



# Nitrosamine Impurities: Beyond a Compendial Standard - Learnings from USP's Nitrosamines Exchange Community

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## Development of a Standard

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# Components that Enable Impactful Standards



**Aligned with**  
Public health and patient  
safety priorities

**Practical for**  
- Users of the standard  
- Enforcers of the standard



**Developed by**  
Independent experts  
Industry and Volunteers

**Adapted &  
Improved**  
In response to public  
health challenges

# The journey of a potential standard is not a straight path and does not always end in “the monograph”



## Engagement and collaboration are essential

### Identifying

- Workshops
- Roundtables
- User forums
- 1:1 engagements with community members



### Congealing

- Research
- Collaborations

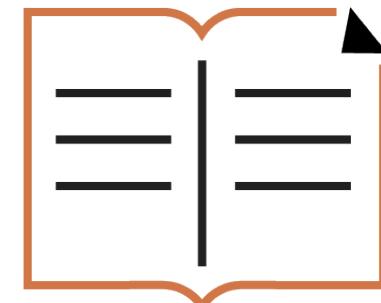
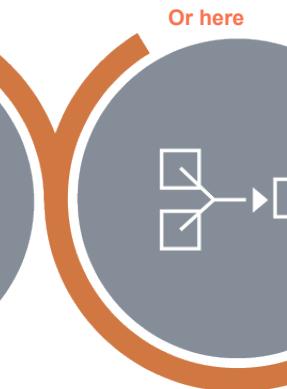


### Refining

- PF
- Open Forums



### Implementation Support



### Incubating

- Workshops
- Roundtables



### Distilling

- EP
- Stimuli or journal articles
- White papers
- Collaborations



### Final Feedback

- PF
- EC



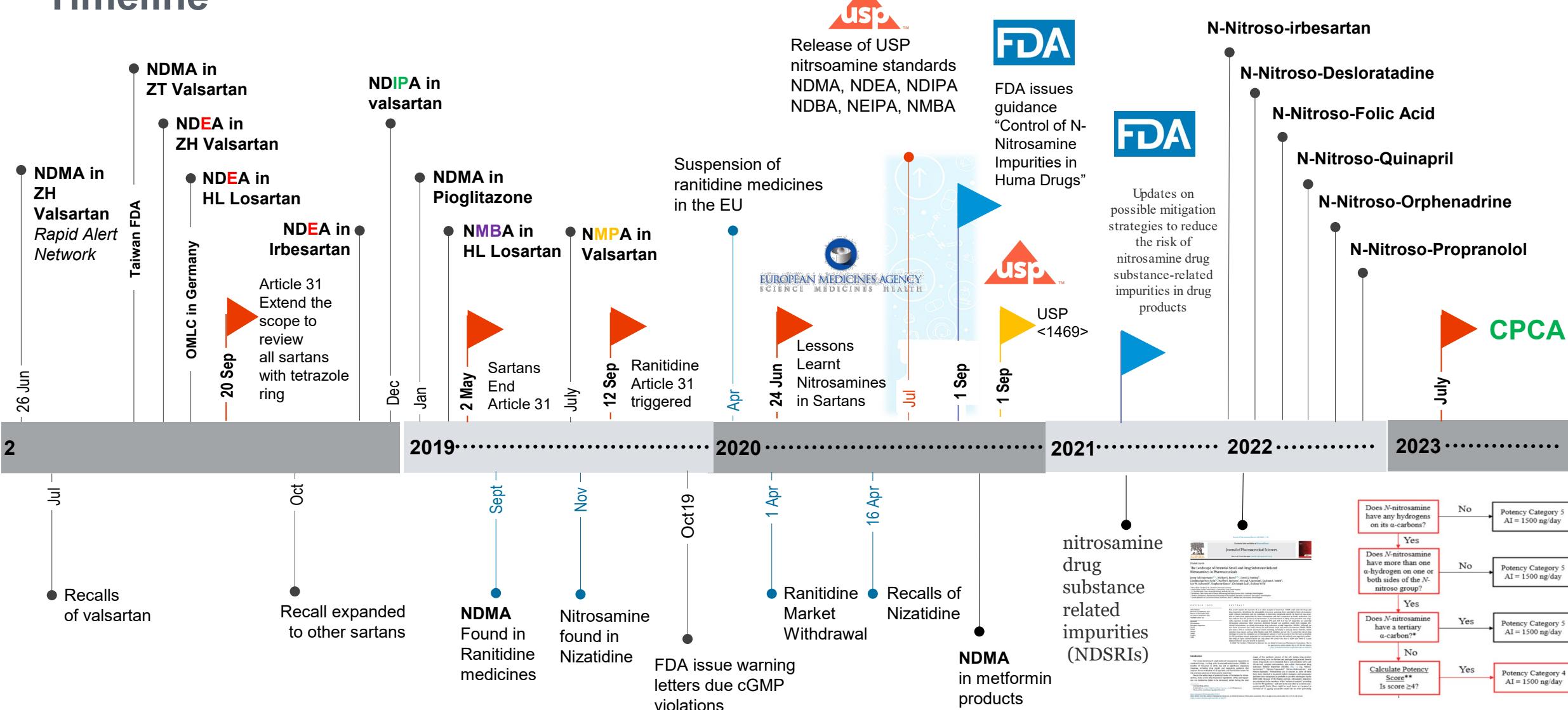
A large, stylized number "2" is enclosed within a thin, light gray circle. The circle is centered on the left side of the slide, with its horizontal axis aligned with the orange line that separates the title from the footer. The number "2" is rendered in a white, handwritten-style font.

## Beyond Compendial Solutions

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# Nitrosamine Quick Evolution

## Timeline





- ▶ Unleashing the **power of online communities**
- ▶ Increase and **accelerate early scientific knowledge exchange** in select topics
- ▶ Strong **sense of community and belonging**, despite not operating in physical space
- ▶ *Democratization and inclusion of knowledge*
- ▶ Hosted by USP, BUT defined by the members
- ▶ A new tool in USP's ecosystem of engagement approaches

Join <http://nitrosamines.usp.org>

# Knowledge Hub: Is & Is NOT



- ▶ ***It is*** supporting USP's efforts to increase early connectivity and engagement with *SMEs*
- ▶ ***It is*** a monitored community platform for scientific knowledge exchange on all-things nitrosamine
- ▶ ***It is*** a forum to incubate, learn and share knowledge/resources with a global community

- ▶ ***It is not*** focused on USP General Chapter <1469> *Nitrosamine Impurities*
- ▶ ***It is not*** a substitute for public comment in PF or compendial processes
- ▶ ***It is not*** a venue to influence or change policy

# Nitrosamines Exchange

An online knowledge-based community on all-things nitrosamines



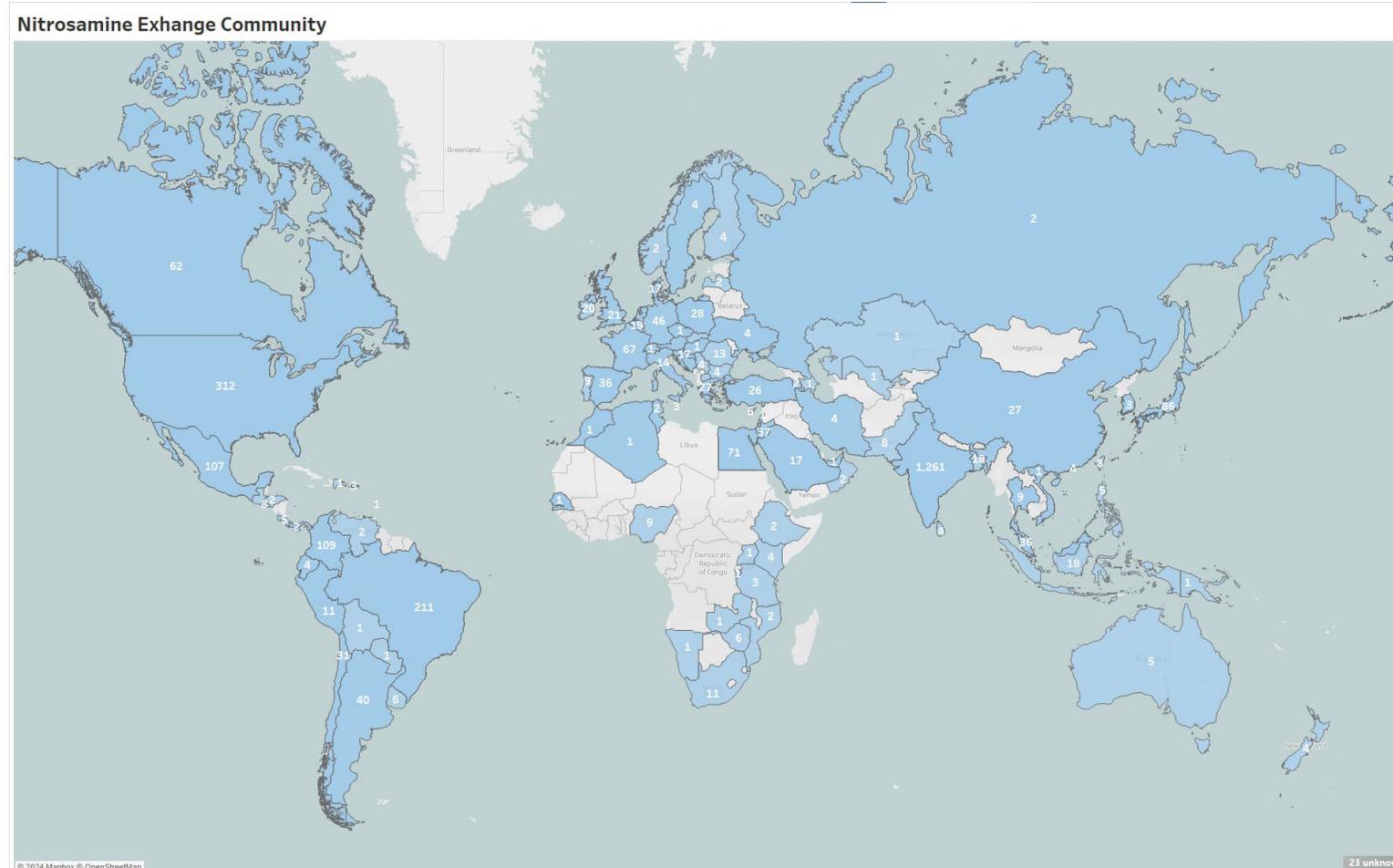
- 4600+ members, 80+ countries
- Ability to translate text between 22 languages



Join <http://nitrosamines.usp.org>

A screenshot of the Nitrosamines Exchange website. The top navigation bar includes the USP logo, the site name "Nitrosamines Exchange", a search bar, and language selection. The main content area features "Featured Topics" with cards for "Limits of Nitrosamines", "CPCA Calculation Tool (excel-based)", "EU EMA Q&amp;A Rev. 16", and "The Nitrosamine 'Saga'". Below this is a news feed with articles like "Maximizing use of existing carcinogenicity data to support AI levels -Pub", "CPCA Calculation Tool (excel-based)", and "Q&amp;A revision 17 uploaded on EMA page". A sidebar on the right lists "Categories" such as About Nitrosamines Exchange, How-To, and Events / Workshops / Webinars. At the bottom, there's a section for "Upcoming Events" with a "Nitrosamine Conversation w/ Raphael Nudelman" listed for August 1, 2023, at 9:00 am.

# Nitrosamines Exchange today



► 4,600+ Members

► 89,000 page views/month

▶ 100+ user-to-user weekly interactions

# USP Nitrosamines Analytical Hub

[www.nitrosamines.usp.org](http://www.nitrosamines.usp.org)



## FDA-published testing method to provide an option for regulators and industry to detect NDMA impurities

The links below are to FDA-published testing methods to provide an option for regulators and industry to detect nitrosamine impurities in metformin drug substances and drug products. These methods should be validated by the user if the resulting data are used to support a required quality assessment of the API or drug product, or if the results are used in a regulatory submission.

- [LC-HRMS method](#): an LC-MS method for the detection of NDMA in metformin drug substance and drug products.
- [LC-ESI-HRMS method](#): an LC-HRMS method for the measurement of amounts of eight nitrosamine impurities in metformin drug substance and drug products

## Nitrosamine testing activities of the OMCL Network

Methods for determination of nitrosamine drug substance-related impurities (NDSRs) and intermediate-related contaminants

Methods for determination of nitrosamines in sartans

SEE ALSO  
EDQM 31/05/2022 STRASBOURG, FRANCE  
OMCLs participate in international regulatory collaboration on the analysis of nitrosamines in metformin-containing medicines  
[> N-nitrosamine contamination in brief](#)

Methods for determination of nitrosamines in ranitidine

Methods for determination of nitrosamines in metformin

Method for determination of genotoxic substances in sartans as AZBT (azidomethyl biphenyl tetrazole) or AZBC (azidomethyl biphenyl carbonitrile)

- Public **online repository** containing **non-compendial** analytical procedures (analytical notes) for the testing of nitrosamine impurities and related substances.
- USP's scientists curate these analytical procedures through **internal development/validation** or through scientific review of non-compendial donations. They are **NOT** compendial standards.

**Nitrosamines Exchange**  
A knowledge based community for all-things Nitrosamine

English (US) ▾

### Featured Topics

**OP&D**

Identifying the Risk of Formation of Nitrosamines and Other Potentially Mutagenic Impurities during API Manufacture Using In Situ Risk Assessment  
Thomas A. Mazzola, Georges C. Gosselin, Luis Jimenez, Jennifer P. Schubert, Steven A. Mihalek, Georges Pichot, Boris Laroche, Barbara J. Rutherford, Steven J. Mills, and Michael J. Rose\*

ACCESS

• [Limits of Nitrosamines // 20d](#)

• [CPCA Calculation Tool \(excel-based\) -Updated](#)

**THE NITROSAMINE "SAGA"**

• [New Scientific Knowle... // Jun 6](#)

• [Identifying the Risk of Formation of Nitrosamines and Other Potentially Mutagenic Impurities...](#)

• [Guidance, Documents... // 21d](#)

• [The Nitrosamine "Saga"](#)

• [Limits of Nitrosamines // Jul 8](#)

• [Visualization of Categorized Compounds by CPCA](#)

**Nitrosamines Impurity Analytical Hub**

Solvents      Drug Substance      Drug Products      Excipients

# Analytical Peer-to-Peer Support



## Testing method for nitroso Ciprofloxacin

■ Confirmatory Testing & Analytical Challenges NDSRI

 This is the first time Rubenlalu has posted — let's welcome them to our community!

R

 [REDACTED] Sep '23  
We have been working trying to analyze N-nitroso Ciprofloxacin. This impurity has a very poor solubility and the only way we have found to perform testing is dissolving it with NaOH 1N. But we face a lot of reproducibility problems and loss of sensitivity in HPLC/MS (triple quad). Have anyone found a more friendly solving media?



## Peer-to-peer Support Sharing best practices



Oct '23

Yeah I have experience with this Nitrosamine earlier, please dissolve 5 mg in 200 ml acetonitrile and need to sonicate until it dissolves (might takes 15 to 20 minutes).



Nov '23

We recently had a case of analysing N-Nitroso-Ofloxacin (structural similar) and our approach was the following:

HPLC-MS (gradient)

Mobile phase A: 0.2% formic acid in water

Mobile phase B: 0.2% formic acid in acetonitrile

Solvent mixture: 0.2% Formic acid aqueous solution/Methyl alcohol (80:20)



**Yosukemino** Nitrosamine Exchange Ambassador

11d

I found a literature about Ciprofloxacin analysis.

Synthesis and Trace-Level Quantification of Mutagenic and Cohort-of-Concern Ciprofloxacin Nitroso Drug Substance-Related Impurities (NDSRIs) and Other Nitroso Impurities Using UPLC-ESI-MS/MS—Method Optimization Using I-Optimal Mixture Design

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsomega.3c05170> 18



**lucas10mauriz** Nitrosamine Exchange Ambassador

Oct '23

@Rubenlalu, the addition of NaOH increases solubility; however, when dealing with analytes like N-nitroso ciprofloxacin, it hinders the ionization process and, consequently, sensitivity. In other words, do not use NaOH.

To address this issue, I recommend initially dissolving the N-nitroso ciprofloxacin in water. Ultrasonication (20 to 30 min., approx.) can aid in achieving a homogeneous solution.

Subsequently, the addition of an organic solvent (methanol or acetonitrile), may be considered based on the requirements of the mobile phase and the MS ionization process. My suggestion: 50:50 (aqueous:organic).

# Identify Emerging Challenges



## A new root cause? NOx

■ New Scientific Knowledge & Development



1 Nov '23  
To be honest, I had never considered the geographical location of the factory as a root cause, but I'll let you all read...

[N-Nitrosodimethylamine Formation in Metformin Drug Products by the Reaction of Dimethylamine and Atmospheric NO<sub>2</sub> | Organic Process Research & Development \(acs.org\)](#)

4 ... Reply

## Nitrosamines evaluation in transdermal patches

■ Risk Assessment Strategy / Tools & Technology featured



Hi all,

Recently, it got to our attention that several NDSRIs indicated in EMA Appendix 1 theoretically could be in transdermal formulations (i.e., Rotigotine, Lidocaine, Methylphenidate etc.), with NDSRIs in Category 1, 2, 3 or more. Under EMA/409815/2020 there is no difference between route of administration unless you provide data.

4 27d

## Nitrosamines from polybags to finished product

■ Root Causes ■ Packaging



Hi,

I want to discuss about nitrosamines from Polybags. Can Nitrates/amines will be available in poly bags and transfer to API/Finished product during the storage. I have asked couple of vendors for the declaration, but they cannot arrange for it. So, do we need to consider the risk from polybags also?

Thank you...

## Duplex Sequencing - Future of mutagenicity assessment

■ Risk Assessment Strategy / Tools & Technology



Naiffer\_Host Community Host

Jul '23

With so much discussion around Limits and AI calculations, I want to debate for a moment to share information about 'Duplex Sequencing'. After the recent safety discussion at the Hesi/FDA meeting, I went down a rabbit hole to understand some of the proposed assays and testing that can be used to evaluate the safety or mutagenicity potential in Nitrosamines Impurities.

## New paper - Use of molar, instead of weight-based, safety limits

■ New Scientific Knowledge & Development



Nitrosamine Exchange Ambassador

Oct '23

I've said a few times on here and in talks "watch this space" for more evidence for the use of molar limits for nitrosamines - the paper is now out!

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrph.2023.105505>

This should be particularly relevant for scaling read-across analogues, often far larger molecules than the compounds they are read-across from...

# Regulatory guidelines (revisions)

[www.nitrosamines.usp.org](http://www.nitrosamines.usp.org)



## Most active posts in the community

After the publication of Regulatory guidelines updates, community members are using the community to discuss the changes, considerations, impact and clarify cases where the framework can be challenging



### EMA Q&A Rev. 16 EMA/409815/2020 -

#### MAJOR UPDATE

- Guidance, Documents, Resources  
Drug\_Substance\_APIS, NDSRI, featured



### FDA - Recommended Acceptable Intake Limits for NDSRIs Guidance for Industry

- Guidance, Documents, Resources



### Health Canada updated the guidance and Appendix 1(March 15, 2024)

- Limits of Nitrosamines NDSRI

### TGA (Australia) 🇦🇺 Updates Published Acceptable Intakes

- Limits of Nitrosamines

### Medicines: MAH' submission of Nitrosamine risk evaluation, risk assessment and confirmatory testing

- Guidance, Documents, Resources Regulation

### Korea Drug Review Briefing session on Nitrosamines

- Guidance, Documents, Resources

### Swiss Medic Guidelines

- Guidance, Documents, Resources NDSRI

# Carcinogenic potency categorization approach (CPCA) framework

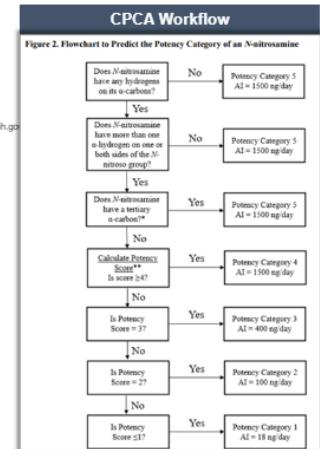


Table 2. Count of hydrogen atoms on each $\alpha$ -carbon (lowest count first) and corresponding $\alpha$ -Hydrogen Score. Examples are intended to be illustrative only and are not intended to be exhaustive.		
Count of Hydrogen Atoms on Each $\alpha$ -Carbon, Lowest First	Example	$\alpha$ -Hydrogen Score
0,2		3*
0,3		2
1,2		3
1,3		3
2,2		1
2,3		1



**lucas10mauriz**  
Lucas Maciel Mauriz Marque  
Nitrosaminas LATAM



# Yosukemino

Yosuke Mino  
Nitrosamine Exchange Ambass...



**15,000+**



1,000+



**2 weeks**

## CPCA Scoring

CPCA Classification ver.  
Name of the product: XXXXXX  
Writer: YYYYYYY

Paste the structure of the

\* For chemical information and draw structure (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>)

Credit: Yosuke Mino & Lucas Mauriz

**Please input the information of the product in the boxes.**

1. Does N-Nitrosamine have any hydrogens on its  $\alpha$ -carbons?

2. Does N-Nitrosamine have more than one  $\alpha$ -hydrogen on one or both sides of N-nitroso group?

3. Does N-Nitrosamine have a tertiary  $\alpha$ -carbon?  
 Category:   
 AI =  ng/day

4. Please check the following features included in the compounds.

4-1. alfa-Hydrogen Score  
 What count of Hydrogen Atoms on Each alfa-carbon, Lowest First?  
 Score:

4-2. Deactivating Feature Score  
 Carboxylic acid group anywhere on molecule?  
 Score:   
 What ring system is included?  
 Score:   
 Chains of  $\geq 5$  consecutive non-hydrogen atoms (cyclic or acyclic) on both side of acyclic N-nitroso group?  
 Not more than 4 atoms in each chain may be in the same ring?  
 Score:   
 Electron-withdrawing group\*\* bonded to  $\alpha$ -carbon of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)?  
 Score:   
 Hydroxyl group bonded to  $\beta$ -carbon\*\*\* of N-nitroso group (cyclic or acyclic)?  
 Score:

4-3. Activating Feature Score  
 Aryl group bonded to  $\alpha$ -carbon (i.e., benzylic or pseudo-benzylic substituent on N-nitroso group)?  
 Score:   
 Methyl group bonded to  $\beta$ -carbon (cyclic or acyclic)?  
 Score:   
 Potency Score:   
 Category:   
 AI =  ng/day

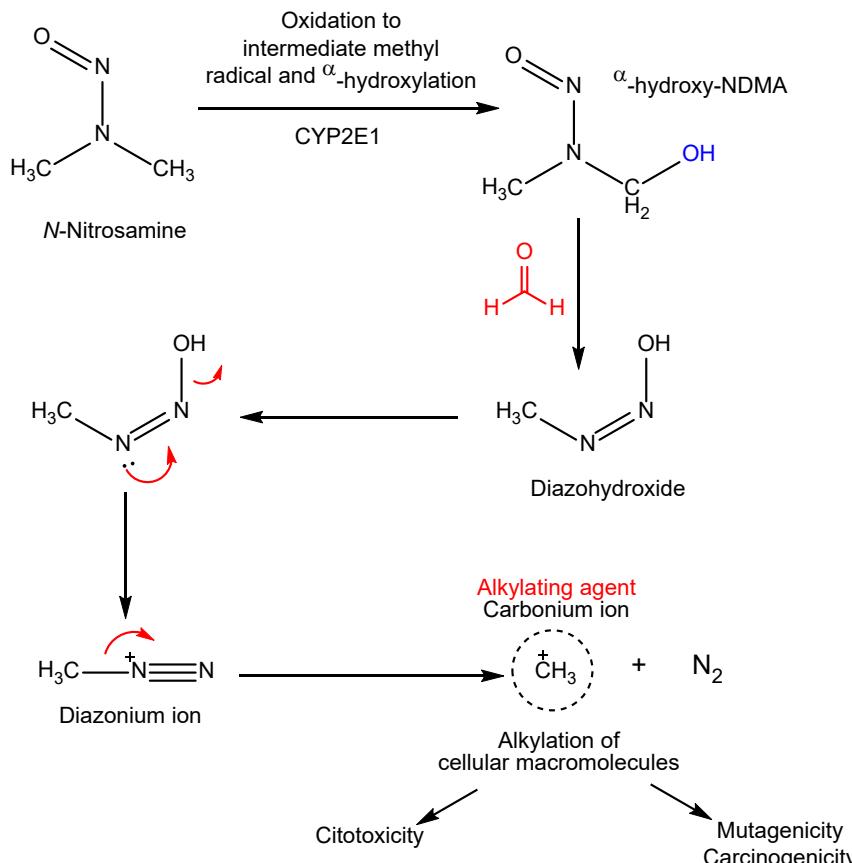
**Disclaimer:** This Calculation Tool, including all of its features and content is made available and may be used solely under the following terms and conditions: a) This Calculation Tool is not for commercial exploitation. You may not decompile, reverse engineer, disassemble, rent, lease, loan, sell, sublicense, or create derivative works from this Calculation Tool. You may not copy, modify, reproduce, republish, distribute, display, or transmit for commercial, non-profit or public purposes all or any portion of this Calculation Tool. Any unauthorized use of this Calculation Tool is prohibited. b) The Calculation Tool is not intended to and does not constitute legal advice. The accuracy, completeness, adequacy or currency of the Calculation Tool is not warranted or guaranteed. Your use of this Calculation Tool or materials linked from this Calculation Tool is at your own risk. c) Except as expressly provided in these Terms of Use, nothing contained herein shall be construed as conferring any license or right to use any trademark, service mark, logo, or trade name of any third party. d) You acknowledge that the Calculation Tool is protected by copyrights, trademarks, service marks, patents or other proprietary rights and laws. d) As a user of this Calculation Tool you are granted a nonexclusive, nontransferrable, limited license to access and use this Calculation Tool in accordance with these Terms of Use. The Calculation Tool is protected by copyright pursuant to U.S. and international copyright laws.

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## Voices of Nitrosamines Exchange

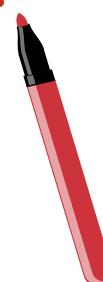
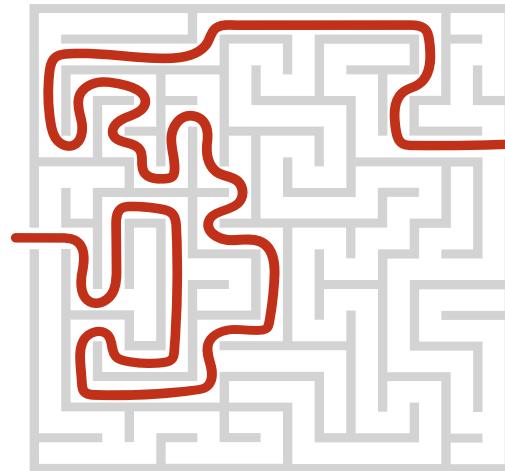
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# Understanding Safety ...

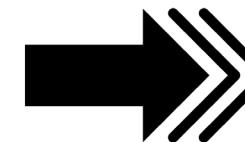


- ▶ Develop Additional Understanding
- ▶ Public Knowledge Sharing
- ▶ Evidence Generation for Standardization and Adoption

# Understanding “Acceptable Intakes > Limits”

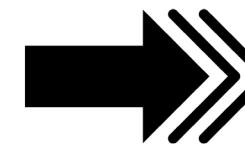


Default Limit:  
26.5 ng/day



CPCA Framework

AMES

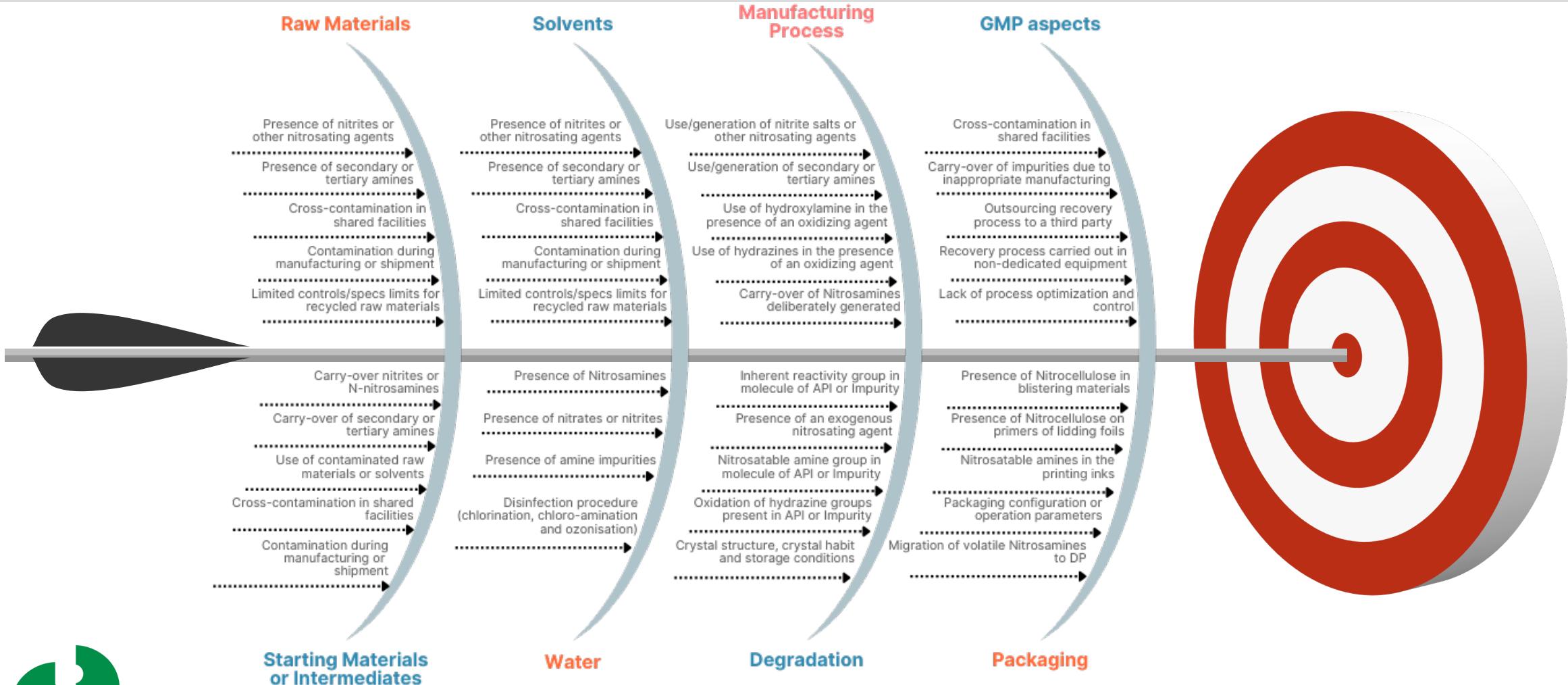


Enhanced-AMES



- ▶ Increase awareness and understanding of prediction tools that harvest Nitrosamines knowledge (Ex: reactivity & formation of impurities, toxicological assessment, Read-Across, QSAR models, etc.)
- ▶ Broadening adoption of in-silico tools through education, collaboration and experience sharing

# Understanding 'Assess the Risk'



Development of Nitrosamine Impurities Risk Assessment toolkits  
anchored in best practices and shared knowledge

# Addressing Analytical Challenges



 **ROBUST  
METHODS**



 **RELIABLE  
REFERENCE STD**



 **STANDARDIZED  
APPROACHES**



 **PEER-TO-PEER  
SUPPORT**



# Understanding Future Challenges



- ▶ Gather Knowledge on Nitrosation beyond 'Nitrites in Excipients'
- ▶ Understanding and awareness of Nitroso-X beyond Nitrosamines
- ▶ Role of compendial tools to facilitate nitrosamines impurities control and/or mitigation



# Scavenger as mitigation strategy



- ▶ Building mechanistic knowledge of scavenger agents (Mitigation & Prevention)
- ▶ Bridging Scavengers



## Permeability & Absorption

Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences 000 (2023) 1–13

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

journal homepage: [www.jpharmsci.org](http://www.jpharmsci.org)

Pharmaceutics, Drug Delivery and Pharmaceutical Technology

Bumetanide as a Model NDSRI Substrate: *N*-nitrosobumetanide Impurity Formation and its Inhibition in Bumetanide Tablets

Diaa Shakleya<sup>a,\*</sup>, Bethel Asmelash<sup>b</sup>, Alaaddin Alayoubi<sup>a</sup>, Nicolas Abrigo<sup>a</sup>, Adil Mohammad<sup>a</sup>, Jiang Wang<sup>a</sup>, Jinhui Zhang<sup>a</sup>, Jingyue Yang<sup>a</sup>, Tim Andres Marzan<sup>a</sup>, David Li<sup>a</sup>, Maha Shaklah<sup>a</sup>, Fahd M. Alsharif<sup>a</sup>, Saamiya Desai<sup>a</sup>, Patrick J. Faustino<sup>a</sup>, Muhammad Ashraf<sup>a</sup>, Thomas O'Connor<sup>a</sup>, Matthew Vera<sup>b</sup>, Andre Raw<sup>b</sup>, Vilayat A. Sayeed<sup>a</sup>, David Keirea<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, Office of Testing and Research, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20993, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, Office of OTC Drugs Products, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20993, USA

ARTICLE INFO
Article history: Received 16 May 2023 Revised 16 June 2023 Accepted 29 June 2023 Available online xxx
Keywords: Mitigation Bumetanide <i>N</i> -nitrosobumetanide Stability Acetone acid Caffeic acid Fenolic acid Nitrite
Nitrosamine compounds are classified as potential human carcinogens, the origin of these impurities can be broadly classified in two categories, nitrosamine impurity found in drug products that are not associated with the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API), such as <i>N</i> -nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) or nitrosamine impurities found in the API. In the case of the latter, the mechanism of formation of the impurity is not well understood. The mechanistic pathway for the formation of these two classes of impurities can be different and the approach to mitigate the risk should be tailored to address the specific concern. In the last couple of years number of NDSRIs have been reported for different drug products. Though, the only contributing factor for the formation of NDSRIs, it is widely accepted that the presence of residual (a)nitrites/nitrates in the components used in the formulation of drug products can be a major source of the formation of NDSRIs. The primary approach to mitigate the formation of NDSRIs in drug products include the use of antioxidants or pH modifiers in the formulation. The primary objective of this work was to evaluate the role of different inhibitors (antioxidants) and pH modifiers in tablet formulations prepared in-house using bumetanide (BMT) as a model drug to mitigate the formation of <i>N</i> -nitrosobumetanide (NBMT). A multi-factor study design was created, and several bumetanide formulations were prepared by wet granulation with and without sodium nitrite spiking. The different inhibitors used were citric acid, malic acid, or citric acid and malic acid in three concentrations (0.1%, 0.5% or 1% of the total tablet weight). Formulations with acidic and basic pH were also prepared using 0.1 N hydrochloric acid and 0.1 N sodium bicarbonate, respectively. The formulations were subjected to different storage (temperature and humidity) conditions over 6 months and stability data was collected. The rank order of <i>N</i> -nitrosobumetanide inhibition was highest with alkaline pH formulations, followed by formulations with acidic and caffeine. In summary, we hypothesize that maintaining a basic pH or the addition of an antioxidant in the drug product can mitigate the conversion of nitrite to nitrosating agent and thus reduce the formation of bumetanide nitrosamines.
Published by Elsevier Inc. on behalf of American Pharmacists Association.

J Pharm Sci. 2023 Jun 24; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xphs.2023.06.013>

Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences 000 (2024) 1–8

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Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences

journal homepage: [www.jpharmsci.org](http://www.jpharmsci.org)

Pharmaceutics, Drug Delivery and Pharmaceutical Technology

Lack of Effect of Antioxidants on Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS) Class III Drug Permeability

Yuly Chiang Yu<sup>a</sup>, Dongmei Lu<sup>b</sup>, Bhagwant Rege<sup>b</sup>, James E. Polli<sup>a,\*</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, Silver Spring, MD, 20993, USA

ARTICLE INFO
Article history: Received 22 December 2023 Revised 6 March 2024 Accepted 6 March 2024 Available online xxx
Keywords: Permeation Absorption Dissolution Caco-2 MDCK-II Biopharmaceutics Classification System Antioxidants <i>N</i> -nitrosamine Excipients
The addition of antioxidants to pharmaceutical products is a potential approach to inhibit nitrosamine formation, particularly in solid oral dosage forms like tablets and capsules. The objective was to assess the effect of ten antioxidants on the permeability of four Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS) Class III drugs. Bi-directional drug permeability studies in the absence and presence of antioxidants were performed <i>in vitro</i> across MDCK-II monolayers. No antioxidant increased drug permeability, while the positive control sodium lauryl sulfate always increased drug permeability. Results support that any of the ten antioxidants, up to at least 10 mg, can be added to a solid oral dosage form without modulating passive drug intestinal permeability. Additional considerations are also discussed.
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<http://nitrosamines.usp.org>

# Stay Connected



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