

De Novo Classification Process (Evaluation of Automatic Class III Designation)

Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

DRAFT GUIDANCE

**This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.
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For questions regarding this document, contact Melissa Burns, 301-796-5616, melissa.burns@fda.hhs.gov or CBER's Office of Communication, Outreach and Development at 1-800-835-4709 or 301-827-7800.

**When final, this document will supersede “New Section 513(f)(2) -
Evaluation of Automatic Class III Designation, Guidance for Industry and
CDRH Staff” dated February 19, 1998.**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Devices and Radiological Health
Office of Device Evaluation
Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health

Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research

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Preface

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Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave., Building 71, Room 3128, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Internet:

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/default.htm>

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De Novo Classification Process (Evaluation of Automatic Class III Designation)

Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current thinking on this topic.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. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible for implementing this guidance. If you cannot identify the appropriate FDA staff, call the appropriate number listed on the title page of this guidance.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the process for the submission and review of a request (hereafter a “*de novo*”) under section 513(f)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the FD&C Act), also known as the *de novo* classification process. This process provides a pathway to Class I or Class II classification for medical devices for which general controls or general and special controls provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness, but for which there is no legally marketed predicate device.

FDA's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

Throughout this guidance document, the terms “we,” “us” and “our” refer to FDA staff from the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) or the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) involved in the review and decision-making aspects of the *de novo* classification process. “You” and “your” refers to the submitter of a *de novo* and/or related materials.

55 2. Background

56 A device may be classified in class III and be subject to premarket approval via several
57 different regulatory vehicles. In accordance with the criteria at section 513(a)(1)(C) of the
58 FD&C Act, FDA may promulgate a regulation classifying, or issue an order reclassifying,¹ a
59 device *type* into class III based on the risks posed by the device and the inability of general
60 and special controls to provide reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of the
61 device. All particular devices of such a type are considered to be in class III and such
62 devices are not eligible for the *de novo* classification process.

63 Alternatively, devices of a new type that FDA has not previously classified based on the
64 criteria at section 513(a)(1) of the FD&C Act are “automatically” or “statutorily” classified
65 into class III by operation of section 513(f)(1) of the FD&C Act, regardless of the level of
66 risk they pose or the ability of general and special controls to assure safety and effectiveness.
67 This is because, by definition, a new type of device would not be within a type that was on
68 the market before the 1976 Medical Device Amendments or that has since been classified
69 into class I or class II. Thus, there would be no available predicate device.

70 This second scenario is what Congress targeted when it enacted section 513(f)(2) of the
71 FD&C Act as part of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997
72 (FDAMA). The process created by this provision, which was referred to in FDAMA as the
73 Evaluation of Automatic Class III Designation, will be referred to as the “*de novo* process”²
74 throughout this guidance document. Congress included this section to limit unnecessary
75 expenditure of FDA and industry resources that could occur if lower risk devices were
76 subject to premarket approval (PMA) under section 515 of the FD&C Act. Section 513(f)(2)
77 has allowed manufacturers to submit a *de novo* to FDA for devices “automatically” classified
78 into Class III by operation of section 513(f)(1). As enacted by FDAMA, in order to submit a
79 *de novo*, a device first had to be found not substantially equivalent (NSE) to legally-marketed
80 predicate devices through a premarket notification (510(k)).

81 Section 513(f)(2) was modified by section 607 of FDASIA, which created an alternative *de*
82 *novo* pathway that does not require that a device be reviewed first under a 510(k) and found
83 NSE prior to submission of a *de novo*. Under the new *de novo* pathway, if a person believes
84 their device is appropriate for classification into Class I or Class II and determines there is no
85 legally marketed predicate device, they may submit a *de novo* without a preceding 510(k)
86 and NSE (hereafter “direct *de novo*”).

87 FDA is issuing this draft guidance to provide updated recommendations for interactions with
88 FDA related to the *de novo* process, including what information to submit when seeking a
89 path to market via the *de novo* process. When final, this guidance will replace “New Section

¹ Prior to the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012 (FDASIA), FDA reclassified devices under section 513(e) of the FD&C Act through rulemaking; FDASIA changed this to an order process.

² The process has been termed “*de novo*” because it requires the agency to evaluate novel devices anew, in accordance with the criteria at section 513(a)(1) of the FD&C Act.

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90 513(f)(2) – Evaluation of Automatic Class III Designation, Guidance for Industry and CDRH
91 Staff,” dated February 19, 1998.

92 **3. The *De Novo* Process**

93 In accordance with section 513(f)(2), you may submit a *de novo* requesting FDA to make a
94 classification determination for the device according to the criteria at section 513(a)(1) of the
95 FD&C Act. The *de novo* must include a description of the device and detailed information
96 and reasons for any recommended classification (see section 513(f)(2)(A)(v) of the FD&C
97 Act). FDA must make a classification determination for the device that is the subject of the
98 *de novo* by written order within 120 days of the request (see section 513(f)(2)(A)(iii) of the
99 FD&C Act).

100 If the submitter demonstrates that the criteria at section 513(a)(1)(A) or (B) of the FD&C Act
101 are met, we will grant the *de novo*, in which case the specific device and device type is
102 classified in class I or class II. The device may then be marketed immediately and serve as a
103 predicate device. We will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the
104 classification and the controls necessary to provide reasonable assurance of safety and
105 effectiveness. If the *de novo* is declined, the device remains in class III and may not be
106 marketed.

107 **3.1 When the *De Novo* Process May Be Used**

108 FDA will consider *de novos* for devices that are not within a device type that has been
109 classified under the criteria at section 513(a)(1) of the FD&C Act. This includes devices
110 which do not fall within any classification regulation, where the *de novo* requester either
111 determines that there is no predicate device or has received an NSE determination on a
112 510(k) submission. For devices that have already undergone 510(k) review, FDA will
113 consider a *de novo* if the device has been determined to be NSE due to: (1) the lack of an
114 identifiable predicate device, (2) new intended use, or (3) different technological
115 characteristics that raise different questions of safety and effectiveness. Devices that have
116 been found to be NSE solely due to lack of performance data would generally be ineligible
117 for the *de novo* process.³ On the other hand, if the device is within a type for which there is
118 an existing Class III classification regulation or one or more approved PMAs, the appropriate
119 mechanism for classification into class I or II would be reclassification under section 513(e)
120 or (f)(3).

121 In addition, the following criteria should be met for a device for which a *de novo* is
122 submitted:

³ This is because, using the 510(k) decision process, FDA ordinarily only considers the adequacy of performance data after finding a device has the same intended use as the predicate and technological characteristics that do not raise different questions of safety and effectiveness from the predicate, indicating the device type has been classified and there is a device that could reasonably serve as a predicate for substantial equivalence review.

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- The device should be low to moderate risk and should appear, based on what is known about the device, to meet the statutory standards for classification into class I or class II under section 513(a)(1) of the FD&C Act, i.e., general controls or general and special controls would provide reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of the device; and
 - You should sufficiently understand and be able to explain all of the known risks and benefits of the device as well as how all known risks can be effectively mitigated and device effectiveness can be assured through the application of general controls or general and special controls⁴.

133 3.2 Submitting *De Novo* Information for FDA Review

134 This guidance describes two mechanisms for interacting with FDA regarding a device for
135 which *de novo* may be appropriate:

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- Pre-Submission (Pre-Sub). A Pre-Sub is not required in order to obtain FDA review of a *de novo*, but is a useful way for submitters to facilitate early feedback from FDA. A Pre-Sub would allow FDA to provide feedback on whether a device may be suitable for the *de novo* process and/or to advise you on the documentation needed in a subsequent *de novo*. The primary advantage of a Pre-Sub is that it provides an opportunity to obtain our preliminary perspective on the likely regulatory controls necessary to provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness as well as feedback on the evidence, including performance and/or clinical data, that will likely be necessary to support the *de novo*. By obtaining this feedback, you are more likely to optimize your resources in collecting safety and effectiveness evidence needed to support a *de novo*, without the need to perform additional tests. This should also facilitate the review of a subsequent *de novo*.
 - De Novo. A *de novo* may be submitted with or without a preceding 510(k). The success of a *de novo* that is filed without a Pre-Sub will depend more heavily on how well you search for a potential predicate device, identify the risks and special controls (if applicable), and define and collect adequate data to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness.

155 The *de novo* process is outlined in Attachment 1.

156 In preparing *de novo* information to submit, we suggest you review publicly posted
157 information, including decision summary documents, for recently granted CDRH *de novos*

⁴ For more information on benefit-risk determinations, please see [Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff – Factors to Consider When Making Benefit-Risk Determinations in Medical Device Premarket Approvals and De Novo Classification](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm267829.htm) (<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm267829.htm>).

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158 available on our website at
159 [http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH](http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm)
160 [/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm).

161 3.2.1 Pre-Submission (Pre-Sub)

162 A Pre-Sub may be submitted early in the development process for a device; however, we
163 believe it is most useful after you have identified the proposed intended use and key aspects
164 of the device design sufficient to permit a meaningful discussion. A Pre-Sub related to a
165 future anticipated *de novo* should contain sufficient information to enable us to provide
166 guidance on the test methods and protocols to be used for the collection of performance data.
167 A Pre-Sub is strongly recommended prior to the submission of a *de novo*, especially for
168 devices we have not previously reviewed under a 510(k). *De novo* Pre-Subs will be handled
169 in accordance with our normal pre-submission process. For information on Pre-Subs, please
170 see [Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff, Requests for Feedback on Medical Device](#)
171 [Submissions: The Pre-Submission Program and Meetings with Food and Drug](#)
172 [Administration Staff \(Pre-Sub Guidance\)](#)
173 ([http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceD](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM311176.pdf)
174 [ocuments/UCM311176.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM311176.pdf)). Note that a Pre-Sub may also be filed during review of a *de*
175 *nov*o, as described in the “Submission Issue Meetings” section of the guidance.

176
177 In addition to the recommended content for all Pre-Subs (device description, proposed
178 intended use/indications for use, previous submissions, etc.), we suggest that a Pre-Sub prior
179 to a *de novo* also include:

- 180 • Proposed Class (I or II) and proposed applicability of 510(k) requirement (exempt or
181 not exempt). Describe why you believe general or general and special controls are
182 adequate to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness. If you propose
183 Class II and believe future devices of the same type should be exempt from 510(k),
184 justify why premarket notification should not be required.
- 185 • The searches of FDA public databases and other resources, including terms, used to
186 establish that no legally marketed device of the same type exists. Provide a list of
187 regulations, PMAs, and/or product codes that may relate to or are potentially similar
188 to the subject device. You may also provide a rationale for why the subject device
189 does not fit within and/or is different from any identified regulations, PMAs, and/or
190 product codes.
- 191 • Specific questions regarding review issues relevant to a planned *de novo*. Where
192 necessary for us to consider these specific questions, the Pre-Sub should also include
193 the following:
 - 194 ○ Identification of each risk associated with the device and the reason for each
195 risk (tracing back to risk analysis, clinical testing, etc.). Briefly describe any
196 ongoing and/or planned protocols/studies that need to be completed to collect
197 the necessary data to establish the device's risk profile.
 - 198 ○ Information regarding the safety and effectiveness of the device. Cite the
199 available data/studies relating to the device's safety and effectiveness. Briefly

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- 200 describe any ongoing and/or planned protocols/studies that need to be
201 completed to collect the necessary safety and effectiveness data.
- 202 ○ Protocols for performance and clinical testing, including how they will
203 address the risks you anticipate and targeted performance levels that will
204 demonstrate that general controls or general and special controls are sufficient
205 to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness. If preliminary
206 data are available that can help facilitate protocol design and establish final
207 performance characteristics, you are encouraged to submit this information as
208 well.
 - 209 ○ The proposed mitigation(s)/control(s) for each risk based on the best available
210 information at the time of the submission. Highlight which mitigations are
211 general controls and which are special controls. Provide details on each
212 recommended mitigation (e.g., specific testing required, labeling, etc.) in the
213 submission.
214

215 Examples of questions to pose to FDA in a *de novo* Pre-Sub include:

- 216 ● Based on the device description, its intended use/indications for use, and/or
217 technological characteristics, and information on the search performed for legally
218 marketed devices, does FDA believe the device may be ineligible for *de novo* because
219 it is likely that a predicate device or appropriate Class III regulation exists or that
220 reclassification would be more appropriate because approved PMA(s) exist?
- 221 ● Are there other risks, in addition to those identified in the Pre-Sub, given the intended
222 use/indications for use for the device?
- 223 ● If applicable, are there other controls, in addition to those identified in the pre-sub,
224 that should be considered to provide a reasonable assurance of safety and
225 effectiveness for the device?
- 226 ● Are the performance study protocols sufficient to allow for the collection of data from
227 which conclusions about device safety and/or effectiveness can be drawn?
 - 228 ○ Is the identified level of concern the appropriate level of concern for the
229 device software?⁵
 - 230 ○ What, if any, additional biocompatibility and/or sterility testing would be
231 appropriate?
- 232 ● If clinical data are needed, are the proposed trial design and selected control group
233 appropriate?
234

235 After you submit your Pre-Sub, we may ask you for clarification or to provide more
236 information. You may also request meetings with us. For more information on Pre-Subs and
237 meetings with FDA staff, please see the Pre-Sub Guidance.

⁵ For more information on software, please see [Guidance for the Content of Premarket Submissions for Software Contained in Medical Devices](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm089543.htm) (<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm089543.htm>)

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238 **3.2.2 De Novo Application**

239 The *de novo* should include all information and evidence regarding the safety and
240 effectiveness of the device that you are aware of, including the general controls or general
241 and special controls that you believe would provide reasonable assurance of safety and
242 effectiveness. The *de novo* should establish the risk profile of the device, the benefits of
243 device use, and provide data demonstrating that general controls or general and special
244 controls support a classification of Class I or Class II. Attachment 2 contains the suggested
245 content of a *de novo*.

246 For *de novos*, sponsors must submit at least one valid electronic copy (eCopy). See section
247 745A(b) of the FD&C Act and FDA’s eCopy guidance, [eCopy Program for Medical Device](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM313794.pdf)
248 [Submissions](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM313794.pdf), available at
249 [http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDo](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM313794.pdf)
250 [cuments/UCM313794.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM313794.pdf). *De novos* (and subsequent submissions, as applicable) submitted
251 without valid eCopies will be placed on hold and the review clock will not start until a valid
252 eCopy is received.

253 **3.3 Address for De Novos**

254 For devices regulated by CDRH, *de novos* should be submitted to:

255 U.S. Food and Drug Administration
256 Center for Devices and Radiological Health
257 Document Mail Center – WO66-G609
258 10903 New Hampshire Ave
259 Silver Spring, Maryland 20993-0002

260 For devices regulated by CBER, *de novos* should be submitted to:

261 U.S. Food and Drug Administration
262 Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
263 Document Control Center -WO71-G112
264 10903 New Hampshire Ave.Silver Spring, Maryland 20993-0002

265 **4. FDA Review Process for De Novo**

266 **4.1 510(k)s Followed by De Novo**

267 If, at the end of our review of a 510(k), we determine that a device is NSE due to lack of a
268 predicate, a new intended use or different types of technology issues, we will consider
269 whether the device may be suitable for review under the *de novo* process. The 510(k) review
270 will occur per standard review practices for 510(k)s and in accordance with current
271 performance goals. If the device appears to present a low to moderate risk and we believe
272 general controls or general and special controls may provide reasonable assurance of safety

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273 and effectiveness, we may indicate in the NSE letter that the product may be appropriate for
274 the *de novo* process under section 513(f)(2) of the FD&C Act. Inclusion of this language
275 within an NSE letter does not indicate that sufficient information currently exists within the
276 510(k) submission to support a successful *de novo*, but simply indicates that given the risk
277 profile of the device, it seems reasonable that *de novo* may be an appropriate classification
278 pathway.

279 **4.2 De Novos**

280 Once a *de novo* is received, whether or not it is preceded by a 510(k), we will verify that
281 another submission for the same device is not under review (e.g., Pre-Sub, 510(k) or PMA).
282 We will not review two submissions for the same device simultaneously. If we identify
283 another submission for the same device, we will not begin review of the *de novo* and will
284 notify you that to start the review, you would need to withdraw the other submission. If the
285 other submission has not been withdrawn within 90 calendar days, we will consider the *de*
286 *novo* withdrawn.

287 We will also check that the content of the *de novo* includes the information required by
288 513(f)(2). As provided by section 513(f)(2)(A)(ii) of the FD&C Act, in order to submit a
289 direct *de novo*, the submitter must determine that there is no legally marketed device upon
290 which to base a determination of substantial equivalence. Under section 513(f)(2)(A)(i), a *de*
291 *novo* preceded by a 510(k) must be for a device type that has not been previously classified;
292 thus, if you submit a *de novo* after receipt of an NSE, you should confirm that no device of
293 the same type has legally entered the market since the time of the NSE. See Attachment 2
294 for discussion of what information you should submit in the classification summary. *De*
295 *novos* that lack information to determine whether a potential predicate device exists may be
296 placed on hold. As provided by section 513(f)(2)(v) of the FD&C Act, if you are
297 recommending that your device be regulated as a Class II device, you must also submit an
298 initial draft proposal for applicable special controls.⁶ If you are recommending Class II and
299 have not provided a draft proposal for applicable special controls, we will place the *de novo*
300 on hold. If your *de novo* is placed on hold, the review clock stops and we will notify you that
301 it is on hold pending receipt of information regarding potential predicates or a draft proposal
302 for special controls. In the event you do not provide the requested information within 180
303 calendar days, we will consider your *de novo* to be withdrawn.

304 Next, we will conduct a classification review of legally marketed device types. We will
305 analyze whether an existing legally marketed device of the same type exists, including

⁶ Per 21 CFR 860.3(c)(2), special controls include “the promulgation of performance standards, postmarket surveillance, patient registries, development and dissemination of guidance documents (including guidance on the submission of clinical data in premarket notification submissions in accordance with section 510(k) of the act), recommendations, and other appropriate actions as the Commissioner deems necessary to provide such assurance.” Typical special controls include specific performance testing requirements, which may include performance and/or clinical testing, and labeling requirements.

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306 whether a predicate has been recently established through the *de novo* process.⁷ If a likely
307 predicate device exists or your device falls under a class III classification regulation, or if it is
308 a direct *de novo* and the device is not low-moderate risk, we intend to decline your *de novo*
309 and notify you of the basis for our decision. If the device falls within a class III classification
310 regulation or there is one or more approved PMAs for the same type of device and we
311 believe general and/or special controls may be adequate to provide a reasonable assurance of
312 safety and effectiveness, we intend to discuss with you the process for reclassification under
313 section 513(e) or 513(f)(3) of the FD&C Act, which are the appropriate pathways for such
314 types of devices to be reclassified in class I or class II. If no existing legally marketed device
315 of the same type is identified, we will continue our review.

316 Upon successful completion of the submission and classification review, FDA will begin the
317 substantive review of the *de novo*. If the *de novo* is missing information and/or data
318 necessary to determine whether general controls or general and special controls can provide
319 reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness, we may issue an additional information
320 (AI) letter or request information via interactive review. Issuance of an AI letter stops the
321 review clock, and once you provide a complete response, the clock will resume and review
322 will continue.⁸ If you fail to provide a complete response within 180 calendar days of the
323 date of the AI request, we will consider the *de novo* to be withdrawn. If a *de novo* is
324 withdrawn due to failure to submit adequate information, a new *de novo* is required to
325 reinstate review of the device under the *de novo* process.

326 If general controls or general and special controls are insufficient to provide reasonable
327 assurance of safety and effectiveness or the information and/or the data provided in the *de*
328 *novo* are insufficient to determine whether general controls or general and special controls
329 can provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness, we will decline the *de novo*
330 and you may not legally market the device. You may either submit an application for
331 premarket approval (PMA) under section 515 of the FD&C Act or collect additional
332 information in an attempt to address the issues and submit another *de novo*.

333

334 If your data and information demonstrate that general controls or general and special controls
335 are adequate to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness, we will grant the *de*
336 *novo*. If a *de novo* is granted, we will issue you a written order granting the *de novo* and
337 specifying the classification of the device into either class I or class II and whether the device

⁷ We do not anticipate that *de novos* for the same device type will frequently be under review concurrently. However, in cases where a *de novo* is granted while another device of the same type is under *de novo* review, after a *de novo* is granted, FDA intends to notify the submitter of the *de novo* still under review that a predicate has been established and the *de novo* is declined. You may leverage all information in the *de novo* but will still be required to demonstrate substantial equivalence in a subsequent 510(k).

⁸ In rare instances, we may seek input on a *de novo* from a Classification Panel of the FDA Medical Devices Advisory Committee. In such instances, we will likely need to extend the overall review timelines to allow time for scheduling and conducting an Advisory Committee meeting.

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338 is exempt from premarket notification requirements.⁹ For class II devices, we will also
339 identify special controls. Once you receive a written order granting the *de novo*, you may
340 immediately begin marketing the device subject to the general controls and any identified
341 special controls. We will then publish an order in the Federal Register providing public
342 notice of the decision, which will result in codification of the device's identification,
343 classification, and applicable requirements in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations
344 (device classifications are at parts 862 – 892).

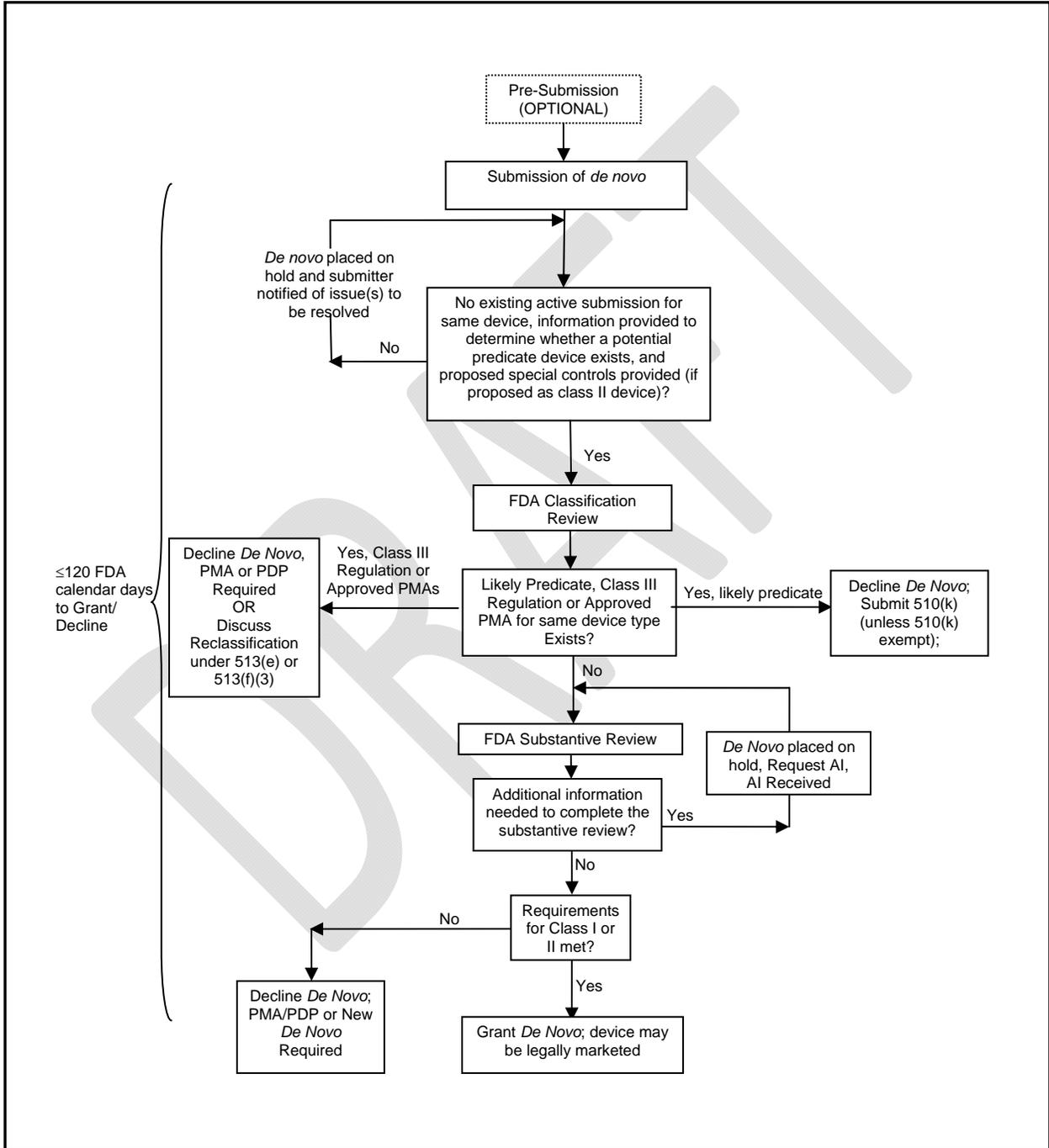
345 If a *de novo* is granted, we intend to make the written order to the submitter granting the *de*
346 *novo* and a summary of our review of the *de novo* available on the [CDRH website](http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm) (see
347 [http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH](http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm)
348 [/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm](http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH/CDRHTransparency/ucm232269.htm)) or the [CBER website](http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/BloodBloodProducts/ApprovedProducts/default.htm) (see
349 [http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/BloodBloodProducts/ApprovedProducts/default](http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/BloodBloodProducts/ApprovedProducts/default.htm)
350 [t.htm](http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/BloodBloodProducts/ApprovedProducts/default.htm)). All information posted to the FDA website will be redacted to protect any
351 confidential commercial, trade secret, or personal privacy information in accordance with 21
352 CFR Part 20.
353

⁹ Exemption from premarket notification means that future devices of the same type (or modifications to the original *de novo* device that do not result in a new type of device) do not need to be reviewed in a 510(k), subject to the limitations of exemption. For additional information on exemption from premarket notification, see [Procedures for Class II Device Exemptions from Premarket Notification, Guidance for Industry and CDRH Staff](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm080198.htm) (<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm080198.htm>)

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Attachment 1

De Novo Process



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358

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Attachment 2

360

Recommended Content of a *De Novo*

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362 *The cover letter for a de novo should clearly identify “De Novo Request”*

363

364 *If significant data for any of the sections below are contained in a previous submission, you*
365 *may provide cross-reference to the information. Any cross-references should include*
366 *applicable volume/section/page numbers as appropriate.*

367

Administrative Information:

369 Applicant name, contact name, address, phone, fax, e-mail.

370

Regulatory History:

372 Describe any prior submissions to FDA for the device, including any 510(k)s and related
373 NSE decisions, IDEs, Pre-Subs, and/or previously withdrawn or declined *de novos*.

374

375 For any previous submissions where we provided feedback, please identify how you have
376 responded to the identified issues.

377

Device Information and Summary:

379 Provide the device name, device description, indications for use statement (including
380 prescription and/or over the counter), and a description of all main functions, technological
381 characteristics, components, and accessories. Include a summary of the directions for
382 use/usage instructions. Identify the target population including demographics information,
383 diseases, and/or symptoms to be treated, etc.

384

Change Summary (if appropriate):

386 Describe in detail any changes made to your device or proposed indications since any prior
387 Pre-Sub or 510(k), as appropriate. This summary should include changes to the device as
388 well as changes to test protocols and/or labeling.

389

Classification Summary:

391 For direct *de novos*, describe your search for legally marketed devices of the same type.
392 Provide a list of regulations, approved PMAs, and/or product codes that may relate to or are
393 potentially similar to the subject device. You should also provide a rationale for why the
394 subject device is different from and/or does not fit within any identified regulations, PMAs,
395 and/or product codes.

396

397 If the same device (same technology and same indication(s) for use) has been previously
398 found NSE due to lack of a predicate, new intended use, or different questions of safety and
399 effectiveness, only the relevant 510(k) number should be submitted for this section along
400 with a summary of this search performed since the NSE was issued.

401

Contains Nonbinding Recommendations

Draft - Not for Implementation

402 **Classification Recommendation:**

403 Recommended Class [I or II] and recommended applicability of 510(k) requirement [exempt
404 or not exempt]. Describe why you believe general controls or general and special controls
405 are adequate to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness. If you are
406 proposing Class II and believe the device type should be exempt from 510(k), justify why
407 premarket notification should not be required.

409 **Proposed Special Controls (for Class II devices ONLY):**

410 Provide proposed special controls along with cross-references to other information within the
411 submission demonstrating that the device meets these special controls.

413 **Supporting Protocols and/or Data:**

414 Provide a summary of all performance and clinical testing that provide a reasonable
415 assurance of safety and effectiveness for your specific device and that demonstrate that
416 general controls or general and special controls are sufficient to provide a reasonable
417 assurance of safety and effectiveness. The summary should include the objective of the
418 testing, a description of study design, and a description of the results. For human subject
419 testing, the summary should also describe the study population, selection and exclusion
420 criteria, duration, data collection methodology, observed adverse reactions, and statistical
421 analysis. The summary should include links to appendices, etc., which contain the detailed
422 final protocols and supporting data.

424 **Summary of Benefits:**

425 Provide information supporting the effectiveness of the device. Cite the available
426 data/studies supporting effectiveness. This section may include references to available
427 published literature, where applicable.

429 **Summary of Known and Potential Risks to Health:**

430 List each risk and identify the reason for each risk (tracing back to risk analysis, clinical
431 testing, etc.). Summarize the studies completed and how they support safety.

433 **Risk and Mitigation Information:**

434 Provide a table showing the proposed mitigation(s) for each risk. Identify which mitigations
435 are general controls and which are special controls. Provide specific section and page
436 numbers where the details on each recommended mitigation (e.g., specific testing required,
437 etc.) can be found in the submission.

438

Identified Risk	Recommended Mitigation Measures	Supporting Data Contained in <i>De Novo</i>
EXAMPLE: Adverse tissue reaction	Specified Biocompatibility Testing Requirements (special control)	Testing in compliance with recognized standard (Section XX, page XXX)
EXAMPLE: Device failure due to XXX (mechanical failure, software anomaly, use error, etc.)	Specified Performance Testing (special control), Device Specific Labeling Requirements (special control),	Test protocols and results (Section XX, pages XXX) Draft device labeling

Contains Nonbinding Recommendations

Draft - Not for Implementation

	Medical Device Reporting (MDR) (general control)	(Section XX, pages XXX)
EXAMPLE: Failure to properly interpret test results	Device Specific Labeling Requirements (special control)	Draft device labeling (Section XX, pages XXX)

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Benefit-Risk Considerations:

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Provide a discussion demonstrating that, when subject to general controls or general and special controls, the probable benefits to health from use of the device outweigh any probable injury or illness from such use.¹⁰

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Device Labeling:

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Proposed device labeling that clearly indicates the proposed intended use and indications for use, limitations, contraindications, etc.¹¹

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¹⁰ For information on benefit-risk determinations and factors considered, please see [Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff - Factors to Consider When Making Benefit-Risk Determinations in Medical Device Premarket Approvals and De Novo Classifications](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm267829.htm) (<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm267829.htm>).

¹¹ Labeling is defined in section 201(m) of the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. 321(m), as “all labels and other written , printed or graphic matter (1) upon any article or any of its containers or wrappers, or (2) accompanying such article.” Labeling may include package inserts, instructions for use (for patient and/or physician, as applicable), service manuals, etc.