

tissue slides by the study pathologist and a subsequent review (referred to as pathology peer review) by a second pathologist. Pathology peer review may be particularly useful in situations where unique or unexpected findings are noted or when the reviewing pathologist has a particular expertise with a class of compounds. When pathology peer review occurs as part of a nonclinical laboratory study conducted in compliance with 21 CFR part 58 (GLP regulations), it should be well-documented in the study records. However, documentation practices during pathology peer review have not been clearly defined and vary among nonclinical testing facilities.

The GLP regulations include general requirements for histopathology evaluation (for example, it requires that standard operating procedures be established to cover histopathology), and pathology peer review can be valuable to the histopathology evaluation during a GLP study even though it is not specifically addressed in the GLP regulations. This Q&A draft guidance is intended to clarify FDA's recommendations concerning the management and conduct of pathology peer review when performed during GLP-compliant toxicology studies.

This draft guidance is being issued consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of FDA on "Pathology Peer Review in Nonclinical Toxicology Studies: Questions and Answers." It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. This guidance is not subject to Executive Order 12866.

## II. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This draft guidance refers to previously approved collections of information found in FDA regulations. These collections of information are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520). The following collections of information regarding GLP-compliant toxicology studies have been approved under OMB control number 0910–0119:

- § 58.29 related to personnel who conduct nonclinical laboratory studies;
- § 58.35 for preparing quality control units;
- § 58.81 for preparing and maintaining standard operating procedures for testing facilities;

pathology peer review should be planned, conducted, documented, and reported in accordance with established procedure;

- §§ 58.120, 58.185, and 58.190 for preparing a final report for each study, including a protocol and any changes to the protocol and for maintaining documentation, protocols, and final reports generated from nonclinical laboratory studies.

## III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the internet may obtain the draft guidance at either <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>, <https://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>, or <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: July 26, 2019.

**Lowell J. Schiller,**

*Principal Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2016–D–1662]

#### **Vulvovaginal Candidiasis: Developing Drugs for Treatment; Guidance for Industry; Availability**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a final guidance for industry entitled "Vulvovaginal Candidiasis: Developing Drugs for Treatment." The purpose of this guidance is to assist sponsors in the overall clinical development program and clinical trial designs to support drugs for treating vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC). This guidance incorporates the comments received for and finalizes the draft guidance for industry of the same name issued July 1, 2016.

**DATES:** The announcement of the guidance is published in the **Federal Register** on August 1, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit either electronic or written comments on Agency guidances at any time as follows:

#### *Electronic Submissions*

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

#### *Written/Paper Submissions*

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- **Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):** Dockets Management Staff (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA–2016–D–1662 for "Vulvovaginal Candidiasis: Developing Drugs for Treatment." Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- **Confidential Submissions—**To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in

its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as “confidential.” Any information marked as “confidential” will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA’s posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the “Search” box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

You may submit comments on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)).

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, 10001 New Hampshire Ave., Hillandale Building, 4th Floor, 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.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Shrimant Mishra, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 22, Rm. 6382, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–2301.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

FDA is announcing the availability of a final guidance for industry entitled “Vulvovaginal Candidiasis: Developing Drugs for Treatment.” The purpose of this guidance is to assist sponsors in the overall clinical development program and clinical trial designs to support drugs for treating VVC.

This guidance finalizes the draft guidance for industry of the same name

announced in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 2016 (81 FR 43212). There were five docket comments received for the draft guidance. Changes from the draft to the final include clarifying edits, such as to the introduction section and definition of VVC, which were made after consideration of docket comments received. This guidance also adds clarification around clinical trial designs and the timing of the primary efficacy endpoint, which is based on the drug’s half-life, and dosing regimen.

This guidance is being issued consistent with FDA’s good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The guidance represents the current thinking of FDA on “Vulvovaginal Candidiasis: Developing Drugs for Treatment.” It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. This guidance is not subject to Executive Order 12866.

##### **II. 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 (OMB) 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, and the collections of information in 21 CFR part 314 have been approved under OMB control number 0910–0001.

##### **III. Electronic Access**

Persons with access to the internet may obtain the guidance at either <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/guidance-compliance-regulatory-information/guidances-drugs> or <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: July 29, 2019.

**Lowell J. Schiller,**

*Principal Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

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#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

##### **Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. FDA–2019–D–3049]

##### **E8(R1) General Considerations for Clinical Studies; International Council for Harmonisation; Draft Guidance for Industry; Availability**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled “E8(R1) General Considerations for Clinical Studies.” The draft guidance was prepared under the auspices of the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH), formerly the International Conference on Harmonisation. The draft guidance describes internationally accepted principles and practices for the design and conduct of clinical studies of drug and biologic products. In addition, the draft guidance provides an overview of the types of clinical studies that may be performed and data sources during the product’s life cycle. The draft guidance is intended to promote the quality of the studies submitted to regulatory authorities, while allowing for flexibility.

**DATES:** Submit either electronic or written comments on the draft guidance by September 30, 2019 to ensure that the Agency considers your comment on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on any guidance at any time as follows:

##### *Electronic Submissions*

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else’s Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see “Written/Paper Submissions” and “Instructions”).

##### *Written/Paper Submissions*

Submit written/paper submissions as follows: