U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Collaborating for Generic Drug Development and Approval Success: A Regulatory Perspective

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Overview

- Key challenges faced by the generic industry and the agency
- Value of industry/regulatory authority collaboration
- Key efforts made by the agency
- Constructive efforts expected from the generic industry
- Closing remarks

Key Challenges Faced by the Generic Industry

- Intense competition
- Reduce patent infringement risk
- Control expenses due to low profitability
- Speed up products time-to-market

Key Challenges Faced by the Agency

- Safeguarding quality as generic products proliferate
- Reviewing efficiently with constrained resources
- Preventing and mitigating drug shortages
- Keeping pace with science and technology advances

Value of Generic Industry/Regulatory Authority Collaboration

- Collaboration aligns industry and regulators on expectations.

- Open communication channels enable efficient issue resolution.

- Collaboration enables flexible ways to advance innovation while ensuring safety.

Key Efforts Made by the Agency

- Modernizing regulatory frameworks
- Improving transparency through guidance
- Cross training staff to improve efficiency
- Enhancing communication with industry

Enhancing Communication

- Constructive communication builds trust and alignment.
- Multiple channels exist for pre-ANDA communication:
  - Controlled correspondence (CC)
  - Pre-ANDA product development meeting (PDEV meeting)
  - Pre-ANDA pre-submission meeting (PSUB meeting)

Constructive Efforts Expected from the Generic Industry

- Understand all applicable guidance prior to submitting an inquiry or a meeting package.
- Justify proposals with sufficient supporting information.
- Select the appropriate pathway and ask targeted questions.

Constructive Efforts Expected from the Generic Industry - Controlled correspondence (1)

- See Draft Guidance for Industry: Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development (December 2022)
- Check "Questions and Answers on Quality-Related Controlled Correspondence" first at https://www.fda.gov/drugs/pharmaceutical-quality-resources/questions-and-answers-quality-related-controlled-correspondence
- The most frequent controlled correspondence topics have been grouped into different categories.

Bracketing/Matrixing

Container-Closure Changes

Dissolution

Microbiology (Endotoxin testing)

Number of Batches

Orientation

Packaging

Scoring and Split Tablet Testing

Size and Shape of Generic Solid Oral Dosage Forms

Constructive Efforts Expected from the Generic Industry - Controlled correspondence (2)

- Succinctly state your inquiry specifically
- Separate questions requiring review of multiple disciplines.
  - Level 1 (60 days) – Most OPQ CCs
  - Level 2 (120 days) – OPQ CCs needing a consult

CC or PDEV meeting?

- **CC**

✓ For single or closely related questions

✓ Outside PDEV meeting scope

✓ 60 (Level 1) or 120 (Level 2) calendar days response time

✓ Post - PDEV meeting clarification

- **PDEV Meeting**

✓ Best for multidisciplinary questions

✓ New information not addressed in CC

✓ Held within 120 days if granted

✓ ***Do not*** duplicate CC questions

Understanding Pre-ANDA meetings

- Clarify regulatory expectations early
- Increase assessment efficiency to potentially reduce assessment cycles for faster approval
- 30% meeting requests denied
- Top denial reasons:
  - ✓ Incomplete meeting package
  - ✓ Out of scope questions
  - ✓ Requests for pre-review
  - ✓ Non-clarifying questions

Criteria for Granting a PDEV Meeting

(1) A complex generic product

(2) No product-specific guidance (PSG) available

(3) Or with a PSG, an alternative Bio equivalence is proposed

(4) Meeting package is complete, including any data generated and specific proposals for product development (e.g., details regarding the proposed product development plan, such as an alternative study design, and sufficient justification to support the proposal), as applicable;

(5) A controlled correspondence response would not adequately address the prospective ANDA applicant's questions;

Constructive Efforts Expected from the Generic Industry - PDEV meetings

- Ask specific questions on plans and approaches.
- Justify proposals with preliminary data.
- No data dumping
- Avoid assessment issue questions (e.g., acceptance criteria for specification, acceptability of the study results, etc.)

PDEV meeting or PSUB meeting?

Submit a meeting request in a wrong category will result in denial of a meeting request.

- A PDEV meeting is intended for a scientific exchange on specific issues in which FDA will provide specific advice regarding an ongoing ANDA development program.
- A PSUB meeting is intended to let an ANDA applicant present unique or novel data or information prior to their submission, held 6-12 months prior to submission.

Criteria for Granting PSUB Meeting

- FDA recommends PDEV meeting before PSUB meeting (complex products).
- However, PSUB meeting open to all prospective ANDA applicants regardless.
- FDA ***will*** grant a prospective applicant of a complex product a PSUB Meeting
  - If the prospective applicant was granted a PDEV Meeting for the same Complex Generic Product **or**
  - If FDA believes in its sole discretion that the PSUB meeting would improve ANDA assessment efficiency

Closing Remarks

- Collaboration fosters shared success.
- Leverage communication channels effectively.
- Submit focused, justified proposals.
- Adhere to process to improve efficiency.

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Questions?

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Closing Thought

Let's collaborate to accelerate the delivery of quality generic products to the public!!

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