationale for revision of package inserts of drugs according to the reliability standards.

(18) Regulatory science general consultations / Regulatory science strategy consultations (former consultations on regulatory strategies)

Consultations to discuss plans for necessary clinical trial or development mainly with universities, research institutes, and venture companies who have found seeds throughout the R&D period from the final stage of lead compound or candidate medical device selection mainly until the early phase of clinical development [Phase IIa]). Preparatory consultations and main consultations are held as "regulatory science strategy consultations," and individual consultations are held as "regulatory science general consultations." In addition, guidance and advice for quality and safety may be provided from an early development phase for regenerative medicine products or preventive products to be used for expressing transgenes in the human body (other than regenerative medicine products; e.g., recombinant live vaccine). The verification application system for products for gene therapy has been abolished.

(19) Consultations on SAKIGAKE comprehensive assessment

Consultations on drugs covered by the SAKIGAKE Designation System (prior data assessment of planned application documents on the following fields to organize issues and tasks to be addressed before the review)

- Quality data
- Non-clinical data
- Clinical data
- Reliability
- GMP/GCTP/QMS

(20) Consultations on electronic data submission for application

Consultations to investigate the details for specific products before application and to ensure smooth preparation of approval application and subsequent review with respect to the matters associated with submission of electronic data for application for approval of new drugs (including biosimilar products) for which attachment of electronic data to the approval application is anticipated. They can be classified into the

following categories.

- Consultations for confirming submission of electronic data for pharmaceutical application
- Consultations on the procedure of submission of electronic data for pharmaceutical application
- Consultations for exemption of submission of electronic data for pharmaceutical application

(21) Preparatory consultation on minor change notification of drugs

Consultation on issues that generally require prior data assessment for appropriateness of items to be included in a minor change notification

(22) Consultations for preliminary confirmation of changes and management of generic drugs

Consultations to give guidance and advice on appropriateness of the policies for preliminary evaluation of changes and sufficiency, etc. of the materials related to management of prior changes and completion of approval documents concerning generic drugs except for biological products for which application for approval of partial changes will be submitted in the future

(23) Consultation on the system for changing approved matters using PACMP for drugs

Consultation will be held when an applicant desires to use the system for changing approved matters using the Post-Approval Change Management Protocol (PACMP) based on the notification entitled "Handling, etc. of Changes in Approved Matters Related to Drug Quality," (Notification No. 0309-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division and Notification No. 0309-(1) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PSEHB dated March 9,2018).

- Pharmaceutical PACMP quality consultation
- Generic drug PACMP quality consultation
- PACMP GMP consultation

(24) Consultations related to Cartagena Protocol (Interview advice/preparatory consultation)

Consultations confined to the matters for which application, etc. is anticipated and for which the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare serves as the competent minister.

- Consultations before preliminary reviews of the application for approval of Type 1 Use regulations
 - Consultations before preliminary reviews of the application for verification of containment measures in Type 2 Use, etc.
 - Consultations related to Cartagene Protocol
- Preparatory consultations are conducted to organize consultation items in advance to smoothly conduct interview advice. The records will be prepared for a fee if requested by the applicant.

1.5 Approval review

The documents to be attached at the time of application are designated for each application category (PFSB Notification No. 1121-(2) entitled "Approval Applications for Drugs" dated November 21, 2014). See the "Points to Consider for Approval Application Data for New Drugs" (Notification No. 1121-(12) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division of PFSB dated November 21, 2014), etc. for the matters to be kept in mind in preparation of the documents. Related notifications are available on the PMDA homepages.

Japanese HP: <http://www.pmda.go.jp/review-services/drug-reviews/about-reviews/otc/0001.html>

The recommended standard format for the quality and clinical safety information on CTD is presented by PMDA (Office Communication entitled "Format for Preparing the Common Technical Document for Submission of New Drug Applications to Reduce Total Review Time" dated January 17, 2011).

PMDA is mainly in charge of the activities related to an approval review of a new drug. Once the application form is received by PMDA, a detailed team review is performed by the review staff.

Moreover, compliance review (certification from source data) and GCP on-site inspection are conducted to confirm the reliability of application data (Refer to Section 4.2: Marketing Approval Reviews of Chapter 2). As the points to consider in the review of new drugs, the document entitled "Points to Be Considered by the Review Staff Involved in the Evaluation Process of New Drug" has been issued and accessible at the following PMDA homepages:

Japanese HP:

<http://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000157674.pdf>

English HP:

<http://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000153830.pdf>

After the review by PMDA is completed, the application is then discussed (reported) by the Committees and Department on Drugs of the PAFSC on the basis on the most recent and advanced scientific knowledge and the final decision concerning approval is made by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

The current fee for approval of medicines, etc. is available at the following PMDA homepage:

<http://www.pmda.go.jp/review-services/drug-reviews/user-fees/0001.html>

The timeline after application for approval of a new drug is shown in the notice "Timeline for Completing the New Drug Application Review under the Standard Process" (Office Communication dated January 30, 2015) (See **Fig. 9** Timeline of the standard process of new drug approval (ordinary review products) and **Fig. 10** Timeline of the standard process of new drug approval (priority review products)).

The PMDA review period for new drugs is expected to be shortened through the efforts of both the regulatory authorities and the applicants, and the points to consider in the application from the standpoint of shortening the period on the applicant side are specified in the Office Communication entitled "Points to consider in shortening of the PMDA review period for new drugs" dated June 9,

2010. The main points are as follows.

- **Handling of data from long-term clinical studies**

Data obtained on completion of administration to all patients for at least 6 months should be appended as application data. The final report (including data on completion of administration to all patients for at least one year) and the revised draft of the CTD should be submitted at the earliest possible time as additional data. At the latest, it should be submitted by 6 months before the end of the targeted total PMDA review period.

- **Handling of data from long-term stability studies**

Additional data should be submitted as a final report (including data required for setting the planned expiration period) at the latest by 6 months before the end of the total targeted PMDA review period. Additional data obtained thereafter should be submitted by the time of data submission to the Committee of Experts.

- **Points to consider when using a drug master file (MF)**

Points to consider for adequate contact with the person registering the MF, verification of the MF registration conditions, and submission of information of registered MF corresponding to Module No. 2 of the CTD without delay after filing an approval application for the product.

- **Application for GMP compliance inspection**

Application for inspections of the facilities concerned and preparation for receiving inspectors at sites when the applicant judges based on contract, etc. from the department in charge of the inspection that the inspections are likely to take place.

For the purpose of improving predictability of approvals, "Handling of approval application for increased predictability of approval of new drugs and concept on total review period" (Notification No.

1006-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB and Notification No. 1006-(1) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFSB both dated October 6, 2014) requires that PMDA holds a preparatory meeting with a potential applicant. The procedure is described in "Implementation Guidelines for Preparatory Consultations Expecting New Drug Approval Review" (Notification No. 1006001 of the PMDA dated October 6, 2014).

1.6 Compliance review

Following revision of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in June 1996, the PMDA started reviews of compliance with quality standards, GLP, and GCP by verification and comparisons with raw data to determine if the attached data used in approval reviews of new drugs has been compiled correctly based on study results. Compliance reviews are applied after approval applications are filed. They consist of both paper reviews and on-site reviews. Paper review had been conducted as directed in the "Application Procedures for Paper Review of the Conformity of New Drug Application with Relevant Regulations" (Notification No. 0528027 of the PMDA dated May 28, 2010) and on-site inspection as directed in the "Application Procedures for On-site GCP Inspection for Drug Application" (Notification No. 0528028 of the PMDA dated May 28, 2010). These notifications were integrated into the "Application Procedures for Paper Review-Conformity Inspection and On-site GCP Inspection for Drug Application" (Notification No. 1012063 of the PMDA dated October 12, 2012) and paper review and on-site inspection have been regulated to be conducted simultaneously, as a rule. Subsequently, in association with the start of submission of electronic data from October 1, 2016 on the basis of the "Notification on Practical Operations of Electronic Study Data Submissions" (Notification No. 0427-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division of PFSB dated April 27, 2015),

"Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency: Procedures for Implementation of Document-based Assessment and GCP On-site Inspection for Drug Application" (PMDA Notification No. 0511005 dated May 11, 2016) was revised.

- **Paper reviews**

Paper reviews are performed based on "the Guidelines for Paper Compliance Review for New Drug Approval Application Data" (Notification No. 0131010 dated January 31, 2006 and revision No. 1121-(5) dated November 21, 2014 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB) when the applicant provides the PMDA with data as evidence for approval reviews. The review is basically performed by reviewing approval application data brought into the PMDA ("document-based inspection"); however, the Agency's personnel may visit sites (including those outside Japan) where application data as well as source data are archived, as needed, to inspect such data ("on-site inspection").

When case report forms are prepared by using Electronic Data Capture (EDC) system, EDC management sheets are required to be prepared and submitted in advance of application as directed in "Compliance Inspection Procedures for Clinical Trials, Post Marketing Clinical Trials, and Use Results Survey by Using EDC System" (Office Director's Notification No. 0327001 of PMDA dated March 27, 2013).

- **On-site reviews**

In these reviews, the PMDA review staff examines the data at the sites where it was collected or compiled. The guideline for on-site GCP compliance reviews is available as the "Inspection Procedures for the On-site Verification of GCP Compliance for Drug Application" (Notification No. 0131006 of the

Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB dated January 31, 2006, revised by Notification No. 1121-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB dated November 21, 2014).

The reviews are generally performed in the applicant's offices and facilities and medical institutions performing the clinical study (approximately four facilities as a rule for ordinary review products; approximately two facilities for priority review products). In selection of review facilities, consideration should be given to the number of subjects in clinical trials and dates of GCP reviews performed in the past.

Checklists and management sheets for paper reviews and on-site reviews are available at the following PMDA homepage as a reference for self-inspections. On March 1, 2017, the "GCP Management Sheet" to be used by companies for document-based inspection and GCP on-site inspection was officially published by PMDA. The companies that wish to use it should submit it to PMDA as the document to be used immediately before the inspection.

<http://www.pmda.go.jp/review-services/inspections/gcp/0002.html#r=s&r=s>

1.7 GMP compliance inspection

Formal approvals are required for individual formulations of drugs in order to market the drugs in Japan. Formal approval must be obtained prior to market launch from the Minister of the MHLW (prefectural governor for non-prescription drugs for which approval standards are established) by submitting data and documents for required review on product quality, efficacy, and safety.

Marketing approvals require a review to determine whether or not the product in the

application is suitable as a drug to be marketed by a person who has obtained a marketing business license (marketing authorization holder) for the type of drug concerned and confirmation that the product has been manufactured in a plant compliant with GMP. Thus, GMP compliance is a requirement for manufacturing and marketing approval of drugs, etc. (Article 14-2, Paragraph 4 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law).

When a manufacturing plant does not conform to GMP standards, the MHLW minister or prefectural governor may not grant a license.

1.7.1 GMP Compliance

When an application is submitted for a new drug manufacturing and marketing approval, the plant will be evaluated by the authorities to determine if it actually complies with the GMP standards. ("Establishment/abolishment of the Ministerial Ordinances and Notices on Good Manufacturing Practice and Quality Management System (GMP/QMS) of drugs and medical devices, etc. in association with enforcement of the Law for partial amendment of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law and the Blood Collection and Donation Service Control Law" Notification No. 0330001 of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFSB dated March 30, 2005.)

First, evaluation is conducted for each product using the following criteria for GMP compliance as to each article in the control regulations and building and facility regulations.

Evaluation rank criteria

- A (Compliance): Manufacturing is performed properly.
- B (Slightly defective): There is little effect on drug quality but improvement necessary for complete compliance with control regulations.
- C (Moderately defective): Effect on drug quality cannot be ruled out and

improvement necessary for compliance with control regulations.

D (Seriously defective): Clear violation of control regulations

Next, evaluation is conducted for each product using the following criteria on the basis of the results of the review of GMP compliance for each article in the control regulations and building and facility regulations:

- Compliance: Cases of A only.
- General compliance: Cases of A and B or B only.
- Improvement required: The number of cases of C evaluated for half or less of all items and no D.
- Non-compliance: Cases not corresponding to any of the above.

When GMP compliance by product is determined as "General compliance" or "Improvement required," an order for improvement(s) for the item(s) rated as B is issued in writing.

In such cases, the applicant must submit a concrete plan of improvements. When improvements are completed, a report on the improvement must be submitted. When the improvements have been confirmed, the rating of the corresponding item is changed to "Compliance."

The results of evaluations or assessments at each of the above stages are compiled, and a report of the GMP compliance review is prepared for the plant in the application concerned. When the initial GMP compliance review results of a product correspond to "General compliance" or "Improvement required," the subsequent course is entered in the GMP compliance review report.

1.7.2 Global Harmonization of GMP

Japan has concluded mutual agreements for GMP (MOU) approvals with countries with equivalent levels of GMP. These agreements are

meant to assure the quality of drugs imported into Japan through mutual acceptance of GMP inspection results and exchange of information on drugs marketed in the two countries. These mutual agreements have been concluded with Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Australia. Mutual recognition agreement of drug GMP (MRAs) with the EU countries was firstly concluded in May 2003, and in April 2016, Japan-Europe MRA became applicable to all the 28 EU countries (Notification No. 0426-(3) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division of PSEHB dated April 26, 2016). In July 2018, the scope of the drugs to be subjected to mutual approval was expanded to newly include drug substances and aseptic preparations for chemical pharmaceuticals, and to newly include drug substances and aseptic products (such as vaccines), other than the products for which equivalence of GMP to be applied has not been confirmed, for biological pharmaceuticals (Notification No. 0718-(1) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division of PSEHB dated July 18, 2018).

Positive utilization of the internationally recognized GMP rules contained in Pharmaceutical Inspection Cooperation Scheme was recommended to secure closer international standardization and conformity in GMP inspections. MHLW, PMDA, and prefectural governments bid membership to the office of PIC/S in March 2012 and became a member on July 1, 2014. ("Concepts of Utilization of GMP Guidelines of PIC/S," Office Communication dated February 1, 2012, partially revised on August 9, 2017).

The enforcement notification of the GMP (Notification No. 0330001 of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFSB dated March 30, 2005) was amended in August 2013 in order to align with the GMP guideline in PIC/S (Notification No. 0830-(1) of the Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFSB dated August 30, 2013).

1.7.3 Regulations for Imported Drug

Management and Quality Control

Since it is very important to assure the quality of imported drugs in the same way as drugs manufactured in Japan, items related to regulations for manufacturing control and quality control, when importers and marketing authorization holders import drugs, were specified in the Import Control and Quality Control of Drugs and Quasi-drugs (MHW Ordinance No.62, June 2, 1999), but since the import business license has been including in the manufacturing/marketing business license, this was abolished on March 31, 2005. Major regulations including the matters to be agreed upon with the manufacturer in foreign country by the importer, the fact that the importer must confirm that the drug to be imported is manufactured under appropriate manufacturing control and quality control, and that the reception and shipping, storage and testing of the products must be conducted in accordance with standards, etc. are taken over in "Ministerial Ordinance on Standards for Manufacturing Control and Quality Control for Drugs and Quasi-drugs" (MHLW Ordinance No. 179 dated December 24, 2004).

In addition, when a mutual agreement for GMP approvals has been concluded between the exporting country and Japan, part of the quality control work may be omitted if the following two conditions are met: that it is confirmed by the government organization in the exporting country that the plant where the imported drug was manufactured complies with the GMP in the country; and that the records of tests performed by the manufacturer of the drug are provided to the importer in Japan.

From April 1, 2005, a manufacturer/marketing authorization holder or manufacturer had to submit an import certificate before custom clearance when importing drugs as business, but this regulation was abolished in December 2015. No import certificate is currently required. Instead, from January 2016,

the custom clearance procedure requires presentation of business license and marketing approval certificate of a product to be imported.

2. DATA REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL APPLICATIONS

The data to be attached to approval applications for drugs is specified in the basic notification entitled “Approval Applications for Drugs” (Notification No. 481 of PMSB dated April 8, 1999 and partial revision: Notification No. 0525003 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 25, 2004). Detailed handling procedures are specified in “Points to Consider in Drug Approval Applications” (Notification No. 666 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated April 8, 1999). In addition, in association with enforcement of the revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in April 2005, revised handling procedures of documents to be attached to manufacturing/marketing approval application for drugs were specified in “Approval Applications for Drugs” (Notification No. 0331015 of PFSB dated March 31, 2005; Notification No. 1020001 of PFSB dated October 20, 2008 for partial amendment on non-prescription drugs; Notification No. 0304004 of PFSB dated March 4, 2009 for partial amendment on biosimilar products; Notification No. 0701-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 1, 2013 for partial amendment on companion diagnostics and associated drugs; and PFSB Notification No. 0612-(6) dated June 12, 2014 for partial amendment on guidance-mandatory drugs) with abolishment of Notification No. 481 of PFSB, as well as the handling procedures were detailed in “Points to Consider in Approval Application of Drugs” (Notification No. 0331009 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 31, 2005 ; Notification No. 1020002 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated October 20, 2008 for partial amendment on non-prescription drugs;

Notification No. 0304015 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 4, 2009 for partial amendment on biosimilar products ; Notification No.0701-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 1, 2013 for partial amendment for companion diagnostics and associated drugs; and Notification No. 0612-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 12, 2014 for partial amendment on guidance-mandatory drugs).

Later, with the enactment of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Law, “Approval Application for Drugs” (Notification No. 1121-(2) of the PFSB) and “Points to Consider in Approval Application of Drugs” (Notification No. 1121-(12) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB) were issued. The new notifications were based on the information contained in the old notifications, with some changes such as the addition of information in attached data, etc. as data to be attached to approval applications.

Subsequently, an agreement was reached on the Common Technical Document (CTD) by the ICH (International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use) and a notification entitled “Handling Data Attached to Drug Approval Applications” (Notification No. 663 of the PMSB dated June 21, 2001), which is a partial revision of the previous notification mentioned above. On the same day, another notification entitled “the Guidelines for Preparation of Data Attached to Applications for Approval to Manufacture or Import New Drugs” (Notification No. 899 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB, dated June 21, 2001, partially revised by Notification No. 0705-(4) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division of PSEHB dated July 5, 2017) was issued to specify guidelines for preparation of data to be attached to approval applications based on the CTD. The data required for approval applications using CTD format is shown below. The data in Modules 2 to

5 are prepared on the basis of the CTD guidelines shown in Attachments 1 and 3 to 5 of these guidelines. In the notification of partial revision dated February 2, 2017, the procedure to describe "Benefits and Risks Conclusions" was completely reconsidered.

For electronic specifications of the CTD (eCTD), "Electronic Specifications of the Common Technical Document" (Notification No. 0604001 of the PFSB dated June 4, 2003, partially revised by Notification No. 0707-(3) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 7, 2009). Version 3.2.2 was enforced from October 1, 2009. Handling of submissions of electronic data is shown in the Handling of Electronic Specifications for Common Technical Documents (Notification No. 0527004 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 27, 2004, partially revised by Notification No. 0824-(3) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated August 24, 2016).

On July 5, 2017, "Approval Applications using Electronic Common Technical Documents (eCTD)" (Notification No. 0705-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division of PSEHB) and Q&As (Office Communications) was issued and mentioned the partial revisions on preparation of eCTD according to eCTD Version 4.0 ICH agreement. The date of application of this partial revisions will be separately notified.

It was decided that, with the start of submission of electronic clinical study data from October 1, 2016, data attached to approval applications will, as a general rule, be in eCTD format. (The period until March 31, 2020 will be the transitional measure period.)

As the PMDA was required to progress further in the "Japan Revitalization Strategy" (Cabinet Decision dated June 14, 2013) and to utilize clinical data for review by itself in the "Health and Medicine Strategy" (Related Ministers' Consensus dated June 14, 2013), the notification entitled "Basic concept of electronic data submission in approval

application" (Notification No. 0620-(6) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 20, 2014), its partial revision (Notification No. 0124-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated January 24, 2019), and its Q&A (Office Communication dated January 24, 2019) were issued. Moreover, "Notification on Practical Operations of Electronic Study Data Submissions" (Notification No. 0427-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division of PFSB dated April 27, 2015), its partial revision (Notification No. 0124-(4) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated January 24, 2019), and the Q&As (Office Communication dated January 24, 2019) were issued, and the range of submission of electronic data is explained by these notifications and Q&A, etc. Furthermore, submission of electronic data through gateway was started on October 1, 2016. Applicable clinical trial data should be submitted in the formats according to the specifications in Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium.

Concerning submission of electronic data, the period of transitional measures for submission of electronic data for application will end in March 31, 2020, and it will become necessary to submit electronic data for all studies and analyses in the designated scope for submission from April 1, 2020.

In principle, the items for which submission of electronic data become necessary are the prescription drugs listed in the Notification by the Director-General ((1) to (7), (9), and (9-2) in Attached Table 2-(1) of Application for Approval of Drugs, PFSB Notification 1121-(2) dated November 21, 2014).

1) Module 1: Administrative information such as application forms and prescribing information

- (1) Application documentation table of contents (including Module 1)
 - (i) Table of contents of application document including Part 1

- (ii) Synopsis
- (2) Approval application (copy)
 - (3) Certificates (Declarations of those responsible for collection and compilation of data for approval applications, GLP and GCP related data, contracts for codevelopment [copies], etc., and declarations required to be attached in accordance with Notification No. 0527004 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 27, 2004 entitled "Handling of Computer Formatting of the Common Technical Document").
 - (4) Patent status
 - (5) Background of origin, discovery, and development
 - (6) Data related to conditions of use in foreign countries, etc.
 - (7) List of related products
 - (8) Package insert (draft)
 - (9) Documents concerning non-proprietary name
 - (10) Data for review of designation as poisons, deleterious substances, etc.
 - (11) Risk management plan (RMP) (draft):
 - (12) List of attached documentation
 - (13) Other
 - <1> Data related to approved drugs
 - <2> Clinical trial consultation records (copies)
 - <3> Inquiries (copies) and responses to inquiries (copies)
 - <4> Other data [data submitted to the PMDA (copies), data submitted to the MHLW (copies)]
Laboratory target and set values to be entered in the manufacturing method column of the application form for drugs other than biological products should be tabulated and the list be attached to the application

document as directed in "CTD Format for Reducing Total Review Time for New Drugs" (Office Communication of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated January 17, 2011).

Review data on new additives, if any, should be included in the application dossier (copies) as directed in the "Submission of Review Data on New Additives" (Notice of the PMDA dated June 23, 2017).

<5> Points to consider in formatting the eCTD

2) Module 2: Data summaries or CTD "Gaiyo"

- (1) Modules 2 to 5 (CTD) table of contents
- (2) CTD introduction
- (3) Quality overall summary
- (4) Nonclinical overview
- (5) Clinical overview
- (6) Nonclinical summary (text and tables)
 - <1> Pharmacology
 - <2> Pharmacokinetics
 - <3> Toxicity
- (7) Clinical summary
 - <1> Summary of biopharmaceutics and associated analytical methods
 - <2> Summary of human pharmacology
 - <3> Summary of clinical efficacy
 - <4> Summary of clinical safety
 - <5> Literature references
 - <6> Synopses of individual studies

3) Module 3: Quality

- (1) Module 3 table of contents
- (2) Data or reports
- (3) Literature references

4) Module 4: Nonclinical study reports

- (1) Module 4 table of contents
- (2) Study reports
- (3) Literature references

5) Module 5: Clinical study reports

- (1) Module 5 table of contents
- (2) Tabular listing of all clinical studies
- (3) Clinical study reports
- (4) Literature references
(See **Fig. 11** Organization of ICH Common Technical Documents).

Separately from CTD, submission of the following documents is required at the time of application for approval.

- FD application document (sample), document of FD contents
- Marketing license (copy)
- Application for examination for drug approval review
- Import contract or equivalent document
- MF registration certificate (copy) if MF is used
- Contract with MF registrant regarding the use of MF (copy)
- List of persons involved in compilation of attached data
- List of competitive products and companies
- List of persons involved in competitive products

It is necessary to submit a "list of persons involved in compilation of attached data," a "list of competitive products and companies," and a "list of persons involved in competitive products" immediately after application submission, prior to the expert meeting, and prior to meeting of the Committee on Drugs.

It was decided that the applicant should submit the conversion factor, etc. for calculating the maximum daily use of drug additives during the process of application for marketing approval (including application for a change) in order to enable appropriate management of the maximum daily use of drug additives by the regulatory authority. (Notification No. 1007001 of the Office of Review Management, PMDA dated October 7,

2016, partially revised by Notification No. 0927001 of the Office of Review Management, PMDA dated September 27, 2017).

2.1 Data to be Attached to Approval Application of Drugs**2.1.1 Prescription drugs**

in Attached Tables 1 and 2-(1) of the basic notification of application, "Approval Applications for Drugs"(Notification No. 1121-(2) of the PFSB dated November 21, 2014).

(**Table 3** Data to be Submitted with an Application for Approval to Manufacture/Market: A New Prescription Drug). The application dossier is required to be prepared and submitted by the CTD format.

2.1.2 Non-prescription drugs

The Law for Partial Amendment of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law and the Pharmacists Law (Law No. 103, 2013) was enacted on June 12, 2014, and a category of guidance-mandatory drugs was newly established in addition to the conventional categories of prescription drugs and non-prescription drugs. The range of data to be submitted with applications for non-prescription drugs is specified as shown in **Table 4** (Data to be Submitted with an Application for a Non-prescription Drug) (Notification No. 1121-(2) of the PFSB dated November 21, 2014). After complete enforcement of the CTD (from July 1, 2003), the present guidelines for preparation of data to be attached to approval applications can be applied to approval applications for non-prescription drugs as in the past. For the time being, data on the manufacturing method and specifications and test methods for non-prescription drugs with new active ingredients are prepared using the CTD only for reference purpose.

3. GUIDELINES CONCERNING DRUG APPROVAL APPLICATIONS

Guidelines outlining standard test methods and essential criteria for reference in the preparation of data for drug manufacturing and marketing approval applications have been published in order to assure efficient and appropriate research and development. These guidelines have been prepared on the basis of results of studies undertaken by groups of experts in the field concerned.

Various standards and guidelines have been established and implemented according to ICH harmonization and the reliability and amount of research data has been internationally harmonized. To meet demands for more efficient and less costly development of new drugs, international utilization of data is on the increase.

Japan has taken various measures in keeping with this change in the international environment, and data from nonclinical studies such as physicochemical studies, stability studies and animal studies performed in foreign countries are accepted, in principle, if their study designs comply with the Japanese guidelines.

Two notifications were issued in relation to the acceptance of foreign clinical data: "Handling of Data on Clinical trials on Drugs Performed in Foreign Countries" (Notification No. 739 of the PMSB dated August 11, 1998) and "Ethnic Factors to be Considered in the Acceptance of Foreign Clinical Trial Data" (Notification No. 672 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau dated August 11, 1998 and partial revision by Office Communication dated January 4, 1999) and its Q and A (Office Communications dated February 25, 2004 and October 5, 2006). According to these notifications, when data from clinical studies performed in foreign countries are used for new drug application in Japan, the data is first checked to assure that it

complies with legal requirements in Japan. Whether or not the drug is apt to be affected by ethnic factors (intrinsic or extrinsic factors) is then evaluated. When necessary, a bridging study is performed, and when it is concluded that the clinical study outcome in a foreign population can be extrapolated to the Japanese population, the foreign data can be accepted. Since the possibility of acceptance is actually left up to the authorities concerned, it is recommended that the requirements for bridging studies be confirmed as acceptable for the regulatory agencies through consultations with PMDA.

With the intent to promote global clinical trials to achieve more efficient and rapid development of new drugs and to eliminate drug lag in which the approval timing of new drugs is several years behind that in other countries, basic concepts related to global clinical trials have been compiled (Notification No. 0928010 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated September 28, 2007). In addition, the notice "Basic Principles on Global Clinical Trials (Reference Cases)" (Office Communication dated September 5, 2012) was issued based on achievements of mutual cooperation and latest knowledge obtained relating to multinational clinical trials among Japanese, Chinese, and South Korean regulatory authorities with an objective of a smooth and appropriate conduct of global clinical trials, especially in East Asia. In addition, "Basic Approach to Conduct of Phase I Clinical Trial in Japanese Before Start of Global Clinical Trial" (Office Communication of the Evaluation and Licensing Division of the PFSB, MHLW dated October 27, 2014) indicates points to consider when examining whether or not a phase I clinical trial is necessary in the case where Japan takes part in a global clinical trial.

As globalization of drug development progresses and numerous global joint clinical trials have come to be planned and conducted, "General Principles for Planning and Design of Multi-

Regional Clinical Trials" (Notification No. 0612-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated June 12, 2018: ICH-E17) was notified. This notification shows the general principles for planning and design of global joint clinical trials to make global joint clinical trials more acceptable in various regions in the world.

Marketed drugs that have been used for unapproved indications or dosage and administration in clinical practice (off-label use) should be used appropriately by receiving marketing approval based on the Law. But in the cases the indications and dosage and administration related to off-label use are confirmed by medical and pharmaceutical knowledge in the public domain, a judgment is made of whether or not the use can be approved without performing whole or part of the clinical trials again (Notifications No. 4 of the Research and Development Division, Health Policy Bureau and No. 104 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau dated February 1, 1999). After this notification was issued, applications based on public knowledge have been filed and approved.

- (1) Cases where an official approval of indication(s) unapproved in Japan has already been granted overseas (countries with approval systems confirmed to be on the same level as the system in Japan or with corresponding systems; the same hereinafter), sufficient experience of use in medical practice is available, and data appended to the application for the regulatory authorities can be obtained.
- (2) Cases where an official approval indication(s) unapproved in Japan has already been granted overseas, sufficient experience of use in medical practice is available, scientific evidence has been published in internationally reputable scientific journals, or review articles, etc. of international organizations can be obtained.

- (3) Cases where there are clinical study results that can be confirmed in terms of ethics, science, and reliability by such means as contract research performed as part of public research projects.

The data attached to applications for approval to manufacture and market drugs must be in Japanese, but as part of the deregulation process, it was specified in Notifications No. 256 of the PMSB and No. 265 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB, both dated March 18, 1998, that documents in English in Modules 3, 4, and 5 need not be completely translated into Japanese as long as a Japanese summary is attached. In approval applications using the CTD format, a Japanese summary is not required for entries in the original in English.

3.1 Quality and Nonclinical Studies

1) Guidelines on physicochemical properties, specifications, and tests methods

The contents of specifications and test methods in approval applications must include required test items in reference to the specified test guidelines. For drugs with new active ingredients manufactured by chemical synthesis, refer to "Setting of Specifications and Test Methods of New Drugs" (ICH Q6A) (Notification No. 568 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001) For new biological products (biotechnological products/drug products derived from living organisms), refer to "Setting of Specifications and Test Methods of Biological Products (biotechnological products/drug products derived from living organisms)" (ICH Q6B) (Notification No. 571 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001). These guidelines on specifications and test methods were prepared based on ICH agreements. To achieve sufficient utilization of ICH-Q6A and ICH-Q6B, it is necessary

to harmonize the General Test, Processes and Apparatus of Pharmacopoeia among ICH regions, and hence the Guidelines on Evaluation and Recommendation of Pharmacopoeial Texts for Use in the ICH Regions (Notification No. 0526001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 26, 2009, No.1; ICH-Q4B) were issued. Based on these guidelines, when it is judged that it is possible to utilize the pharmacopoeial texts in the ICH regions, these texts can be used mutually in accordance with the conditions set in annexes.

The guidelines shown in Table 6 have been revised or established concerning physicochemical properties, specifications, and tests methods.

The quality standards published in the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, Japan Pharmaceutical Codex, etc. serve as references for specifications and test methods including content specifications, identification, purity and assay.

For sustained-release drugs, refer to the Guidelines for Design and Evaluation of Sustained-Release (Oral) Preparations (Notification No. 5 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated March 11, 1998) in addition to the above guidelines.

2) Guidelines for stability tests

Stability tests for approval application of drugs are conducted to evaluate change in quality over time with various environment factors including temperature, humidity or light, through which necessary information may be obtained for establishing a period of retest of an active pharmaceutical ingredient, an available period of a formulation and storing conditions of a drug.

The former guidelines for stability tests of prescription drugs with new active ingredients (Notification No. 565 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001) has been abolished and new stability guidelines based on ICH agreements have been established (Revision of Stability Test Guidelines (ICH

Q1A(R2)). Photostability tests for drugs with new active ingredients and new combinations are performed on the basis of the Guidelines for Photostability Tests of New Bulk Drugs and New Preparations (ICH Q1B) (Notification No. 422 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated May 28, 1997). For drugs with new routes of administration, stability tests must be performed as specified in the Guidelines for Handling Results of Stability Tests of Drugs with New Routes of Administration (ICH Q1C) (Notification No. 425 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated May 28, 1997), and for biological products, stability tests must be performed as specified in the Guidelines for Handling Results of Stability Tests of Biological Products (biotechnological products/drug products derived from living organisms) (ICH Q5C) (Notification No. 6 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated January 6, 1998).

Concepts concerning simplification of stability tests on a scientific basis have also been specified in Application of Bracketing and Matrixing Methods in Stability Tests on Drug Substances and Drug Products (ICH Q1D) (Notification No. 0731004 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated July 31, 2002, partially revised by Office Communication dated June 3, 2003).

For generic drugs, etc., standard methods for long-term stability studies, stress stability studies and accelerated stability studies are specified in the Guidelines for Stability Tests Attached to Approval Applications to Manufacture or Import Drugs (Notification No. 165 of the PAB and No. 43 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated February 15, 1991).

3) Guidelines for toxicity tests

The notification entitled "Guidelines for Toxicity Studies for Manufacturing (Importing) Approval Application of Drugs" (Notification No. 24 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated September 11, 1989) was issued to establish the

“Guidelines for Toxicity Studies of Drugs” with the purpose of specifying standards how to conduct safety studies for approval application of drugs and contributing proper safety evaluation of drugs.

Based on ICH agreements, the guidelines shown in Table 7 have been revised or established, and the Guidelines for Toxicity Studies of Drugs have been replaced by these guidelines.

Data on the following studies that are required for the review and evaluation of a new drug application by the Ministry **should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the above guidelines (Table 3 Data to be Submitted with an Application for Approval to Manufacture/Market: A New Prescription Drug):**

- (1) Single dose toxicity studies
- (2) Repeated dose toxicity studies
- (3) Genotoxicity studies
- (4) Carcinogenicity studies
- (5) Reproductive and developmental toxicity studies
- (6) Skin irritation studies
- (7) Other toxicity studies

Drug dependence studies were specified separately from the toxicity guidelines in the Scope of Application and the Guidelines for Animal Studies and Clinical Observations on Drug Dependence (Notification No. 113 of the Narcotics Division, PAB dated March 14, 1975) and the Guidelines for Animal Studies and Clinical Observations on Drug Dependence (Notification No. 383 of the Narcotics Division, PAB dated June 7, 1978).

For biotechnological products, the guideline “Nonclinical Safety Evaluation of Biotechnological Drugs” (Notification No. 0323-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 23, 2012) has been issued. For infection prophylactic vaccines, the guideline “Nonclinical safety evaluation of prophylactic vaccines (Notification No. 0527-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 27, 2010) has been issued, and for anti-malignant tumor agents, the guideline

“Nonclinical safety evaluation of anti-malignant tumor agents (Notification No. 0604-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 4, 2010) and its Q&As (Office Communication dated March 27, 2019) have been issued.

4) Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)

All toxicity tests conducted to support applications for new drug manufacturing and marketing approval and reexamination must be in accordance with the Good Laboratory Practice Standards for Safety Studies on Drugs (GLP). (MHW Ordinance No. 21 dated March 26, 1997, partially revised by MHLW Ordinance No. 114 dated June 13, 2008) (Notification No. 902 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 21, 2001 requires safety pharmacology studies be performed in accordance with “the Guidelines on Safety Pharmacology Studies” to comply with the GLP Ordinance.). Handling of the ministerial ordinance for partial revision is noticed in “Guidance on the Implementation of the Ministerial Ordinance on the Good Laboratory Practice for Nonclinical Safety Studies of Drugs as Revised by the Ministerial Ordinance for Partial Revision of the Ministerial Ordinance on the Good Laboratory Practice” (PFSB Notification No. 0613007 dated June 13, 2008).

This ordinance consists of eight chapters and 19 articles as below:

Chapter 1 (Articles 1-4)

Purpose of this ordinance, definition of terms, responsibilities of sponsors

Chapter 2 (Article 5-8)

Responsibilities of management of testing facilities, study directors and Quality Assurance Units

Chapter 3 (Articles 9 and 10)

Structures, facilities and equipment of testing facilities

Chapter 4 (Articles 11 and 12)

Standard operating procedures in

testing facilities (prepared by management) and animal caretakers
 Chapter 5 (Articles 13 and 14)
 Handling of investigational products and comparators
 Chapter 6 (Articles 15 and 16)
 Study protocols (prepared by study director) and proper conduct of studies.
 Chapter 7 (Articles 17 and 18)
 Final reports (prepared by study director) and retention of study data
 Chapter 8 (Article 19)

Requirements for conducting studies at more than one testing facilities

Study facilities in which studies have been conducted under the GLP ordinance (GLP-compliant studies) must be inspected for compliance with the GLP ordinance by PMDA under contract with MHLW for approval review in principle (item review). However, this inspection can be omitted if the trial is conducted at a GLP-compliant facility according to the following survey of GLP compliance by facilities conducted by PMDA (facility review).

This facility review is conducted on the basis of “the System of Guidelines for On-site Reviews Based on the Pharmaceutical GLP and Medical Device GLP” (Notification No. 0620058 of PMDA dated June 20, 2008, Notification No. 0815007 of PMDA dated August 15, 2008, and Notification No. 1121005 of PMDA dated November 21, 2014) GLP compliance conditions are evaluated in two categories: compliant or non-compliant, based on the results of the GLP compliance review.

Compliant: The inspected testing facility has no items that deviate from GLP for drugs, etc. or, if it does, appropriate improvement measures have been taken with respect to such aspects or the effects of such aspects on the operation and management of testing facility in general are

considered tolerable.

Non-compliant: The effects of items that deviate from GLP for drugs, etc. at the inspected testing facility are not tolerable and inspected testing facility cannot be considered compliant with GLP.

When evaluated as compliant in this review, the results of the tests performed in the facility will be accepted, in principle, for use as review data if the trial is started and completed within 3 years after the date of issuance of the GLP Compliance Confirmation Letter. These GLP requirements also apply to data generated in other countries when they are used to support applications in Japan. In principal, a judgment on the GLP compliance of a trial conducted at a testing facility in a foreign country is made based on data submitted by a government agency, etc. of the foreign country evidencing that the trial is conducted in accordance with GLP (Notification No. 1121-(9) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB and Notification No. 1121-(13) issued by the Councillor, PFSSB dated November 21, 2014).

5) Guidelines for general pharmacological studies

The results of primary pharmacodynamics studies, secondary pharmacology studies, safety pharmacology studies, and studies of drug interactions may be required if necessary.

The guidelines shown in Table 8 have been issued on pharmacology studies.

The general policies for selection and planning of test systems to prepare data on safety pharmacology studies are specified in the Safety Pharmacology Study Guidelines (ICH-S7A) (Notification No. 902 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 21, 2001) and it is required that safety pharmacology studies are performed in accordance with the GLP Ordinance as a rule. The objectives of the Safety

Pharmacology Study Guidelines are as follows and a research protocol that complies with these objectives should be prepared. (1) Undesirable pharmacodynamic properties of investigational products considered to be related to safety in humans must be specified; (2) adverse pharmacodynamic or pathophysiological actions of investigational products confirmed in toxicity studies or clinical studies must be evaluated; and (3) the mechanisms of pharmacodynamic adverse actions confirmed to date or posing a risk must be investigated.

Secondary pharmacology studies to understand the type and severity of pharmacological actions and to clarify the pharmacological profile of the investigational product together with primary pharmacology studies are performed with reference to the Guidelines for General Pharmacology Studies (Notification No. 4 of the New Drugs Division, PMSB dated January 29, 1991) (Notification No. 902 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 21, 2001). For other preparing data related to pharmacodynamic drug interactions, reference should be made to Notification No. 813 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 4, 2001 entitled "Methods of Investigating Drug Interactions".

6) Guidelines for pharmacokinetic studies

The guidelines shown in Table 9 have been issued on pharmacokinetic studies.

Pharmacokinetic data is useful in determining doses and other conditions for toxicity and pharmacological tests in animals. Moreover, the assessment and understanding of these data may provide very useful information for the assessment of efficacy and safety in humans. The Guidelines on Nonclinical Pharmacokinetic Studies (Notification No. 496 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 26, 1998)

were issued requiring applicants to study the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of test drugs in animal and in vitro study systems to clarify their pharmacokinetic profile. The above guidelines have instructed the applicant to evaluate the distribution in a single-dose study in principle and to use the Guideline for Repeated Dose Tissue Distribution Studies (Notification No. 442 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated July 2, 1996; ICH S3B) for reference in terms of circumstances requiring repeated dose studies and actual conduct of the studies.

Concerning the points to consider in the population pharmacokinetic analysis and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analysis for evaluating clinical pharmacokinetics, the basic concept is presented in "Clinical Pharmacokinetic Studies on Drugs" (Notification No. 796 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 1, 2001). Subsequently, "Guidelines for Population Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Guidelines" (Notification No. 0515-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated May 15, 2019) was issued based on overseas guidelines and accumulated clinical trial data.

7) Guidelines for bioequivalence studies

Although no guidelines are available for formulation changes during development, the guidelines shown in Table 10 may be applied where necessary, depending on timing and content of a change. In general, investigational drug products for late phase II clinical studies and subsequent ones are required to be equivalent to the commercial ones.

3.2 Clinical Studies

1) Basic requirements

The primary objectives of clinical studies are to evaluate therapeutic and prophylactic efficacy of investigational new drugs for target diseases or symptoms as well as their risks and possible ADRs

in humans, and ultimately to assess their clinical usefulness based on a comparison of their efficacy and safety. In performing clinical studies, investigators must give scientific and ethical consideration to the subjects' human rights to minimize their risk relative to the expected benefits.

Guidance concerning drug development strategies and evaluation processes has been issued in the three ICH regions. In 1998, General Considerations for Clinical Studies (Notification No. 380 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated April 21, 1998, ICH E8) was prepared as one aspect of MHLW's efforts to promote international harmonization of approval review data for new drugs. This notification consists of the objective of the guidelines, general principles (protection of clinical trial subjects and scientific approach in design and analysis) and development methods (points to consider for development plans and for individual clinical studies).

In order to protect the study subjects these Guidelines specify that, as a condition to start a clinical study, the safety of the drug must be shown from nonclinical studies or previous human studies. Throughout drug development, qualified clinicians and other experts should review and evaluate all newly obtained data from toxicity studies on animals and human studies to assess their implications for the safety of the subjects.

Clinical studies should be designed, conducted, and analyzed in keeping with sound scientific principles in order to achieve their objectives, and they should be reported appropriately. The essence of rational drug development is to pose important questions and answer them with the results of carefully controlled clinical studies. The primary objectives of any study should be clear and explicitly stated.

Clinical studies can be classified by their objectives. The basic logic behind serially conducted studies of a drug is that the results of prior studies should influence the protocols of later

studies (**Table 5** Classification of Clinical Studies According to Objectives).

Following an ICH agreement to issue common GCP for scientific and ethical conduct of clinical studies in three regions, the MHLW Ordinance on Standards for Implementation of Clinical Studies on Drugs (GCP) (MHW Ordinance No. 28 dated March 27, 1997, partial revision by MHLW Ordinance No. 9 dated January 22, 2016) was issued with the aims of specifying the requirements for the planning, conduct, monitoring, auditing, records, analysis, and reports of clinical studies performed to collect data to be submitted with applications for approval to manufacture and market drugs; to protect the human rights, safety, and welfare of study subjects; and to assure the scientific quality of the study and the reliability of its results.

The importance of precision control of laboratory data in clinical trial to ensure the reliability of laboratory data and the trial is shown in "the Basic Concept of Precision Control of Laboratory Data in Clinical Trial" (Office Communication of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 1, 2013).

2) Considerations for the development plan

2.1) Nonclinical studies

Important considerations for determining the nature of nonclinical studies and their timing with respect to clinical studies include:

- (1) Duration and total exposure (dose) in individual patients
- (2) Characteristics of the drug
- (3) Disease or condition targeted for treatment
- (4) Use in special populations
- (5) Route of administration

The actual timing of each nonclinical safety study is specified in the Guidelines on Nonclinical

Safety Studies for the Conduct of Human Clinical Trials and Marketing Authorization for Pharmaceuticals (Notification No. 0219-(4) issued by the Evaluation and Licensing Division of PFBS dated February 19, 2010: ICH M3R(R2), and Office Communication (Q&A on the guidelines) dated August 16, 2012).

(i) Safety studies

For the first studies in humans, the dose used should be determined by careful examination of the prerequisite nonclinical pharmacological and toxicological evaluations. Early nonclinical studies should provide sufficient information to support selection of the initial human dose and safe duration of exposure, to provide information about the physiological and toxicological effects of a new drug.

(ii) Pharmacological studies

The basis and direction of the clinical exploration and development rests on the nonclinical pharmacology profile, which includes the following information:

- (1) Pharmacological basis of principal effects (mechanism of action).
- (2) Dose-response or concentration-response relationships and duration of action.
- (3) Study of the potential clinical routes of administration.
- (4) Systemic general pharmacology, including pharmacological effects on major organ systems and physiological processes.
- (5) Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion

2.2) Quality of investigational products

Products used in clinical studies should be well characterized, with information on bioavailability wherever feasible. The product should be appropriate for the stage of drug development.

Ideally, the preparation should be adequate to allow testing in a series of studies that examine a range of doses.

For investigational products, on July 9, 2008, the Investigational Product GMP was revised to allow the quality assurance of an investigational product according to the phase of a clinical trial in consideration of characteristics of the trial, including ones at an early exploratory stage (Notification No. 0709002 of PFBS). Subsequently, the Q&A on the Investigational Product GMP was released (Office Communication of Compliance and Narcotics Division, PFBS dated July 2, 2009).

2.3) Phases of clinical development

Clinical studies have been conventionally classified by phase of development (I to IV). The ICH conference proposed a new classification system according to the objective of studies as described in the General Considerations for Clinical Studies (Notification No. 380 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated April 21, 1998, ICH E8), and according to this system clinical studies are classified to the following four types:

- (1) Human pharmacology studies
- (2) Therapeutic exploratory studies
- (3) Therapeutic confirmatory studies
- (4) Therapeutic use studies

Objectives and types of studies in these four categories are listed in [Table 5](#) (Classification of Clinical Studies According to Objectives) and the close but variable correlations between the development phase and study type are shown in [Fig. 12](#) Correlation between Development Phases and Types of Study).

The distribution of the circles, open circles and shaded circles, in the figure shows that the types of study do not automatically define the phases of development.

Clinical development is ideally a step-wise

process in which information from small early studies is used to support and plan later larger, more definitive studies. To develop new drugs efficiently, it is essential to identify characteristics of the investigational product in the early stages of development and to plan appropriate development based on this profile. The four clinical development phases are described below.

(i) Phase I (typical study: clinical pharmacology)

Phase I entails the initial administration of an investigational new drug to humans. The most typical study is that on clinical pharmacology. Although clinical pharmacology studies are typically identified with Phase I, they may also be indicated at other points in the development sequence. Studies conducted in Phase I typically involve one or a combination of the following aspects:

- (1) Estimation of initial safety and tolerability
- (2) Characterization of pharmacokinetics
- (3) Assessment of pharmacodynamics
- (4) Early assessment of efficacy

As a reference, the basic concepts concerning the study items and conduct of all clinical pharmacokinetic studies for the purpose of drug development are given in Clinical Pharmacokinetic Studies on Drugs (Notification No. 796 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 1, 2001) and Guidance on Ensuring Safety of Human Subjects in the Initial Clinical Trial of New Investigational Medicinal Product (Notification No. 0402-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated April 2, 2012, and partially revised in Notification No. 1225-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated December 25, 2019).

(ii) Phase II (typical study: therapeutic

exploratory)

Phase II is usually considered to be the phase in which studies with the primary objective of exploring therapeutic efficacy in patients are initiated. The most typical Phase II study is the therapeutic exploratory study performed on a group of patients who are entered into the study according to clearly defined criteria and whose condition is monitored. An important goal for this phase is to determine the dose(s) and regimen for Phase III studies. Dose response designs should be used to assess and confirm the dose-response relation for the indication concerned. Additional objectives of Phase II clinical studies include evaluation of study endpoints, therapeutic regimens (including concomitant medication) or target populations for further study in Phase II or III.

(iii) Phase III (typical study: therapeutic confirmatory)

The primary objective of Phase III studies is to confirm the therapeutic effects. Studies in Phase III are designed to confirm the preliminary evidence accumulated in Phase I and II that a drug is safe and effective for use in the proposed indication and recipient population. These studies are intended to provide data to serve as an adequate basis for manufacturing approval.

“Arrangements for supplying and receiving of control drugs” were established as voluntary arrangements among member companies of the JPMA in July 1981 for the smooth supply and receipt of control drugs by the companies developing new drugs and the manufacturing/marketing authorization holders of control drugs when pharmaceutical companies developing new drugs evaluate efficacy and safety of new

drugs with approved drugs already on the market as controls. After four subsequent revisions, the most recent version appeared on November 1, 2005.

(iv) Phase IV (various types of study: therapeutic use)

The studies conducted in the phase IV include all studies conducted after drug approval (except for routine post-marketing surveillance) pertaining to the approved indications. The studies in the phase IV must have appropriate scientific objectives. The studies conducted commonly include additional drug interaction studies, dose-response studies, safety studies, and the studies for supporting the use for the approved indications (such as studies to investigate mortality or prevalence and epidemiological studies).

2.4) Studies concerning new indications, new dosage regimens, etc.

Development of additional indications, dose levels, dosage regimens, administration routes, etc. requires new protocols for both clinical and nonclinical studies. Human pharmacology may also be necessary for application.

2.5) Special considerations

Consideration should be given to special circumstances and populations when they are targeted as part of the development plan.

(i) Studies of drug metabolites

The main metabolites must be identified and detailed pharmacokinetic studies performed. The timing for studies to evaluate metabolism is decided in accordance with the characteristics of the drug concerned.

(ii) Drug interactions

If a potential for drug interaction is

suggested by the metabolism profile, by the results of nonclinical studies or by information on similar drugs, studies on drug interaction are highly recommended. To explore interaction with the drugs that are frequently coadministered, it is usually important that drug interaction studies be performed in nonclinical and, if appropriate, in clinical studies.

(iii) Special populations

Some groups in the general population may require special study because they deserve unique risk/benefit considerations, or because they may need modification of use of a drug or schedule of a drug compared to general adult use. Pharmacokinetic studies in patients with renal and hepatic dysfunction are important to assess the impact of the potentially altered drug metabolism or excretion. Other special populations are as follows:

- (1) Elderly.
- (2) Ethnic populations.
- (3) Pregnant women.
- (4) Nursing women.
- (5) Children.

(iv) Microdose studies

Clinical studies to obtain information on pharmacokinetics of the investigational product in humans and desired information at the preclinical stage in development candidate screening studies based on pharmacokinetic information. A dose not exceeding 1/100 of the dose expressing pharmacological effects or a dose of 100 µg/human, whichever is smaller, is administered once to healthy subjects. The range of application is mainly low molecular weight compounds. Even though test doses are extremely low, microdose studies must also be conducted in accordance with

the cGCP. Basic concepts for the microdose studies, including points to consider, are given in the Guidance for Conducting Microdose Clinical Studies (Notification No. 0603001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 3, 2008).

3) Considerations for Individual Clinical Studies

The following important principles should be followed in planning the objectives, design, conduct, analysis and reporting of a clinical study. Each item from the objectives to reporting should be defined in a written protocol before the study starts.

3.1) Objectives

The objective(s) of the study should be clearly stated. They may include exploratory or confirmatory characterization of the safety and/or efficacy and/or assessment of pharmacological, physiological or biochemical effects.

3.2) Design

The appropriate study design should be chosen to provide the desired information in consideration of the following points by referring to relevant clinical guidelines:

- (1) Selection of subjects.
- (2) Selection of control group.
- (3) Number of subjects.
- (4) Safety and efficacy variables.
- (5) Methods to minimize bias (randomization, blinding, and compliance).

3.3) Conduct

The study should be conducted according to the principles described in the General Considerations for Clinical Studies or in accordance with other pertinent elements outlined in the GCP or other guidelines related

to clinical studies. Adherence to the study protocol is essential.

3.4) Analysis

The study protocol should cite a specified analysis plan that is appropriate for the objectives and design of the study. Methods of analysis of the primary endpoints and surrogate endpoints should be included in the protocol. The results of the clinical study should be analyzed in accordance with the plan prospectively stated in the protocol.

3.5) Reporting

Clinical study reports should be appropriately prepared in accordance with the Structure and Content of Clinical Study Reports (Notification No.335 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated May 1, 1996: ICH E3).

4) Statistical analysis of clinical study results

The MHW (currently MHLW) published the Guidelines for Statistical Analysis of Clinical Study Results (Notification No. 20 of the New Drugs Division, PAB dated March 4, 1992) which list examples of misuse of statistical methods and indicate the methods which are considered most appropriate then to prevent errors and scientifically assess drug efficacy.

The ICH guidelines, Statistical Considerations in the Design of Clinical Trials (ICH E9) (Notification No. 1047 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated November 30, 1998), have been published to replace Notification No. 20 issued in 1992. The new guidelines are intended to propose approaches when the sponsor designs, conducts, analyzes and assesses a clinical study of an investigational product as part of the overall clinical development. These guidelines should attract interest from individuals in many fields of science, and they

state as a prerequisite that the actual responsibility for all statistical work related to a clinical study should be borne by statisticians with appropriate qualifications and experience. The participation of statisticians is intended to verify together with other clinical study experts that statistical principles have been appropriately applied in the study to support drug development. Therefore, to implement the principles explicitly stated in these guidelines, the statisticians must combine adequate theoretical and practical education and experience. The principles stated in these guidelines are meant primarily to be applied in the latter half of development, mainly in therapeutic confirmatory studies.

In confirmatory studies, the primary variables are not limited to those related to efficacy but may include those concerning safety, pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics. In addition, some of the confirmatory knowledge is derived from data compiled for several studies, and under such conditions, some of the principles in the guidelines are applied. The studies in the initial phases of drug development mainly involve therapeutic exploratory studies, but statistical principles are also applied to these studies. Therefore, these guidelines should be applied to all phases of clinical development whenever feasible.

5) Guidelines for clinical evaluation

Data on the results of clinical studies must be analyzed precisely and objectively as they are the means of identifying the drug's expected efficacy and ADRs, when the drug is used, thereby playing an important role in the evaluation process by the regulatory authority.

Guidelines on the methodology for clinical studies and the evaluation criteria have been published as "the Guidelines for Clinical

Evaluation." The results from ICH are also introduced into Japanese regulations as ICH guidelines.

Guidelines for clinical evaluation of drugs classified by therapeutic category, guidelines for clinical evaluation in general, and other guidelines have been issued as shown in Table 11.

6) GCP

The first GCP, Standards for Conduct of Clinical Trials on Drugs, intended to assure that clinical studies are performed on the basis of ethical considerations and from the proper scientific standpoint were issued as Notification No. 874 of the PAB dated October 2, 1989, and this GCP was applied in the form of administrative guidance from October 1, 1990. Thereafter, the MHW undertook various studies to improve the quality of clinical studies in Japan in accordance with changes in the international regulatory situation, and a new GCP was issued as an MHW ordinance (No. 28, March 27, 1997) based on a report of the Central Pharmaceutical Affairs Council (March 13, 1997). This new GCP, which is legally binding, went into effect from April 1, 1997.

The Ministerial Ordinance on the GCP was amended thereafter (newest revision: MHLW Ordinance No. 9 dated January 22, 2016), and the current GCP Ordinance is comprised of 6 chapters and 59 articles. The contents are briefly divided into the 3 parts consisting of "Standards for sponsoring clinical trials" and "Standards concerning management of clinical trials" for persons intending to request or conduct a clinical trial, and "Standards for conduct of clinical trials" for medical institutions. Furthermore, for smooth implementation of the clinical trials compliant with the GCP Ministerial Ordinance, the

“Ordinance on Standards for Conduct of Clinical Trials (GCP) (Notification No. 1228-(7) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division of PFSB dated December 28, 2012) was issued. Subsequently, since ICH-E6-(R2) was compiled, the GCP Guidance was revised based on the revision, etc. of the GCP Ordinance (Notification No. 0705-(3) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated July 5, 2019). In association with them, “Basic Concept of Quality Management in Clinical Trials” (Notification No. 0705-(5) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated July 5, 2019), “Basic Concept of Monitoring Based on Risks” (Notification No. 0705-(7) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated July 5, 2019), and “Documents or Records Related to Clinical Trials” (Office Communication dated July 5, 2019) were issued.

A compassionate use system making unapproved drugs available for patients not eligible for ongoing trials of these drugs was introduced (Notification No. 0122-(7) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB dated January 22, 2016).

The system is established on the following premises: the applicable unapproved drugs are to be indicated for diseases for which no effective conventional treatment is available; they are clinically used in consideration of balance between the relevant risk and expected therapeutic benefit; and such use does not interfere with development of the concerned drug.

By this system, an investigational product after conduct of a trial at the final development phase in Japan (which is regularly intended to verify the efficacy and safety after the indications as well as dosage and administration have been set through a series of development operations, or called as a pivotal trial) or while such trial is ongoing (but after completion of the enrollment) is made available in a

framework of a trial in patients with the above diseases.

7) Investigational Product GMP

In Article 17, Supply of the Investigational Product, in the GCP ordinance, it specifies that the sponsor shall supply to the medical institution performing the study investigational product manufactured in factories applying appropriate manufacturing control and quality control methods and with the buildings and facilities required to assure the quality of the investigational product. To that end, requirements for manufacturing investigational products have been issued in the form of Notification No. 480 of the PAB dated March 31, 1997 entitled "Standards for Manufacturing Control and Quality Control of Investigational Products and Standards for Buildings and Facilities of Plants Manufacturing Investigational Products" in order to assure the reliability of clinical studies by guaranteeing the quality of investigational products and to protect subjects from poor quality investigational products. In light of the specificities of the investigational product, such as the use in an early exploratory development phase, Standards for Manufacturing Control and Quality Control of Investigational Products and Standards for Buildings and Facilities of Plants Manufacturing Investigational Products (“new” Investigational Product GMP) were issued in the form of Notification No. 0709002 of the PFSB on July 9, 2008 as a replacement of the old Investigational Product GMP in order to assure the quality of investigational products depending on development phase. In addition to the protection of human subjects and reliability assurance of clinical trials, the new regulations aim to ensure not only the efficacy and safety of drug product but also adequateness of clinical studies themselves in the post-marketing phase by securing pharmaceutical consistency between the investigational product and marketed product following the final selection of

research compound to be developed and by assuring the equivalence between the two products following the establishment of manufacturing method and test methods of investigational product. Q&A on the standards for manufacturing control and quality control of investigational products (Investigational Product GMP) were published in Office Communication dated July 2, 2009.

The Investigational Product GMP is applied to all investigational products used in clinical studies conducted in accordance with the GCP ordinance. The GMP is a set of requirements to be followed by the study sponsor and investigators and also applied to investigational products manufactured at foreign facilities. The system/procedure-related provisions of the Investigational Product GMP require the sponsor to establish investigational product manufacturing division and investigational product quality control division at each manufacturing facility. The release of investigational product from factory must be judged by personnel of the quality control division designated for individual investigational product items. The provisions require the preparation and retention of documents pertaining to ingredients/quantities, specifications, test methods, manufacturing procedures, etc. for each investigational product item and those pertaining to manufacturing hygiene control procedures, manufacturing control procedures, and manufacturing control procedures for each manufacturing facility. It is also required to prepare and retain documents standardizing manufacturing and quality control. The GMP also contains provisions concerning the use of contract testing facilities, validation/verification, change control, deviation control, quality test results, handling of inferior quality products, recall, self-inspections, education/training, document/record control, contracted manufacture, buildings/facilities manufacturing investigational products, etc.

The building/facility-related provisions of the

Investigational Product GMP specify requirements for individual facilities manufacturing investigational products other than bulk products, investigational bulk products, investigational sterile preparations, investigational sterile bulk product, investigational biological products and investigational blood products.

The requirements for manufacturing control and quality control methods for drug substances are specified in the Guidelines on GMP for Drug Substances (ICH Q7A, currently Q7) (Notification No. 1200 dated November 2, 2001), which includes 20 requirements for drug substances including quality management, buildings and facilities, and validation, as approved at ICH5 held in San Diego in November 2000.

Further, the adoption of the Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention and Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme (jointly referred to as PIC/S) Guidelines in Japan has been proposed by the Ministry in light of the need for international harmonization and other reasons (Office Communication dated February 1, 2012).

Since requests from overseas regulatory authorities to submit investigational product GMP certificates are made when a clinical study is performed overseas using an investigational product produced in Japan for a global clinical trial, the issue of such certificates is specified in the "Supply of investigational product GMP certificates" (Office Communication dated March 30, 2009) and the procedures for requesting the issue of investigational product GMP certificates are given in the "Procedures for Issuing Investigational Product GMP Certificates" (Notification No. 0330023 dated March 30, 2009, partially revised on August 1, 2019).

4. OTHER

4.1 Biotechnological Products

The Guidelines for Manufacturing Drugs by using Recombinant DNA Technology were published to ensure manufacturing safety of products during the manufacture of pharmaceuticals with recombinant DNA technology (Notification No. 1051 of the PAB dated December 11, 1986, partially revised by Notification Nos. 434 and 769 of the PAB dated May 21, 1987 and August 18, 1995, respectively). The guidelines specify methods of safety evaluation of recombinants (live cells), classify the level of each working process into four levels, i.e. GILSP (Good Industrial Large Scale Practice), Category 1, Category 2, and Category 3, at the manufacturing stage based on the degree of safety, identify the type of facilities and equipment necessary for the manufacture, and also specify the requirements for the establishment of an institutional biosafety committee, the appointment of a biological safety officer (BSO), and supervision by a product security pharmacist. Thereafter, based on the Law for Securing Multiplicity of Living Organisms under the Use Control of Genetically-Engineered Living Organisms (so-called "Cartagena Law") (Law No. 97 dated June 18, 2003), the MHLW Ordinance on Measures to Prevent Spread of Industrial Use among Secondary Uses of Genetically-Engineered Living Organisms (Ordinance No. 1 of the Ministry of Finance, MHLW, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Ministry of Environment dated January 29, 2004; partially revised in Ordinance No. 2 dated June 6, 2006) was enforced on February 19, 2004 (the preceding guidelines were replaced by the Ordinance).

Separately, a notification entitled "Preparation of Data Required for Approval Applications for Drugs Manufactured by Using Recombinant DNA

Technology" was issued as Notification No. 243 of the Evaluation and Regulation Division, PAB dated March 30, 1984 for the evaluation of the quality, efficacy, and safety of drugs produced by recombinant DNA technology, and then "Preparation of Data Required for Approvals Applications for Drugs Manufactured by Cell Culture Technology" was issued as Notification No. 10 of the First Evaluation and Regulation Division, PAB dated June 6, 1988. After that, the above notifications were reconsidered on the basis of marked advancement of gene recombinant technology, cell culture technology and other scientific technology as well as the knowledge of quality, safety and efficacy of biological products accumulated to date, and "Approval Application Category of Biotechnology Products and Procedure for Preparation of Attached Documents Necessary for Approval Application" (Notification No. 0705-(5) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated July 5, 2017) was issued.

Various guidelines have been issued for biotechnology products on the basis of discussion at ICH (Table 12). There are other notifications issued in relation to medicinal products to be developed and manufactured by using cells and tissues and those products for gene therapy (Table 3-xx).

4.2 Drugs Using Materials of Human or Animal Origin as Ingredients (Biological Products)

It is necessary to take measures to assure quality and safety based on current scientific levels for drugs manufactured using materials of human or animal origin as raw materials. Therefore, the Biotechnology Committee of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council established "Basic Concepts for Handling and Use of Drugs and Devices Utilizing Cells or Tissues" (December 1, 2000) and "the Guidelines for Assurance of

Quality and Safety of Drugs and Devices Processed from Cells and Tissues of Human Origin” (December 1, 2000) (Notification No. 1314 of the PMSB dated December 26, 2000). In addition, various notifications have been issued, manufacturers have been requested to undertake self-inspection and coordinate application documents, and safety measures have been specified. For ingredients of bovine origin in particular, notifications have been issued as required in accordance with worldwide risk conditions and measures to assure quality and safety have been strengthened (refer to “Safety Measures for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy [BSE]” in Section 6.4, Chapter 2). Biological products and specified biological products were newly defined in the revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Law dated July 31, 2002 and measures to assure safety when there is a risk of infection have been designated. The Standards for Biological Materials were specified in May 2003 and specifications for raw materials and packaging materials used in the manufacture of biological products or raw materials and packaging materials manufactured from biological materials and used in the manufacturing process for drugs, quasi-drugs, cosmetics and medical devices were designated (Notice No. 210 issued by the MHLW in 2003).

In 2013, regenerative medicine products were characterized in the law separately from drugs or medical devices, and biological materials used in regenerative medicine products have been discussed to be standardized. In conjunction with global trends for the BSE risk in bovine-derived raw materials or the like in addition to the above, the Standards for Biological Materials were partially amended (Notice No. 375, issued by MHLW in 2014).

4.3 Biosimilar Products

With the advances made in biotechnological

products, the development of similar biotechnological products (biosimilar products or follow-on biologics) equivalent to and the same quality as existing biotechnological products is being promoted overseas. Based on such technological advances, a Health Sciences Council Research Project entitled “Research on Quality, Efficacy, and Safety Evaluation Methods for Biosimilars” was established with funding from MHLW, and the Guidelines on the Assurance of Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Biosimilar Products were formulated (Notification No. 0304007 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 4, 2009). Biosimilars are defined as drugs developed by different marketing authorization holders as drugs with the same quality, efficacy, and safety as biotechnological products already approved as drugs with new active ingredients in Japan. “Biosimilar” does not mean that the drug has exactly the same quality with the original biotechnological product, but that they are highly similar in quality and characteristics and even if there are differences in quality and characteristics, the differences can be scientifically judged not leading to any unintended effects on the efficacy and safety profiles of the final product. To prove the comparability, appropriate studies are necessary based on the concepts in the ICH Q5E guidelines “Comparability of Biotechnological/ Biological Products Subject to Changes in their Manufacturing Process.” It is also necessary to evaluate the comparability of biosimilars using clinical studies.

Q&A on the Guidelines on the Assurance of Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Biosimilar Products were published (Office Communication dated July 21, 2009, Office Communication dated March 31, 2010, and Office Communication dated December 15, 2015). Views of the regulatory authorities on timing, definitions of equivalent products, evaluations of comparability, development of formulations and test methods, and safety

evaluations for biosimilar applications are included.

The application for a biosimilar product is required to contain detailed procedures and programs of postmarketing surveillance and risk management as directed in Appendix 9 of the Guidelines on the Assurance of Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Biosimilar Products (Notification No. 0304007 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 4, 2009). The Guidelines on the Risk Management Plan (RMP) issued later (Notification No. 0426-(2) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated April 26, 2012) requires to attach an RMP draft in the application dossier.

4.4 Public Disclosure of Information on New Drug Development

A notification concerning publication of information on new drug approvals was issued (Notification No. 1651 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated November 11, 1999), and New Drug Approval Information Packages containing summary reviews prepared by the MHLW and nonclinical and clinical data submitted by the applicant have been published. Thereafter, the methods of submitting data for application were changed as specified in “Disclosure of Information Concerning Approval Reviews of New Drugs” (Notification No. 0529003 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMDA dated May 29, 2002). Basic procedures for submission and disclosure have also been specified (Notification No. 0422001 of the Evaluating and Licensing Division, PFSB dated April 22, 2005, Notification No. 0422004 of the PMDA dated April 22, 2005, Notification No. 1126005 of the Licensing and Evaluation Division of PFSB dated November 26, 2007, and Notification No. 0325-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 25, 2013).

Information on approval reviews for new drugs

is provided on the following homepages:

Japanese:

<http://www.pmda.go.jp/PmdaSearch/iyakuSearch/>,

English (part of product items):

<http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/review-services/reviews/approved-information/drugs/0001.html>

“A Joint Position on the Disclosure of Clinical Trial Information via Clinical Trial Registries and Databases” was issued on January 6, 2005 as a joint communiqué by four organizations: International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA), Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Associations (EFPIA) and Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA). The communiqué declared that registration for all clinical trials except exploratory studies must be disclosed and information on the results of all studies (except exploratory studies) on drugs approved or marketed in at least one foreign country must be disclosed.

Based on this declaration, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan initiated the UMIN Clinical Trial Registration System (UMIN-CTR; <http://www.umin.ac.jp/ctr/index-j.htm>) and the MHLW publishes information concerning nonclinical trials via JAPIC Clinical Trial Information (JapicCTI) (<http://www.japic.or.jp/index.html>), a database for registration and disclosure of clinical trial information through cooperation with the Japan Pharmaceutical Information Center and JPMA.

Moreover, a notification regarding the matters to be considered at the time of registration of the status of implementation of the clinical trial was issued, and registration of the trial-related information on the Japan Registry of Clinical Trials (JRCT), JapicCTI, and the Critical Trials Registry of the Japan Medical Association is required after submission of a notification of the clinical trial plan.

(Notification No. 0326-(3) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated March 26, 2018).

Using these systems, pharmaceutical companies disclose information on nonclinical trials with adequate consideration given to privacy of individual subjects, intellectual property rights, and contractual rights in order to improve the transparency of clinical trials.

In a system unique to Japan, information on institutional review boards is registered on the homepage of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) with the aim of establishing an environment to provide the trial personnel with easy access to the information regarding institutional review boards and making the information widely known to the public. (Notification No. 0515-(5) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 15, 2013, partially revised by Notification No. 0331-(9) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated March 31, 2017).

4.5 ICH (International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use)

ICH was established in April 1990 by six parties, i.e., regulatory authorities and industry groups of Japan, the United States, and Europe, with the aim of promptly supplying safe and effective new drugs to the patients who need them. The ICH Steering Committee consists of six original parties of EU, EFPIA, MHLW, JPMA, FDA, PhRMA as well as Swissmedic and Health Canada. In addition, WHO and IFPMA participate as an observer and a member (without the vote), respectively. To discuss issues on an individual basis, expert working groups (EWGs) consisting of specialists and government officials from organizations were established. Furthermore, in an attempt to cope

with increasingly globalized drug development and regulations, organizational reform took place in October 2015, and a new ICH corporation was established as an international nonprofit corporation under the SWISS ACT to enhance further international harmonization of pharmaceutical affairs.

At present, it is made up of the general assembly which consists of all members and serves as the main body of the organization, the management committee responsible for preparation for discussion in the general assembly as well as for operation of the organization, and working groups in which specialists discuss the guidelines.

New ICH harmonization is conducted by the following five steps.

- Step 1: Selection and analysis of topics to be addressed, analysis of issues, establishment of EWGs, and preparation of draft ICH guidelines
- Step 2a: Consensus of regulatory authorities and industry groups regarding technical documents
- Step 2b: Consensus among regulatory authorities regarding public consultation in each ICH region
- Step 3: Regulatory consultation in the three regions, call for public comments, and revision of the draft guidelines based on comments received
- Step 4: Sign-off and adoption of the guidelines
- Step 5: Regulatory implementation of the guidelines according to regional requirements

Currently, over 70 topics (guidelines), including revised versions, have been agreed and approved (Step 4 or 5) based on ICH activities. As shown in **Table 13** (ICH topics and guidelines - Progress of harmonization).

Visit the following homepage for details of ICH guidelines.

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

Japanese:

<https://www.pmda.go.jp/int-activities/int-harmony/ich/0014.html>

English:

<http://www.ich.org/home.html>

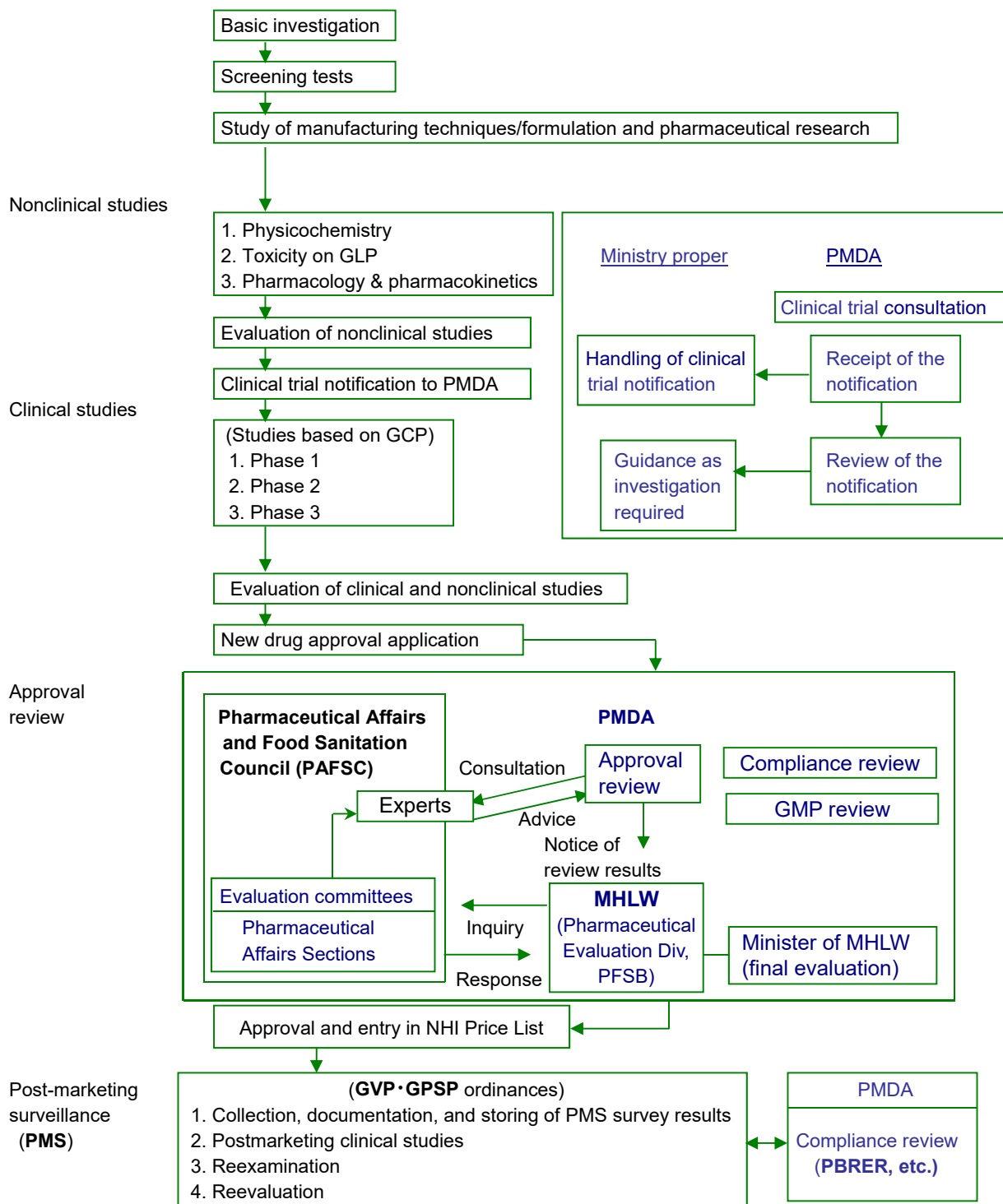
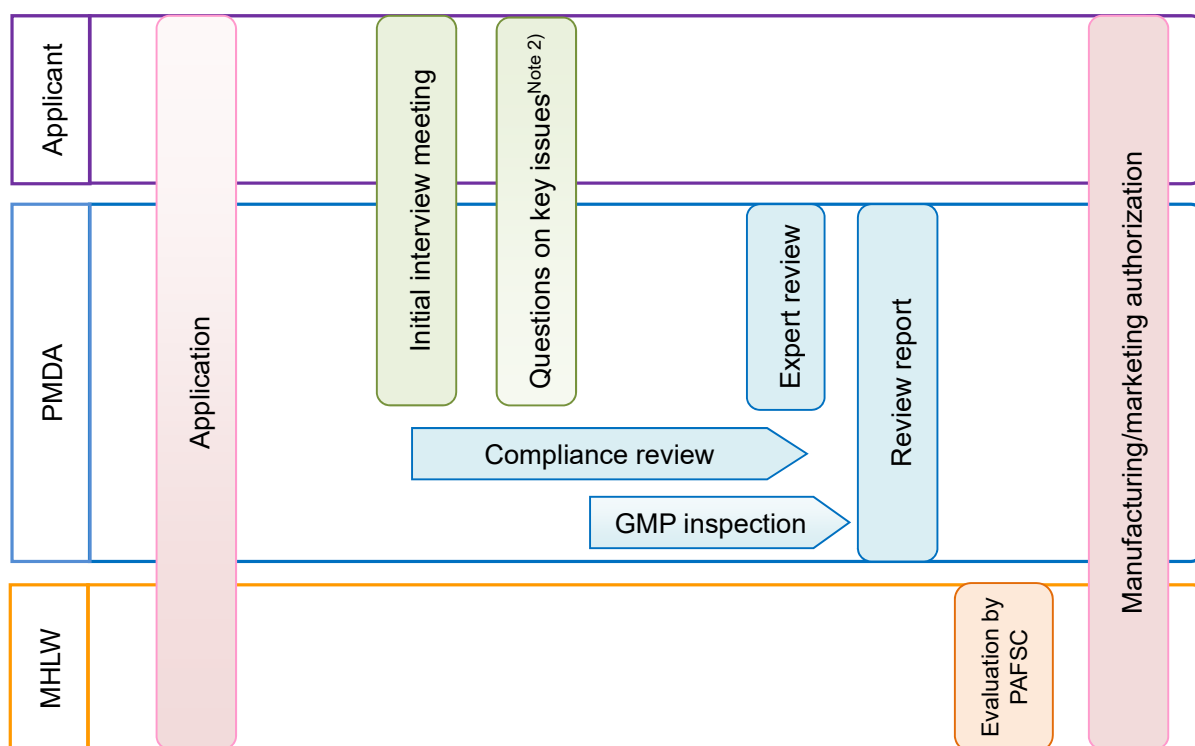
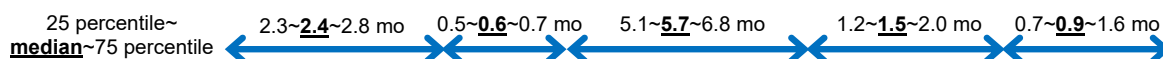


Fig. 8 Flowchart of New Drug Development and Approval

Timeline of the standard process of new drug approval (ordinary review products)

The following timeline shows a rough indication of review time^{Note 1)} for individual review process, according to the past records of approval reviews, to achieve the target total review time of 12 months (ordinary review products) from application to approval for new drugs for which applications are made from FY2014, assuming that no specific time-consuming situation may occur during the review.

Rough indication of review time



Note 1) Past records of approval reviews for new drugs in FY2013 were used to determine a rough indication of review time. The number of individual processes from application to approval used in the calculation were as follows: Initial interview meeting: 35, Questions on key issues: 31, Expert review: 85, Evaluation by PAFSC: 83, Manufacturing/marketing authorization: 96.

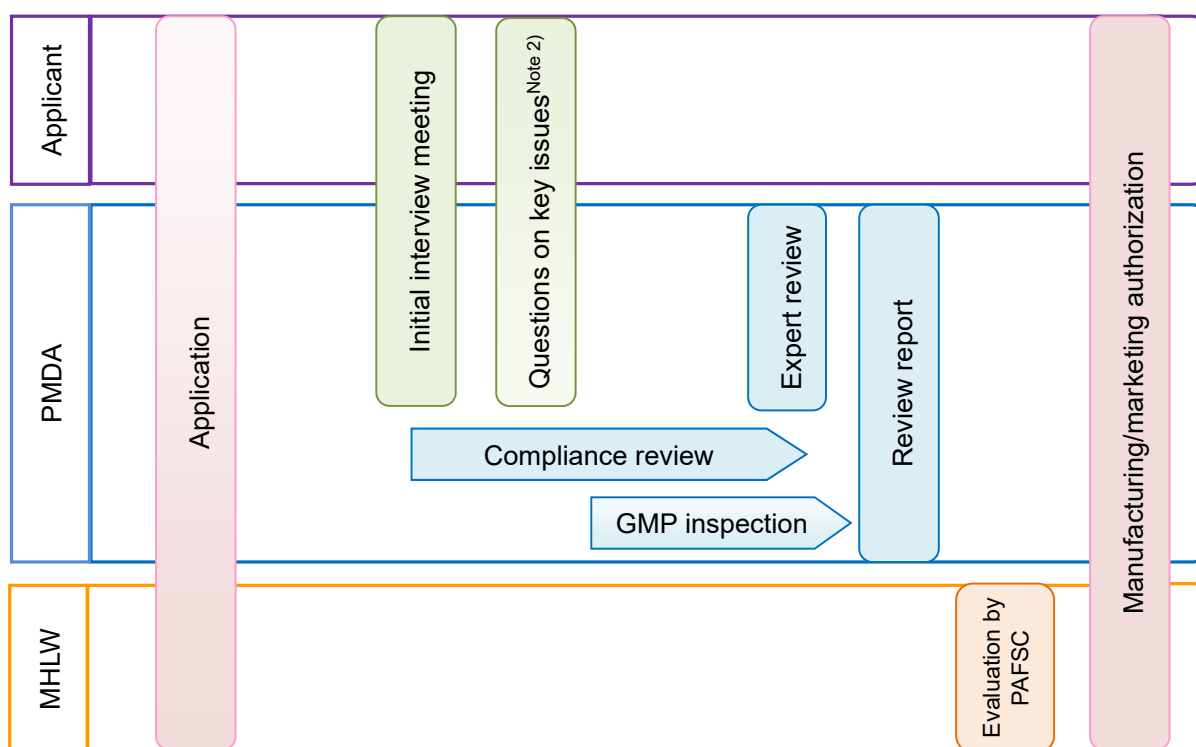
Note 2) Questions on key issues: First questions issued following the initial interview

Fig. 9 Timeline of the standard process of new drug approval (ordinary review products)

Timeline of the standard process of new drug approval (priority review products)

The following timeline shows a rough indication of review time^{Note 1)} for individual review process, according to the past records of approval reviews, to achieve the target total review time of 9 months (ordinary review products) from application to approval for new drugs for which applications are made from FY2014, assuming that no specific time-consuming situation may occur during the review.

Rough indication of review time



Note 1) Past records of approval reviews for new drugs in FY2013 were used to determine a rough indication of review time. The number of individual processes from application to approval used in the calculation were as follows: Initial interview meeting: 12, Questions on key issues: 12, Expert review: 34, Evaluation by PAFSC: 30, Manufacturing/marketing authorization: 31.

Note 2) Questions on key issues: First questions issued following the initial interview

Fig. 10 Timeline of the standard process of new drug approval (priority review products)

Table 3 Data to be Submitted with an Application for Approval to Manufacture/Market: A New Prescription Drug

(Attached Table 2-1 in PFSB Notification No. 1121-(2) dated November 21, 2014)

Left Column	Right Column							
	A 1 2 3	B 1 2 3	C 1 2 3	D 1 2 3	E 1 2 3 4 5 6	F 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	G	H
(1) Drugs containing new active ingredients	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ○ △	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	○ ○ ○ △ ○ △ △	○	○
(2) New prescription combination drugs	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ △ △	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	○ ○ × × × △ ×	○	○
(3) Drugs with new routes of administration	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ △ △	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	○ ○ × △ ○ △ △	○	○
(4) Drugs with new indications	○ ○	× × ×	× × ×	○ × ×	△ △ △ △ × △	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(5) Prescription drugs with new dosage forms	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	○ ○ ○	× × ×	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(6) Drugs with new dosages	○ ○	× × ×	× × ×	○ × ×	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(7) Biosimilar Products	○ ○	○ ○	○ △	○ × ×	△ △ △ △ × △	△ ○ × × × △ △	○	○
(8) Prescription drugs with additional dosage forms (during reexamination period)	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	△ △ ○	× × ×	× × × × ○ ×	× × × × × × ×	×	○
(8-2) Prescription drugs with additional dosage forms (not during reexamination period)								
(9) Prescription combination drugs with similar formulations (during reexamination period)	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	○ ○ ○	△ △ ×	× × × × × ×	○ △ × × × △ ×	○	○
(9-2) Prescription combination drugs with similar formulations (not during reexamination period)								
(10) Other prescription drugs (during reexamination period)								
(10-2) Other prescription drugs (Same with (10), changes in manufacturing method of biological products, etc.)	× × ×	× △ ○	× × ○	× × ×	× × × × ○ ×	× × × × × × ×	×	○
(10-3) Other prescription drugs (not during reexamination period)								1)
(10-4) Other prescription drugs (Same with (10-3), changes in manufacturing method of biological products, etc.)								

Note 1) The marks and numbers in the columns on the right indicate the marks and numbers of the data specified in Attached Table 1, and the marks have the following meanings, in principle: ○: Data required ×: Data not required △: Data required depending on individual cases

Note 2) Note 1) in column on the right signifies as follows.

- 1) Only for applications that do not involve any change to information contained in the attached data, including change to the manufacturing method or change to the testing method, the attachment of data under H is not required, in principle.

(Table 3) Drug classification system

(1) "Prescription drugs with new active ingredients" refer to drugs that have ingredients never before been used as active ingredients in drugs that have already been approved for manufacture/marketing or are specified in the Japanese Pharmacopoeia ("approved drugs, etc." hereinafter).
(2) "New combination prescription drugs" refer to drugs with different active ingredients or combining ratios from those of combination drugs specified in the Japanese Pharmacopoeia or combination drugs that have already been approved for manufacture/marketing as prescription drugs. However, combination prescription drugs with similar formulations specified in (8) and drugs such as digestive enzyme combination drugs and mild acting poultices that are judged not to be new from an overall evaluation are excluded.
(3) "Prescription drugs with new administration routes" refer to drugs that have the same active ingredients as approved drugs, etc. but have different routes of administration (oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, percutaneous, per-rectal, transvaginal, eye drops, nasal drops, inhalation, etc.).
(4) "Prescription drugs with new indications" refer to drugs that have the same active ingredients and routes of administration as approved drugs, etc. but have different indications.
(5) "Prescription drugs with new dosage forms" refer to drugs that have the same active ingredients, routes of administration and indications as approved drugs, etc. but have new dosage forms with different administration, etc. because of pharmaceutical changes such as sustained release. However, drugs with additional dosage forms specified in (7) are excluded.
(6) "Prescription drugs with new doses" refer to drugs that have the same active ingredients and routes of administration as approved drugs, etc. but have different doses.
(7) "Biosimilar products" refer to biotechnological products equivalent to existing (approved) biotechnological products in quality
(8) "Prescription drugs with additional dosage forms" refer to drugs that have the same active ingredients, routes of administration, indications and dosage and administration as approved drugs, etc., but have different dosage forms or contents.
(9) "Combination prescription drugs with similar formulations" refer to prescription drugs with active ingredients and combining ratios that are judged to be similar to those of combination drugs specified in the Japanese Pharmacopoeia or combination drugs that have already been approved for manufacture/marketing as prescription drugs.
(10) "Other prescription drugs" refer to drugs not classified into any of the above (1) to (9). Changes of manufacturing method of biological products are classified into 10-2 or 10-4. Biological products refer to vaccines and blood products entered in the Biological Product Standards; recombinant DNA technological drugs, cell culture drugs and other biotechnological drugs or drugs derived from living organisms.

A Origin or background of discovery, conditions of use in foreign countries	1. Origin or background of discovery 2. Conditions of use in foreign countries 3. Special characteristics, comparisons with other drugs, etc.
B Manufacturing methods, standards and test methods	1. Chemical structure and physicochemical properties, etc. 2. Manufacturing methods 3. Standards and test methods
C Stability	1. Long-term storage tests 2. Tests under severe conditions (stress tests) 3. Accelerated tests
D Pharmacological action	1. Tests to support efficacy 2. Secondary pharmacology, Safety pharmacology 3. Other pharmacology
E Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion	1. Absorption 2. Distribution 3. Metabolism 4. Excretion 5. Bioequivalence 6. Other pharmacokinetics
F Acute, subacute, and chronic toxicity, teratogenicity, and other types of toxicity	1. Single dose toxicity 2. Repeated dose toxicity 3. Genotoxicity 4. Carcinogenicity 5. Reproductive toxicity 6. Local irritation 7. Other toxicity
G Clinical studies	Clinical trial results
H Information in the attached data, etc. provided for in Article 52, Paragraph 1 of the Law	Information in the attached data, etc.

**Table 4 Data to be Submitted with an Application for a Non-prescription Drug
(Attached Table 2-2 in PFSSB Notification No. 1121-(2) dated November 21, 2014)**

Left Column	Right Column							
	A 1 2 3	B 1 2 3	C 1 2 3	D 1 2 3	E 1 2 3 4 5 6	F 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	G	H
(1) Drugs containing new active ingredients	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ ○ △	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	○ ○ ○ △ ○ △ △	○	○
(2) Drugs with new routes of administration	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	○ ○ ○	○ △ △	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	○ ○ × △ ○ △ △	○	○
(3-1) Drugs with new indications	○ ○ ○	× × ×	× × ×	○ × ×	△ △ △ △ × △	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(3-2) Prescription drugs with new dosage forms	○ ○ ○	× ○ ○	○ ○ ○	× × ×	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(3-3) Drugs with new dosages	○ ○ ○	× × ×	× × ×	× × ×	○ ○ ○ ○ × △	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(4) Non-prescription drugs with new active ingredients for non-prescription drugs	○ ○ ○	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	△ △ × × × △ △	○	○
(5-1) Non-prescription drugs with new administration routes for non-prescription drugs	○ ○ ○	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	△ △ × × × △ △	○	○
(5-2) Non-prescription drugs with new indications for non-prescription drugs	○ ○ ○	× × ×	× × ×	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(5-3) Non-prescription drugs with new dosage forms for non-prescription drugs	○ ○ ○	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(5-4) Non-prescription drugs with new dosage/administrations for non-prescription drugs	○ ○ ○	× × ×	× × ×	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	× × × × × × ×	○	○
(6) New non-prescription combination drugs	○ ○ ○	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	△ △ × × × △ ×	○	○
(7-1) Non-prescription combination drugs with similar formulations	× × ○	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	△ △ × × × × ×	×	○
(7-2) Non-prescription combination drugs with similar dosage forms	× × ○	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	△ × × × × ×	× × × × × × ×	×	○
(8) Other non-prescription drugs (drugs with approval standards, 1)	× × ○ 1)	× × ○	△ × △ ²⁾	× × ×	× × × × × ×	× × × × × × ×	×	×

Note 1) The marks and numbers in the columns on the right indicate the marks and numbers of the data specified in Attached Table 1, and the marks have the following meanings, in principle: ○: Data required ×: Data not required △: Data required depending on individual cases

Note 2) Notes 1) and 2) in column on the right signify as follows.

- 1) A drug product that conforms to approval standards may be applied by submitting a comparison table of the standards and active ingredient(s) and its amount(s). A non-drug product must be documented with the basis of formulation development, efficacy, safety, and other necessary characteristics.
- 2) Long-term stability data are necessary if stability for more than 3 years is not ensured by accelerated stability tests. If the product is confirmed to be stable for at least 1 year based on ongoing long-term stability tests, the application itself is acceptable. The final report of the long-term tests must be submitted until approval.

(Table 4) Drug classification system

(4) "Non-prescription drugs with new active ingredients for non-prescription drugs" refer to non-prescription drugs other than drugs with new active ingredients and contain ingredients not used as active ingredients in approved non-prescription drugs.
(5) (5-1) "Non-prescription drugs with new administration routes for non-prescription drugs" refer to non-prescription drugs other than drugs with new routes of administration and contain the same active ingredients as approved non-prescription drugs but have different routes of administration. (5-2) "Non-prescription drugs with new indications for non-prescription drugs" refer to non-prescription drugs other than drugs with new indications and have the same active ingredients and routes of administration as approved non-prescription drugs but have different indications. (5-3) "Non-prescription drugs with new dosage forms for non-prescription drugs" refer to non-prescription drugs other than drugs with new dosage forms and have the same active ingredients, routes of administration and indications as approved non-prescription drugs but have a new dosage form leading to changes in dosage/administration because of pharmaceutical changes such as sustained release, which are classified into either of non-prescription drugs or guidance-mandatory drugs. (5-4) "Non-prescription drugs with new dosage/administrations for non-prescription drugs" refer to non-prescription drugs other than drugs with new dosage/administrations and have the same active ingredients and routes of administration as approved non-prescription drugs but have different dosage/administrations, which are classified into either of non-prescription drugs or guidance-mandatory drugs.
(6) "New non-prescription combination drugs" refer to non-prescription drugs with the same ingredients as active ingredients of approved non-prescription drugs but with a different active ingredient composition, which are classified into either of non-prescription drugs or guidance-mandatory drugs. Those determined to have a similar active ingredient composition to approved non-prescription drugs are excluded. Basically, the drugs in No. 1. (1)-(1) a) to f) in Notification No. 0331053 of the PFSA dated March 31 2008 are equivalent to new non-prescription combination drugs.
(7) (7-1) "Non-prescription combination drugs with similar formulations" refers to drugs with ingredients the same as active ingredients of approved non-prescription drugs that are non-prescription drugs with similar combinations of active ingredients as approved non-prescription drugs. (7-2) "Non-prescription drugs with similar dosage forms" refer to non-prescription drugs with the same active ingredients, routes of administration and indications as approved non-prescription drugs but with different dosage forms, but they are not equivalent to drugs in (5)-(3) among non-prescription drugs with different dosage forms.
(8) "Other non-prescription drugs" refers to non-prescription drugs that are not equivalent to the drugs in (1) to (7).

A Origin or background of discovery, conditions of use in foreign countries	1. Origin or background of discovery 2. Conditions of use in foreign countries 3. Special characteristics, comparisons with other drugs, etc.
B Manufacturing methods, standards and test methods	1. Chemical structure and physicochemical properties, etc. 2. Manufacturing methods 3. Standards and test methods
C Stability	1. Long-term storage tests 2. Tests under severe conditions (stress tests) 3. Accelerated tests
D Pharmacological action	1. Tests to support efficacy 2. Secondary pharmacology, Safety pharmacology 3. Other pharmacology
E Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion	1. Absorption 2. Distribution 3. Metabolism 4. Excretion 5. Bioequivalence 6. Other pharmacokinetics
F Acute, subacute, and chronic toxicity, teratogenicity, and other types of toxicity	1. Single dose toxicity 2. Repeated dose toxicity 3. Genotoxicity 4. Carcinogenicity 5. Reproductive toxicity 6. Local irritation 7. Other toxicity
G Clinical studies	Clinical trial results
H Information in the attached data, etc. provided for in Article 52, Paragraph 1 of the Law	Information in the attached data, etc.

Table 5 Classification of Clinical Studies According to Objectives

Type of study	Objective of study	Study examples
Human pharmacology studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess tolerance • Define/describe PK and PD • Explore drug metabolism and drug interactions • Estimate activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose-tolerance studies • Single and multiple dose PK and/or PD studies • Drug interaction studies • ADME studies
Therapeutic exploratory studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore use for the targeted indication • Dose-response exploration studies • Provide basis for confirmatory study design, endpoints, methodologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earliest studies of relatively short duration in well-defined narrow patient populations, using surrogate or pharmacological endpoints or clinical measures
Therapeutic confirmatory studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate/confirm efficacy • Establish safety profile • Establish dose-response relationship • Provide an adequate basis for assessing the benefit/risk relationship to support licensing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate, and well controlled studies to establish efficacy • Safety studies • Randomized parallel dose-response studies • Large simple studies
Therapeutic use studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine understanding of benefit/risk relationship in general or special populations and/or environments • Identify less common adverse reactions • Refine dosing recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative effectiveness studies • Studies of mortality/morbidity outcomes • Large simple studies • Pharmacoeconomic studies

Table 6 List of Major Guidelines, etc. on Physicochemical Properties, Specifications, and Tests Methods

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
Text (Items) on Analytical Validation	Notification No. 755 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated July 20, 1995 (ICH Q2A, currently Q2(R1))
Guidelines on Impurities in Bulk Drugs with New Active Ingredients	Notification No. 877 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated September 25, 1995, partially revised by Notification No. 1204001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated December 4, 2006 (ICH Q3A, currently Q3A(R2))
Guidelines on Impurities in Drug Preparations	Notification No. 539 of Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB, dated June 23, 1997, partially revised by Notification No. 0703004 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 3, 2006 (ICH Q3B, currently Q3B(R2))
Text (analytical procedures) on Analytical Validation	Notification No. 338 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated October 28, 1997 (ICH Q2B, currently Q2(R1))
Guidelines on Residual Solvents in Drug Preparations	Notification No. 307 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated March 30, 1998, partially revised by Notification No. 0318-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated March 18, 2019 (ICH Q3C, currently Q3C(R7))
Guideline for Elemental Impurities	Notification No. 0930-(4) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated September 30, 2015 (ICH-Q3D)
Setting of Specifications and Test Methods of New Drugs	Notification No. 568 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001 (ICH Q6A)
Setting of Specifications and Test Methods of Biological Products (Biotechnological Products/Drug Products Derived from Living Organisms)	Notification No. 571 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001 (ICH Q6B)
Guidelines for Handling Internationally Harmonized Specifications of Japanese Pharmacopoeia	Notification No. 574 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001
Guidelines Related to Formulation Development	Notification No. 0901001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated September 1, 2006, partially revised by Notification No. 0628-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 28, 2010 (ICH Q8)
Handling of Application of Drugs Containing a Substance with Different Crystalline	Notification No. 0616-(1) of PFSB dated June 16, 2011
Guidelines for development and manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (chemicals and biotechnological products/biological products)	Notification No. 0710-(9) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 10, 2014 (ICH-Q11)
Questions and answers (Q&As) on guidelines for development and manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (chemicals and biotechnological products/biological products)	Office Communication dated September 14, 2018

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

Guidelines for Assessment and Control of DNA Reactive (mutagenic) Impurities in Pharmaceuticals to Limit Potential Carcinogenic Risk	Notification No. 1110-(3) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB dated November 10, 2015 (ICH-M7) Partially revised by Notification No. 0627-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated June 27, 2018
Matters to be considered in assuring and evaluating quality of nucleic acid drugs	Notification No. 0927-(3) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated September 27, 2018

Table 7 List of Major Guidelines, etc. on Toxicity Tests

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
Revisions of the Guidelines for Single and Repeated Dose Toxicity Studies	Notification No. 88 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated August 10, 1993 (ICH S4)
Guidance for Toxicokinetics (Evaluation of Systemic Exposure in Toxicity Tests)	Notification No. 443 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated July 2, 1996 (ICH S3A)
Questions and Answers (Q&As) on Use of Microsampling Method in Guidance for Toxicokinetics (Evaluation of Systemic Exposure in Toxicity Tests)	Office Communication dated March 15, 2019
Guidance on Dose Selection for Carcinogenicity Tests of Drugs	Notification No. 544 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated August 6, 1996 (ICH S1C)
Guidance on Dose Selection for Carcinogenicity Tests of Drugs and its supplement	Notification No. 551 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated July 9, 1998 (ICH S1C(R), currently S1C(R1))
Guidance on Requirements for Carcinogenicity Tests of Drugs	Notification No.315 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated April 14, 1997 (ICH-S1A)
Guidelines for Reproductive and Developmental Toxicity Studies	Notification No. 316 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated April 14, 1997 (ICH S5A/S5B), partially revised by Notification No. 1834 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated December 27, 2000 (ICH S5B(M), currently S5(R2))
Guidance on the Need for Carcinogenicity Studies of Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 548 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated July 9, 1998 (ICH-S1B)
Timing of Preclinical Studies in Relation to Clinical Trials	Notification Nos. 1019 and 1831 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division of PMSB dated November 13, 1998 and December 27, 2000, respectively, partially revised by Notification No. 0219-(4) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated February 19, 2010 (ICH M3(M), currently M3(R2))
Guidance on Nonclinical Safety Studies for the Conduct of Human Clinical Trials and Marketing Authorization for Pharmaceuticals Questions & Answers (Q&A)	Office Communication dated August 16, 2012
Guidance on Genotoxicity Tests of Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 1604 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated November 1, 1999 (ICH-S2)
Guidance on Carcinogenicity Tests of Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 1607 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated November 11, 1999, partially revised by Notification No. 1127001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated November 27, 2008
Guidance on Immunotoxicity Studies for Human Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 0418001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated April 18, 2006 (ICH S8)
The Non-clinical Evaluation of the Potential for Delayed Ventricular Repolarization (QT Interval Prolongation) by Human Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 1023-(4) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated October 23, 2009 (ICH S7B)
Guidance on Genotoxicity Testing and Data Interpretation for Pharmaceuticals Intended for Human Use	Notification No. 0920-(2) dated September 20, 2012 (ICH-S2 (R1))
Guidance on Non-clinical Evaluation of Medicinal Products in Pediatric Population Using Juvenile Animals	Notification No. 1002-(5) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated October 2, 2012
Guideline on Photosafety Evaluation	Notification No. 0521-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 21, 2014 (ICH-S10)

Table 8 List of Major Guidelines, etc. on Pharmacological Studies

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
Guidelines for General Pharmacology Studies	Notification No. 4 of the New Drugs Division, PMSB dated January 29, 1991
Safety Pharmacology Study Guidelines	Notification No. 902 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 21, 2001 (ICH-S7A)
Methods of Investigating Drug Interactions	Notification No. 813 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 4, 2001

Table 9 List of Major Guidelines, etc. on Pharmacokinetic Studies

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
Guidelines on Pharmacokinetic Studies	
Guidelines on Nonclinical Pharmacokinetic Studies	Notification No. 496 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 26, 1998
Guideline for Repeated Dose Tissue Distribution Studies	Notification No. 442 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated July 2, 1996 (ICH-S3B)
Clinical Pharmacokinetic Studies on Drugs	Notification No. 796 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated June 1, 2001
Guidelines for Population Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Guidelines	Notification No. 0515-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated May 15, 2019
Guidelines on validation of bioanalytical methods	
Guidelines on Bioanalytical Methods Validation for Human Studies in New Drug Development	Notification No. 0711-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 11, 2013
Guidelines on Bioanalytical Methods Validation for Human Studies in New Drug Development Questions and Answers (Q&A)	Office Communication dated July 11, 2013
Guidelines on Bioanalytical Methods (Ligand Binding) Validation for Human Studies in New Drug Development	Notification No. 0401-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated April 1, 2014
Guidelines on Bioanalytical Methods (Ligand Binding) Validation for Human Studies in New Drug Development Questions and Answers (Q&A)	Office Communication dated April 1, 2014
Guidelines on investigation of drug interactions	
Guidelines for Pharmacokinetic Drug Interaction for Drug Development and Proper Information Provision	Notification No. 0723-(4) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated July 23, 2018 (partially revised by Office Communication dated February 8, 2019; replacement of a list of errata for partial revision by Office Communication dated February 20, 2019)
Questions and Answers (Q&As) on Guidelines for Pharmacokinetic Drug Interaction for Drug Development and Proper Information Provision	Office Communication dated July 23, 2018

Table 10 List of Major Guidelines, etc. on Bioequivalence Studies

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
Guidelines on bioequivalence studies	
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Testing of Generic Drugs	Notification No. 0229-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated February 29, 2012
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Testing of Oral Solid Dosage Forms with Different Content	Notification No. 0229-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated February 29, 2012
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Testing of Oral Solid Dosage Forms with Formulation Modifications	Notification No. 0229-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated February 29, 2012
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Testing of Products with Different Dosage Forms	Notification No. 0229-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated February 29, 2012
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Studies of Generic Products for Topical Dermatological Use	Notification No. 1124004 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated November 24, 2006
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Testing of New Additional Topical Dermatological Dosage Forms	Notification No. 1124001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated November 24, 2006
Guidelines for Bioequivalence Testing of Topical Dermatological Dosage Forms with Formulation Modifications	Notification No. 1101-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSD dated November 1, 2010
Concepts regarding evaluation of bioequivalence of various preparations	
Concepts regarding Bioequivalence Studies of Solid Oral Preparations for Handling Changes in Manufacturing Method (Including Q&A)	Office Communication dated April 19, 2013
Basic Concepts regarding Bioequivalence Studies of Generic Powder Inhaler Products	Office Communication dated March 11, 2016
Basic Concepts regarding Bioequivalence Studies of Generic Aqueous Ophthalmic Solution Products	Office Communication dated March 11, 2016
Basic Concepts Regarding Implementation of Bioequivalence Studies of Generic Ophthalmic Solution Products	Office Communication dated November 29, 2018

Table 11 List of Major Guidelines, etc. on Clinical Evaluation

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
[1] Guidelines for clinical evaluation of drugs classified by therapeutic category	
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Oral Contraceptives	Notification No. 10 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated April 21, 1987
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs to Improve Cerebral Circulation and/or Metabolism in Cerebrovascular Disorders	Notification No. 22 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated October 31, 1987
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Antihyperlipidemic Drugs	Notification No. 1 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated January 5, 1988
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Antianxiety Drugs	Notification No. 7 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated March 16, 1988
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Antibacterial Drugs	Notification No. 1023-(3) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated October 23, 2017
Reference Information for Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Antibacterial Drugs	Office Communication dated October 23, 2017
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Ocular Topical Antimicrobial Drugs	Notification No. 0418-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated April 18, 2019
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Drugs to Treat Osteoporosis	Notification No. 742 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated April 15, 1999, partially revised by Notification of Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB 0707-(1)
Principles for Clinical Evaluation of New Antihypertensive Drugs	Notification No. 0128001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated January 28, 2002 (ICH E12A, currently E12)
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Antiarrhythmic Drugs	Notification No. 0325035 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 25, 2004
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Antianginal Drugs	Notification No. 0512001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 12, 2004
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Antimalignant Tumor Drugs	Notification No. 1101001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated November 1, 2005, partially revised by Office Communication dated November 2, 2005
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Antirheumatoid Drugs	Notification No. 0217001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated February 17, 2006
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for Overactive Bladder or Incontinence	Notification No. 0628001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 28, 2006
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Prophylactic Vaccines against Infections	Notification No. 0527-(5) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated May 27, 2010
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Oral Hypoglycemic Drug	Notification No. 0709-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 9, 2010. The draft amendment was presented on May 19, 2014
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Antidepressant Drugs	Notification No. 1116-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated November 16, 2010
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Drugs to Treat Heart Failure	Notification No. 0329-(18) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 29, 2011
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Therapeutic Drugs for Renal Anemia	Notification No. 0930-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated September 30, 2011
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Hypnotics	Notification No. 1213-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated December 13, 2011
Guidance for Clinical Evaluation Method of Anticancer Drugs in Pediatric Patients With Malignant Cancer	Notification No. 0930-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated September 30, 2015
Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs, etc. for Treating Acute Spinal Cord Injury	Notification No. 0508-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB and Notification No. 0508-(1) of the Medical Device Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated May 8, 2019
Guidance on Clinical Evaluation of Travelers' Vaccine, etc.	Notification No. 0407-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB dated April 7, 2016

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

[2] Common guidelines for clinical evaluation	
Studies in Support of Special Populations: Geriatrics	Notification No. 104 of the New Drugs Division, PAB dated December 2, 1993 (ICH-E7) and Q&A dated September 17, 2010
Questions and Answers for "Studies in Support of Special Populations: Geriatrics"	Office Communication dated September 17, 2010
Dose-Response Information to Support Drug Registration	Notification No. 494 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated July 25, 1994 (ICH-E4)
Extent of Population Exposure to Assess Clinical Safety for Drugs Intended for Long-term Treatment of Non-Life-Threatening Conditions	Notification No. 592 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated May 24, 1995 (ICH-E1)
Structure and Content of Clinical Study Reports	Notification No. 335 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PAB dated May 1, 1996 (ICH-E3)
General Considerations for Clinical Trials	Notification No. 380 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated April 21, 1998 (ICH-E8)
Ethnic Factors to be Considered in the Acceptance of Foreign Clinical Trial Data	Notification No. 672 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated August 11, 1998 (ICH E5, currently E5(R1)) Q&A by Office Communication dated February 25, 2004, and Q&A-(2) by Office Communication dated October 5, 2006
Statistical Principles for Clinical Trials	Notification No. 1047 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated November 30, 1998 (ICH-E9)
Clinical Investigation of Medicinal Products in the Pediatric Population	Notification No. 1334 of the Evaluating and Licensing Division, PMSB dated December 15, 2000 (ICH-E11)
Supplement to Clinical Investigation of Medicinal Products in the Pediatric Population	Notification No. 1227-(5) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated December 27, 2017 (ICH-E11 (R1))
Choice of Control Group and Related Issues in Conducting Clinical Studies	Notification No. 136 of the Evaluating and Licensing Division, PMSB dated February 27, 2001, partially revised by Office Communication dated April 10, 2001
Guidance for Conducting Microdose Clinical Studies	Notification No. 0603001 of the Evaluating and Licensing Division, PFSB dated June 3, 2008
Clinical Investigation of QT/QTc Interval Prolongation and Proarrhythmic Potential for Non-antiarrhythmic Drugs	Notification No. 1023-(1) of the Evaluating and Licensing Division, PFSB dated October 23, 2009, Q&A by Office Communication dated October 23, 2009, and Q&A-(2) by Office Communication dated July 3, 2012
Guidance on Nonclinical Safety Studies for the Conduct of Human Clinical Trials and Marketing Authorization for Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 0219-(4) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated February 19, 2010 (ICH-M3(R2)) and Q&A by Office Communication dated August 16, 2012
General Principles for Planning and Design of Multi-Regional Clinical Trials	Notification No. 0612-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated June 12, 2018 (ICH-E17)
[3] Other guidelines for clinical evaluation	
Research on Evaluation of Immunotherapeutic Agents for Malignant Tumors	Iyakuin Kenkyu 11(4), 1980
Research on Evaluation of Blood Preparations, Especially Plasma Fraction Preparations	Iyakuin Kenkyu 15(2), 1984
Research on Overall Evaluation of Interferon Preparations	Iyakuin Kenkyu 15(6), 1984
Guidelines on Clinical Evaluation of Anti-inflammatory Analgesic Drugs	Iyakuin Kenkyu 16(3), 1985
Guidelines on the Design and Evaluation of Sustained-release (Oral) Preparations	Notification No. 5 of the First Evaluation and Registration Division, PAB dated March 11, 1988

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

Guidance for Developing Prototype Vaccines in Preparation for Influenza Pandemic	Notification No. 1031-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB dated October 31, 2011
Guidance for Clinical Evaluation of Diagnostic Radiopharmaceuticals	Notification No. 0611-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB dated June 11, 2012
Points to Consider in Application of Companion Diagnostics and Related Drug Products	Notification No. 0701-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSSB dated July 1, 2013
Technical Guidance for Companion Diagnostics and Related Drug Products	Office Communication dated December 26, 2013
Guideline for PK/PD of Antibacterial Agents	Notification No. 1225-(10) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB dated December 25, 2015
Guideline for Development of Liposomal Preparations	Notification No. 0328-(19) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PSEHB dated March 28, 2016 (Office Communication dated March 28, 2016, Q&As)
Reflection Paper on Nucleic Acid (siRNA)-Encapsulated Nanoparticle Formulations	Office Communication dated March 28, 2016
Guidance on Development of Cancer Immunotherapy	Notification No. 0308-(1) of the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division, PSEHB and Notification No. 0308-(1) of the Medical Device Evaluation Division, PSEHB dated March 8, 2019

Table 12 List of Major Guidelines, etc. Related to Biotechnology

Title	Notification number and date of issuance
Viral Safety Evaluation of Biotechnology Products Derived from Cell Lines of Human or Animal Origin	Notification No. 329 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated February 22, 2000 (ICH-Q5A)
Quality of Biotechnological Products: Analysis of the Expression Construct in Cells Used for Production of R-DNA Derived Protein Products	Notification No. 3 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated January 6, 1998 (ICH-Q5B)
Quality of Biotechnological Products: Stability Testing of Biotechnological/Biological Products	Notification No. 6 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated January 6, 1998 (ICH-Q5C)
Derivation and Characterization of Cell Substrates Used for Production of Biotechnological/Biological Products	Notification No. 873 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated July 14, 2000 (ICH-Q5D)
Comparability of Biotechnological/Biological Products Subject to Changes in Their Manufacturing Process	Notification No. 0426001 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated April 26, 2005 (ICH-Q5E)
Specifications: Test Procedures and Acceptance Criteria for Biotechnological/Biological Products	Notification No. 571 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PMSB dated May 1, 2001 (ICH-Q6B)
Preclinical Safety Evaluation of Biotechnology-Derived Pharmaceuticals	Notification No. 0323-(1) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 23, 2012 (ICH-S6(R))
Guidelines of Quality and Safety Assurance of Drugs for Gene Therapy	Notification No. 0701-(4) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 1, 2013
Reporting of Information and Findings that May Affect the Evaluation of Drugs for Gene Therapy	Notification No. 0701-(7) of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated July 1, 2013

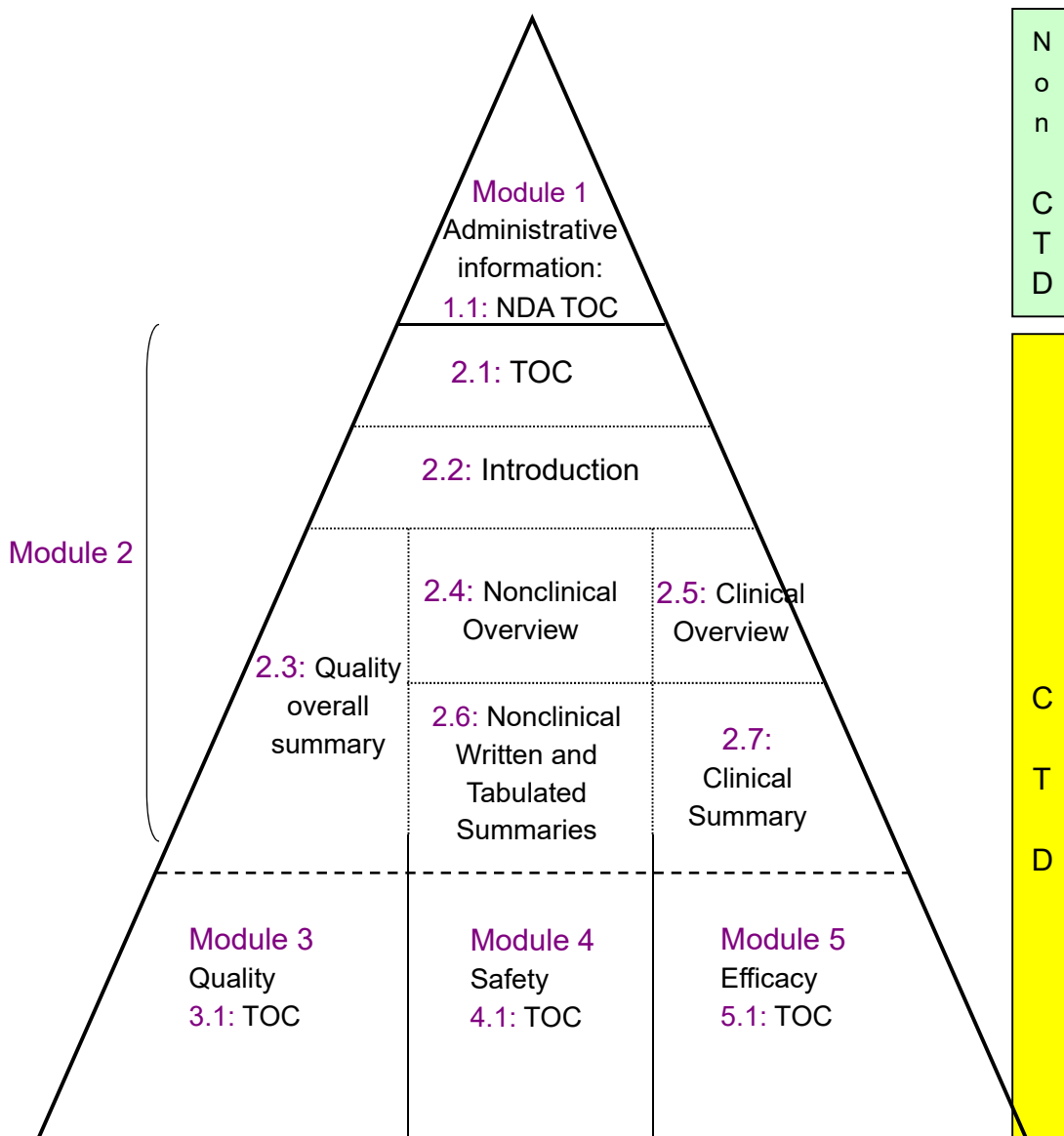


Fig. 11 Organization of ICH Common Technical Documents

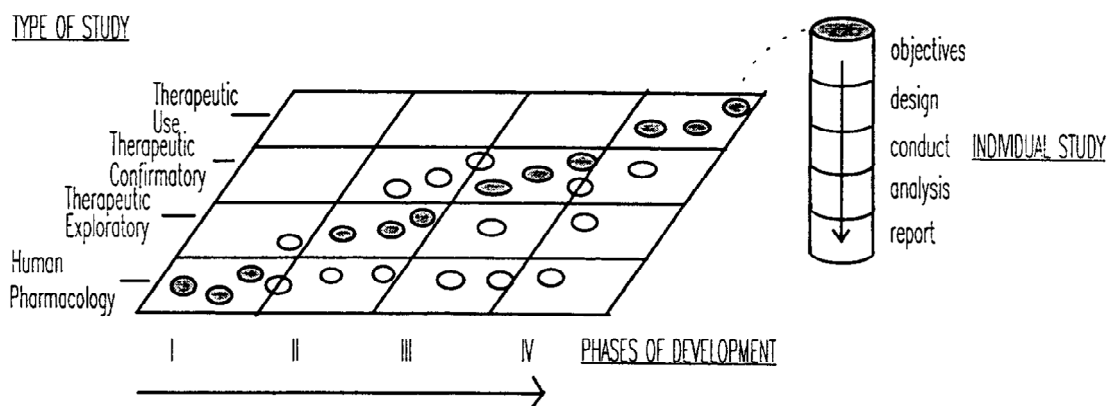


Fig. 12 Correlation between Development Phases and Types of Study

This matrix graph illustrates the relationship between the phases of development and types of study by objective that may be conducted during each clinical development of a new medicinal product. The shaded circles show the types of study most usually conducted in a certain phase of development, the open circles show certain types of study that may be conducted in that phase of development but are less usual. Each circle represents an individual study. To illustrate the development of a single study, one circle is joined by a dotted line to an inset column that depicts the elements and sequence of an individual study.

Table 13 ICH topics and guidelines - Progress of harmonizationas of November 20, 2019 <https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000233035.pdf>

	Quality	
	Code	Topics
Step 5	Q1A(R2) Q1B Q1C Q1D Q1E Q2(R1) Q3A(R2) Q3B(R2) Q3C(R7) Q3D Q4B Q4B(Annex1)(R1) Q4B(Annex2)(R1) Q4B(Annex3)(R1) Q4B(Annex4A, 4B, 4C) (R1) Q4B(Annex5)(R1) Q4B(Annex6)(R1) Q4B(Annex7)(R2) Q4B(Annex8)(R1) Q4B(Annex9)(R1) Q4B(Annex10)(R1) Q4B(Annex11) Q4B(Annex12) Q4B(Annex13) Q4B(Annex14) Q5A(R1) Q5B Q5C Q5D Q5E Q6A Q6B Q7 Q8(R2) Q9 Q10 Q11	Stability testing: New drug substances and products Stability testing: Photostability Stability testing: New & partially revised dosage forms Stability testing: Bracketing and matrixing designs Stability testing: Evaluation of stability data Validation of analytical procedures: Text and methodology Impurities in new drug substances Impurities in new drug products Impurities: Residual solvents Guideline for metal impurities Pharmacopoeias: Harmonized texts for use in ICH regions Test for residue on ignition Test for extractable volume of parenteral preparations Test for particulate contamination of parenteral preparations Microbial limit tests of non-sterile products Disintegration test Uniformity of dosage units Dissolution test Sterility test Tablet friability test Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis Capillary electrophoresis Analytical sieving Bulk density and tapped density of powders Bacterial endotoxins test Quality of biotechnology products: Viral bioburden Quality of biotechnology products: Genetic stability Quality of biotechnology products: Stability Testing of products Quality of biotechnology products: Cell bank control (cell substrates) Quality of Biotechnology Products: Comparability of products Specifications/test methods: Chemicals/pharmacopoeial harmonization Specifications/test methods: Biological products GMP for active pharmaceutical ingredients Pharmaceutical development Quality risk management Pharmaceutical quality system Manufacturing and development of active pharmaceutical ingredients
Step 4	Q3D(R1) Q12	Guideline for metal impurities (Revision) Pharmaceutical life cycle management

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

	Quality	
	Code	Topics
Step 3		
Step 2a/2b		
Step 1	Q2(R2)/Q14 Q3C(R8) Q3D(R2) Q5A(R1) Q13	Development of analytical procedures and Q2(R1) (Validation of analytical procedures) (Revision) Impurities: Residual solvents (Revision) Guideline for metal impurities (Revision) Quality of biotechnology products: Viral bioburden (Revision) Continuous manufacturing of drug substances and drug products

	Safety	
	Code	Topics
Step 5	S1A S1B S1C(R2) S2(R1) S3A S3B S4 S5(R2) S6(R1) S7A S7B S8 S9 S10	Need for carcinogenicity studies Testing of carcinogenicity of pharmaceuticals Dose selection for carcinogenicity studies Genotoxicity Toxicokinetics: Assessment of systemic exposure in toxicity studies Pharmacokinetics: Repeated-dose tissue distribution Single- and repeated-dose toxicity studies Reproduction studies of medicinal products Safety evaluation of biological products Safety pharmacology studies The non-clinical evaluation of QT interval prolongation potential Immunotoxicology studies Non-clinical evaluation of anticancer drugs Guidance on photosafety testing
Step 4		
Step 3	S5(R3) S11	Reproduction studies of medicinal products (Revision) Non-clinical safety testing using juvenile animals
Step 2a/2b		
Step 1	S1(R1) S12	Testing of carcinogenicity of pharmaceuticals Nonclinical biodistribution considerations for gene therapy products

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

	Efficacy	
	Code	Topics
Step 5	E1	The extent of population exposure to assess clinical safety for drugs intended for long-term treatment of non-life threatening condition
	E2A	Clinical safety data management: Definitions and standards for expedited reporting in the clinical phase
	E2B(R2)	Data elements for transmission of individual case safety reports
	E2B(R3)	Implementation guide – data elements and message specification in individual case safety reports (ICSR)
	E2C(R2) E2D	Periodic Benefit-Risk Evaluation Report(PBRER)
	E2E E2F	Post-approval safety data management
	E3	Pharmacovigilance planning (PVP)
	E4	Development of safety update report (DSUR)
	E5(R1)	Structure and content of clinical study reports
	E6(R2)	Dose-response information to support drug registration
	E7	Ethnic factors in the acceptability of foreign clinical data
	E8	Good clinical practice (Supplement)
	E9	Studies in support of special populations: Geriatrics
	E10	General considerations for clinical trials
	E11(R1)	Statistical principles for clinical trials
	E12	Choice of control group and related issues in clinical trials
	E14	Clinical investigation of medicinal products in the pediatric population (Supplement)
	E15	Principles for clinical evaluation of new antihypertensive drugs
E16	The clinical evaluation of QT interval prolongation and proarrhythmic potential for non-antiarrhythmic drugs	
E17	Definitions for genomic biomarkers, pharmacogenomics, pharmaco- genetics, genomic data, and sample coding categories	
E18	Genomic biomarkers related to drug response: Context, structure and format of qualification submissions	
Step 4	E9(R1)	General principle on planning/designing multi-regional clinical trials
Step 3	E8(R1)	Statistical principles for clinical trials (Supplement)
	E19	General considerations for clinical trials (Revision)
Step 2a/2b		Optimisation of safety data collection
Step 1	E2D(R1)	Post-Approval Safety Data Management (Revision)
	E6(R3)	Good clinical practice (Revision)
	E11A	Pediatric extrapolation
	E20	Adaptive clinical trials

Pharmaceutical Regulations in Japan:

	Multidisciplinary	
	Code	Topics
Step 5	M1 M2 M3(R2) M4 M4E(R2) M7(R1) M8 M8	Medical dictionary for regulatory activities (MedDRA) Electronic standards for transmission of regulatory information Non-clinical safety studies for the conduct of human clinical trials Common Technical Document Guideline on enhancing the format and structure of benefit-risk information in CTD (Revision) Assessment and control of DNA reactive (mutagenic) impurities in pharmaceuticals to reduce potential carcinogenic risk e-CTD specification (v. 3.2.2) e-CTD specification (v. 4.0)
Step 4	M9	BCS-based biowaivers
Step 3	M10	Bioanalytical Method Validation
Step 2a/2b		
Step 1	M7(R2) M11 M12	Assessment and control of DNA reactive (mutagenic) impurities in pharmaceuticals to reduce potential carcinogenic risk (Revision) Clinical electronic Structured Harmonized Protocol(CeSHanP) Drug interaction studies

- (Note 1) Step 1: Preparation of the draft guideline by the expert working group and agreement
Step 2a/2b: Approval of the draft of the ICH guidelines by the steering committee and regulatory authority
Step 3: Hearing of opinions about the draft guideline in each region and revision of the draft guidelines based on the opinions obtained
Step 4: Final agreement of the ICH guidelines
Step 5: Incorporation in domestic regulations in each region
- (Note 2) Q&As for the guidelines are not included in the above table. (See the pages of individual topics.)