What is a Product-Specific Guidance?

Since 2007, Product-Specific Guidances (PSGs) provide recommendations on individual drug products to the pharmaceutical industry for developing generic drug products. PSGs describe FDA’s current thinking on the evidence needed to demonstrate that a generic drug is therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD) product. As of November 2022, nearly 2,070 PSGs have been published. FDA provides information on the PSG program to the general public here.

Why are PSGs Important?

PSGs assist the generic pharmaceutical industry with identifying the most appropriate methodology and approaches for their generic drug development programs, including in vivo and/or in vitro bioequivalence (BE) studies, various waiver options (such as Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS)-based waiver), and dissolution testing methods. The clarity and transparency provided by PSGs help streamline generic drug product development, promote timely approval of Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) submissions and increased drug competition, improving patient access to high quality and affordable medicines.

What is the Timeline on PSG Development for Newly Approved Drugs?

As a commitment under the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments (GDUFA) of 2022, FDA issues PSGs for 90% of non-complex New Chemical Entities (NCEs) that are approved on/after October 1, 2022 within 2 years after the date of approval.

For complex products approved in new drug applications (NDAs) on/after October 1, 2022, FDA issues PSGs for 50% of such NDA products within 2 years after the date of approval, and for 75% of such NDA products within 3 years after the date of approval. Further information on the GDUFA commitment can be found here.
When and Where are PSGs Published?

FDA issues new and revised PSGs in batches on a quarterly basis and as needed as stand-alone postings. Published PSGs are announced in the Federal Register and made available to the public via FDA’s website found here.

FDA also provides information on upcoming new and revised PSGs for generic drug products on a quarterly basis at the website.

Who Collaborates on PSG Development?

PSG development is a collaborative effort from multiple disciplines and offices within the FDA. The FDA aims to ensure that policies and regulations – and scientific standards – keep pace with the science.

While the Office of Generic Drugs takes a leading role in PSG development, additional offices support the development and publication processes.

Initiating Events
- Recently approved NDAs and supplemental NDAs
- FDA analysis of products without PSGs
- Pre-ANDA meetings
- Public requests
- Comments submitted to PSG docket
- Controlled correspondences
- Citizen petitions

Data to Support PSG Development
- Pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) modeling
- Previous BE studies
- NDA review and labeling
- Pharmacovigilance
- GDUFA-funded research outcomes

Prioritization
- GDUFA commitments
- Stakeholder interest in ANDA submission
- Drug availability and accessibility
- Public requests from generic drug industry and other stakeholders
- Public health priorities

Office of Generic Drugs
Office of Regulatory Policy
Office of New Drugs
Office of Translational Sciences
Office of Pharmaceutical Quality

www.fda.gov

Current and prospective ANDA applicants should contact genericdrugs@fda.hhs.gov. All others with inquiries should contact druginfo@fda.hhs.gov.