

This draft guidance is being issued consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the Agency's current thinking on developing DAA drugs for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus infection. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

## II. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This guidance refers to previously approved collections of information that are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520). The collections of information in 21 CFR part 312 have been approved under OMB control number 0910–0014, the collections of information in 21 CFR part 314 have been approved under OMB control number 0910–0001, and the collections of information referred to in the guidance for industry “Establishment and Operation of Clinical Trial Data Monitoring Committees” have been approved under OMB control number 0910–0581.

## III. Comments

Interested persons may submit either electronic comments regarding this document to <http://www.regulations.gov> or written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**). It is only necessary to send one set of comments. Identify comments with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be posted to the docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

## IV. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at either <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm> or <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: October 4, 2013.

**Leslie Kux,**

*Assistant Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2013–24785 Filed 10–22–13; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2013–D–1156]

### International Conference on Harmonisation; Draft Guidance on Elemental Impurities; Availability

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance entitled “Elemental Impurities.” Prepared under the auspices of the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH), this guidance is intended to develop a harmonized approach for the control of elemental impurities that helps industry avoid the uncertainty and duplication of work resulting from differing requirements across ICH regions. It includes the specific elements to be limited and the appropriate limits for impurities, and emphasizes control of supply chains and risk assessments. It is expected to provide appropriate safety-based limits for the control of elemental impurities, consistent expectations for test requirements and regulatory filings, and a global policy for limiting elemental impurities, both qualitatively and quantitatively, in drug products and ingredients.

**DATES:** Although you can comment on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115 (g)(5)), to ensure that the Agency considers your comment on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance, submit either electronic or written comments on the draft guidance by December 23, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, rm. 2201, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, or the Office of Communication, Outreach and Development (HFM–40), Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, suite 200N, Rockville, MD 20852–1448. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist the office in processing your requests. The draft guidance may also be obtained by mail by calling CBER at 1–800–835–4709 or 301–827–1800. See the

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

Submit electronic comments on the draft guidance to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

*Regarding the guidance:* John Kauffman, CDER, Food and Drug Administration, 1114 Market St., DPA Facility, suite 1002, St. Louis, MO 63101, 314–539–2135. *Regarding the ICH:* Michelle Limoli, International Programs, CDER, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, rm. 3342, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–8377.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background

In recent years, many important initiatives have been undertaken by regulatory authorities and industry associations to promote international harmonization of regulatory requirements. FDA has participated in many meetings designed to enhance harmonization and is committed to seeking scientifically based harmonized technical procedures for pharmaceutical development. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and then reduce differences in technical requirements for drug development among regulatory agencies.

ICH was organized to provide an opportunity for tripartite harmonization initiatives to be developed with input from both regulatory and industry representatives. FDA also seeks input from consumer representatives and others. ICH is concerned with harmonization of technical requirements for the registration of pharmaceutical products among three regions: The European Union, Japan, and the United States. The six ICH sponsors are the European Commission; the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries Associations; the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare; the Japanese Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association; CDER and CBER, FDA; and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. The ICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (IFPMA).

The ICH Steering Committee includes representatives from each of the ICH sponsors and the IFPMA, as well as

observers from the World Health Organization, Health Canada, and the European Free Trade Area.

In June 2013, the ICH Steering Committee agreed that a draft guidance entitled “Elemental Impurities” should be made available for public comment. The draft guidance is the product of the Quality Expert Working Group of the ICH. Comments about this draft will be considered by FDA and the Q3D Expert Working Group.

The draft guidance provides guidance on control of elemental impurities and expectations for test requirements for regulatory filings.

This draft guidance is being issued consistent with FDA’s good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the Agency’s current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

## II. Comments

Interested persons may submit either electronic comments regarding this document to <http://www.regulations.gov> or written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**). It is only necessary to send one set of comments. Identify comments with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be posted to the docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

## III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at <http://www.regulations.gov>, <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>, or <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

Dated: October 2, 2013.

**Leslie Kux,**

*Assistant Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2013–D–1181]

#### Guidance for Industry on Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin Structure Infections: Developing Drugs for Treatment; Availability

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a guidance for industry entitled “Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin Structure Infections: Developing Drugs for Treatment.” The purpose of this guidance is to assist sponsors in the development of new antibacterial drugs to treat acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections (ABSSSI). This guidance finalizes the revised draft guidance of the same name issued on August 27, 2010.

**DATES:** Submit either electronic or written comments on Agency guidances at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written requests for single copies of this guidance to the Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, rm. 2201, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the guidance document.

Submit electronic comments on the guidance to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph G. Toerner, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 22, rm. 6244, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–1300.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a guidance for industry entitled “Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin Structure Infections: Developing Drugs for Treatment.” The purpose of this guidance is to assist sponsors in the development of new antibacterial drugs for the treatment of ABSSSI.

This guidance describes approaches for entry criteria and trial designs for the evaluation of new drugs for the treatment of ABSSSI. The guidance focuses on the noninferiority trial design and describes an endpoint for which there is a well-defined treatment effect. The guidance also provides the justification for the noninferiority margin. After careful consideration of comments received in response to the draft guidance issued on August 27, 2010, important clarifications about trial populations, designs, and endpoints for ABSSSI were included in this guidance. In addition, this guidance reflects recent developments in scientific information that pertain to drugs being developed for the treatment of ABSSSI.

Issuance of this guidance fulfills a portion of the requirements of Title VIII, section 804, of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Pub. L. 112–144), which requires FDA to “. . . review and, as appropriate, revise not fewer than 3 guidance documents per year . . . for the conduct of clinical trials with respect to antibacterial and antifungal drugs . . . .”

This guidance is being issued consistent with FDA’s good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). This guidance represents the Agency’s current thinking on this topic. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

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