

# Reviewer's Perspective on Data Collected by Wearable Digital Health Technology in Clinical Trials

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# Learning Objectives

- Describe a DHT and the data it collects
- Learn who to contact at FDA with DHT questions
- List the types of datasets
- Understand the importance of DHT data

# Digital Health Technology

“A system that uses computing platforms, connectivity, software, and sensors for healthcare and related uses”\*



Used as a medical product



Incorporated into a medical product (include a pharmacologic product)



Used to develop a medical product



Used to study a medical product



Used as a companion or adjunct to a medical product, including diagnostics and therapeutics.

# Uses of Digital Health Technologies (DHT)



- Generate rich and comprehensive information on how patients are functioning and feeling
- Help minimize barriers to obtaining patient experience data during clinical trials
- Allow patients access to data about their health
- Assess study endpoint concepts that are meaningful to patients

# Novel types of data obtained from continuous recording by biosensors

Opportunities	Examples
Richer data instead of snapshots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average steps per day vs 6MWD</li> <li>• CGM - blood glucose versus HbA1c</li> </ul>
Ability to detect rare events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrhythmias, seizures</li> </ul>
Data from patient who cannot report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scratching in infants with atopic dermatitis</li> </ul>
New types of measurements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerometer measurements of gait stability that may predict falls</li> <li>• Measurements of coughing, sneezing, tremor</li> </ul>

# INTERACTING WITH FDA ON DHT

# Framework for Use of DHT in Drug and Biological Product Development



- Promote regulatory consistency and coordination
- Convene public workshops
- Identify demonstration projects
- Issue DHT-related guidances
- Enhance IT capabilities

# DHT for Drug Development Website



The screenshot shows the FDA website page for Digital Health Technologies (DHTs) for Drug Development. The page features a blue header with the FDA logo and navigation options. The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail, a large title, social sharing buttons, a main text block, and a list of bullet points. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links, and a right sidebar shows content and product information.

**U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

← Home / Science & Research / Science and Research Special Topics / Digital Health Technologies (DHTs) for Drug Development

## Digital Health Technologies (DHTs) for Drug Development

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**Science and Research Special Topics**

Digital Health Technologies

**Advancing Regulatory Science**

Clinical Trials and Human Subject Protection

Digital health technologies (DHTs) offer many potential benefits in the development of medical products, including drugs. Advances in DHTs, including electronic sensors, computing platforms and information technology, provide new opportunities to obtain clinical trial data directly from patients. Portable DHTs that may be worn, implanted, ingested, or placed in the environment allow real-time collection of data from trial participants in their homes or at locations remote from clinical trial sites. Potential advantages of these DHTs include the ability to:

- make continuous or frequent measurements of clinical features
- record or measure novel clinical features that could not be captured during traditional study visits

Content current as of: 03/29/2023

Regulated Product(s)  
Drugs



# Tracking Submissions Containing DHT Data Form 1571 and Form 356H


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Food and Drug Administration

**INVESTIGATIONAL NEW DRUG APPLICATION (IND)**  
*(Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 312)*

12B. Does the submission contain: Digital Health Technology (DHT) data or a proposal to collect DHT data?

Yes  No

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Food and Drug Administration

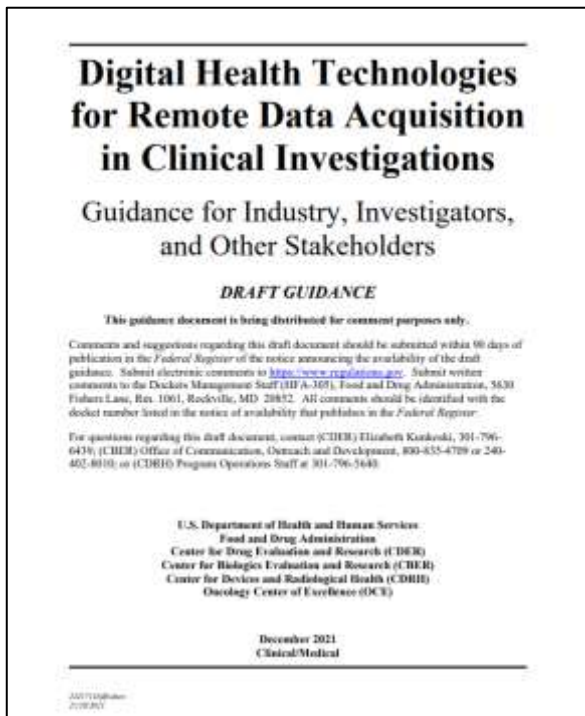


**APPLICATION TO MARKET A NEW OR ABBREVIATED NEW DRUG OR BIOLOGIC FOR HUMAN USE**  
*(Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations)*

25. Does the submission contain:

Only Pediatric data?	Digital Health Technology (DHT) data?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

# Draft Guidance on Digital Health Technologies for Remote Data Acquisition in Clinical Investigations



- This [draft guidance](#) provides recommendations to facilitate the use of DHTs in clinical investigations
- Helps accelerate efficient medical product development
  - Helps bring new innovations and advances to patients
- It builds on the launch of the Digital Health Center of Excellence

# Engage early with the appropriate Center to discuss the use of DHTs in a specific clinical investigation



Follow each FDA Center's procedures for engaging with the Agency in the context of a development program

## ***If the medical product under investigation is:***

### **Drugs and biological products**

*See these Draft Guidance for industry:*



- Formal Meetings Between the FDA and Sponsors or Applicants of PDUFA Products (December 2017);
- Formal Meetings Between the FDA and Sponsors or Applicants of BsUFA Products (June 2018).

### **Devices**

*See this Guidance for industry:*



- FDA Staff Requests for Feedback and Meetings for Medical Device Submissions: The Q-Submission Program (January 2021).



# DHT AND ENDPOINT CONSIDERATIONS



# DHTs should be fit-for-purpose when used in a clinical investigation

*Fit-for-purpose: a conclusion that the level of validation associated with a DHT is sufficient to support its proposed use in the clinical investigation*

- Clinical event or characteristic of interest
- Ability of DHT to measure clinical event or characteristic of interest
- Population of interest, including age, technical aptitude, and education level, as appropriate
- DHT design and operation (for example, physical properties, power needs, alerts)

Applies regardless of if the participant is bringing their own DHT or general-purpose computing platform

Verification  
and validation  
are important  
steps to help  
ensure a DHT  
is fit-for-  
purpose

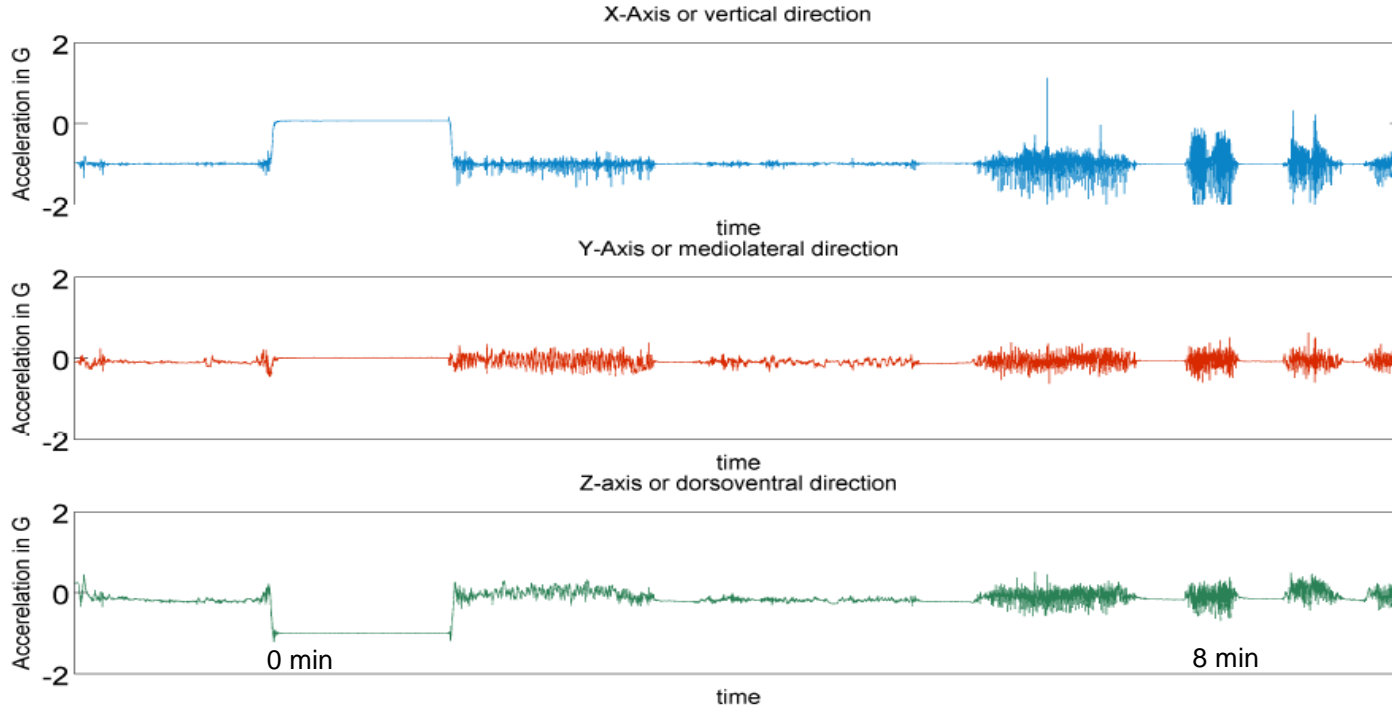
Verification: confirmation by examination and provision of objective evidence that the physical parameter that the DHT measures (e.g., acceleration, temperature, pressure) *is measured accurately and precisely over time*. Verification is often viewed as part of the validation process

Validation: confirmation by examination and provision of objective evidence that the DHT appropriately assesses the clinical event or characteristic *in the proposed participant population*



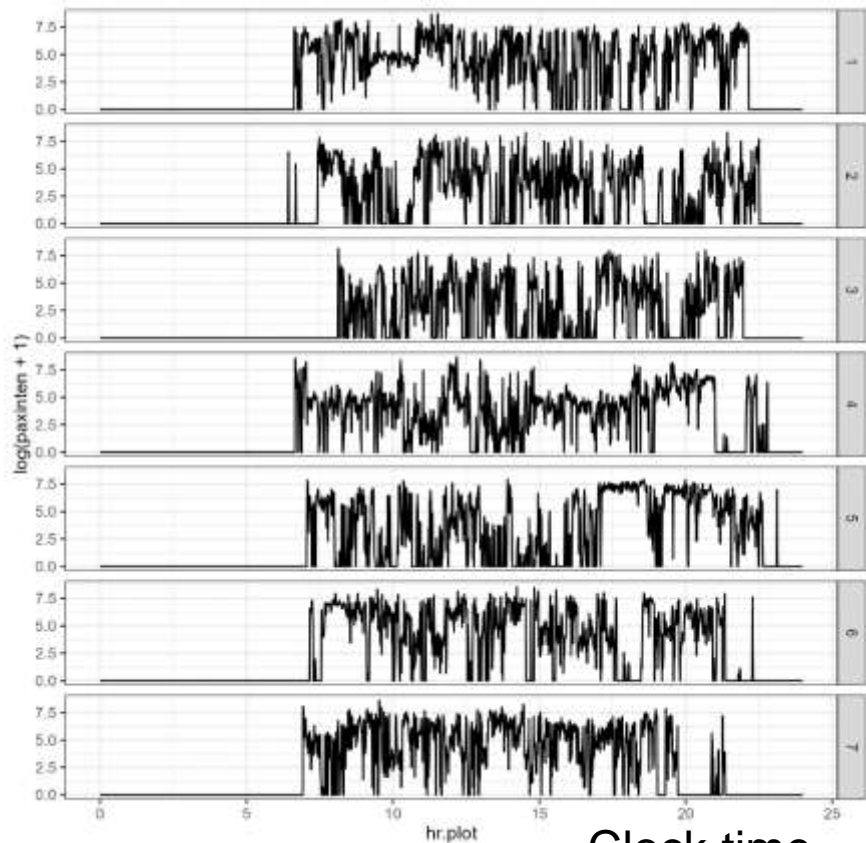
# DATA CONSIDERATIONS

# Movement Data from Acceleration Sensors

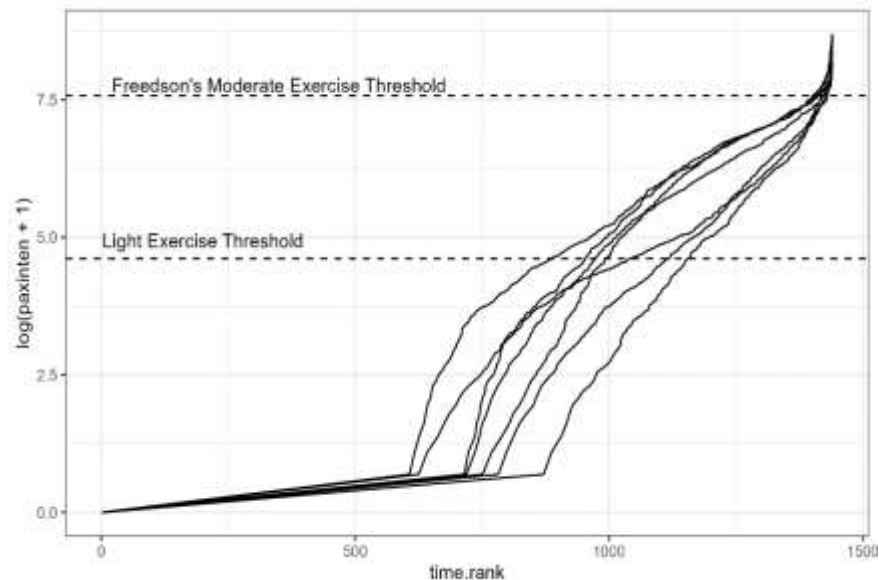




# Daily Activity Counts



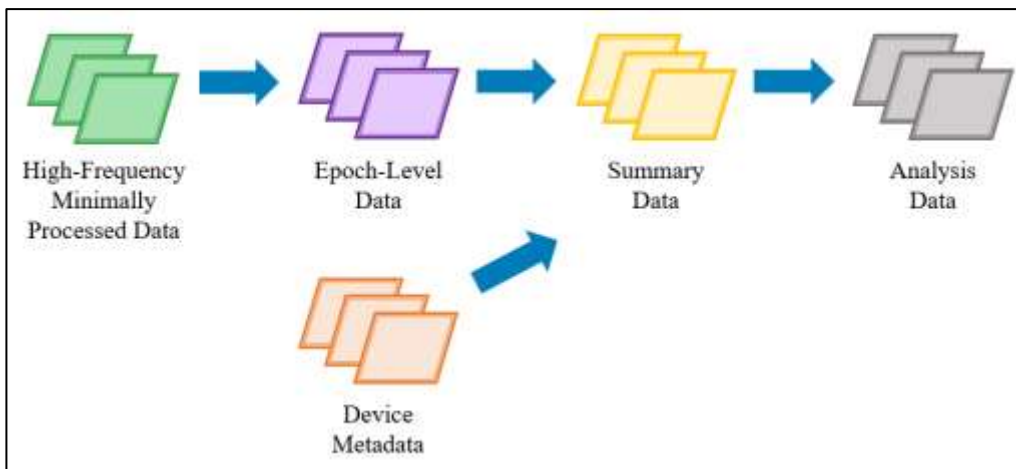
Clock time



- Example subject from NHANES 2003-2004 dataset
- Each curve – activity count at a minute

# Datasets: An Overview

- Data Flow



- What to Submit?

- Required: Summary Data, Analysis Data, Device Metadata
- As needed: Epoch-level Data, High-Frequency Minimally Processed Data



# Dataset Size

- Epoch-level data (if submitted) represents aggregated or captured DHT data and is tabulated in SDTM format.
- An actigraphy watch using a one-minute epoch length results in 1,440 epochs captured for each day of patient wear
- A CGM device using a five-minute epoch length results in 288 epochs captured for each day of patient wear



# Dataset Considerations

- Summary data represents the data summarized from the epoch-level data
  - Bridge the epoch-level data and the analysis data to address the clinical trial objectives
- Analysis data contains analysis-ready DHT data
  - Standardized using ADaM business rules and assumptions

# Data Traceability

- Sponsor should provide a well-documented data flow
  - Each step can be traced back to its previous step
  - Aids in FDA's review and support data provenance and traceability within the data flow
- Sponsor should get agreement on which data needs to be submitted with NDA

# Data Standards

- Currently, no standard formats for analysis and summarization of continuous data from DHTs
- Summaries (activity counts, steps, calories) with the same name have different meaning
- Difficult to translate or generalize results
- More to come

## WHERE THE DATA GOES

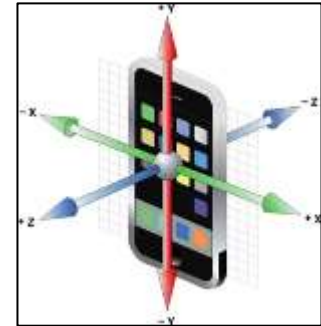
# Clinical Uses of Digital Health Technologies (DHT)

- Capture new information on how patients feel or function
  - Novel study endpoints
  - Supplementary data capturing patient experience
- Capture continuous measurement of biomarkers



# Statistics Uses

- What are the important features to capture the concept of interest?
  - How to capture these features?
  - Clinical knowledge
  - Machine learning
- Analysis of more frequent outcome observations
- How to address missing data and related concerns
- Development of approaches to DHT validation



## Challenge Question #1

### **Summary and analysis datasets must be:**

- A. Small
- B. Excel files
- C. Human readable
- D. Traceable to DHT measurements

## Challenge Question #2

# Which datasets should be submitted to FDA?

- A. High-frequency minimally processed, analysis
- B. Device metadata, summary
- C. Device metadata, summary, analysis, others as needed
- D. Epoch level, analysis

# Summary

- DHTs may capture novel and important endpoints
- Organize large volumes of data into several related datasets
- Make data and endpoints traceable



# Questions?

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Division of Biometrics I, Office of Biometrics

CDER | US FDA



# Closing Thought

DHTs have the potential to gather important data on a patient's disease but need plan to handle the volume of data.

