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# What's New with Electronic Submissions?

**CDER/OSP/OBI**

**October 21, 2024**

# OBI – What's New with Electronic Submissions

- eCTD v4.0
- eCTD General Update
- CDER NextGen Portal



# FDA eCTD v4.0 Activities



- CDER/CBER Supporting eCTD v4.0 as of September 16, 2024
  - Federal Register Notice – [published 9/16/24](#)
  - For a listing of eCTD v4.0 Implementation Guides, Specifications, Validations, Technical Conformance Guide, and Supportive Files, refer to the [eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1](#)

*(fig. 2)*

- eCTD Guidance – Revision 8
  - Updated hyperlinks
  - Added references to eCTD v4.0
- FDA Data Standards Catalog
  - Added eCTD v4.0
- FDA Study Data Technical Conformance Guide
  - Added eCTD v4.0 related references

## eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1

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The table below lists all the documents and supportive files applicable to eCTD submissions to CDER and CBER.

### [Version History](#)

[Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0](#)

[Validation Tools and Electronic Submission Validation Criteria in Use](#)

### [Version History](#)

9/16/2024 - Date Support Begins Added

## Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0

Use/Regulatory Reference	Type	Version	Implementation Guide Reference	Date Support Begins	Date Requirement Begins	Date Support Ends
<a href="#">eCTD v4.0 Comprehensive Table of Contents Headings and Hierarchy</a>	Documentation and Resources	2.1		9/16/2024		
<a href="#">eCTD v4.0 Module 1 Implementation Package (Implementation Guide, CV)</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.5.1		9/16/2024		
<a href="#">eCTD v4.0 Technical Conformance Guide</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.3	Final Guidance for Industry: Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format – eCTD Specifications	9/16/2024		
<a href="#">ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package (IG, CV, Genericode Files, and Schema Files)</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.5	M8 eCTD: Electronic Common Technical Document Specifications	9/16/2024		
<a href="#">Specifications for eCTD v4.0 Validation Criteria</a>	Documentation and Resources	1.3.1		9/16/2024		

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries (filtered from 14 total entries)

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*Fig. 2 – Snippet of eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1*

# FDA eCTD v4.0 Implementation Strategy



## ■ Initial release/acceptance for new applications in eCTD v4.0 *(fig. 3)*

- Allows for development of eCTD v4.0 applications across regions
- CDER/CBER support started 9/16/24
- Sample submissions can be sent to CDER ESUB for technical feedback

## ■ Future phases

- Transition of current applications (Forward Compatibility)
- Two-way communication

## Electronic Common Technical Document (eCTD) v4.0

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The documentation and links on this webpage provide information on how to submit eCTD v4.0-based electronic submissions to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) or the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER).

### FDA eCTD v4.0 Implementation Status

CDER and CBER are accepting new regulatory applications in eCTD v4.0 format as of September 16, 2024. More information can be found on the [eCTD page](#).

Future implementation phases will address forward compatibility for existing v3.2.2 applications and two-way communication.

### eCTD Submission Standards

For a listing of eCTD v4.0 Implementation Guides, Specifications, Validations, Technical Conformance Guide, and Supportive Files, please refer to the [eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v4.0 and Regional M1](#).

### Send a Sample v4.0 Submission to FDA

There is an optional process to submit a sample eCTD v4.0 and/or standardized data sample for feedback. Currently only new application samples will be evaluated. Future phases will include evaluation of forward compatibility. For information on the process of submitting a sample, please refer to [Submit an eCTD v4.0 or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA](#).

### Additional Resources: ICH eCTD v4.0 Step 4 – Implementation Package

The ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package, regional Implementation timeline information, and related files are available for download from the [ICH eCTD v4.0 Step 4](#) page.

To submit comments or questions on the ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package please see the Change Control section on the [ICH eCTD v4.0](#) page.

# Technical Feedback on eCTD v4.0 Samples

FDA



U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION

Search

← Home / Drugs / Development & Approval Process | Drugs / Forms & Submission Requirements / Electronic Regulatory Submission and Review / Submit an eCTD or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA

## Submit an eCTD or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA

- FDA CDER eSub team performs technical validation on the sample submission and reports back on validation errors and other technical issues
- Find information about it here: [Submit an eCTD v4.0 or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA | FDA](#) (Fig. 4)

## Submit an eCTD v4.0 or Standardized Data Sample to the FDA

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FDA would like to assist sponsors and applicants who have not previously submitted in eCTD v4.0. We offer a process to validate sample new eCTD v4.0 submissions and standardized study datasets. You must have an NDA, IND, BLA, ANDA, or MF number and plan to submit an actual submission to the FDA within 12 months of your sample request. Sample submissions are not considered official submissions and are not reviewed by FDA reviewers at any time.

When testing is complete, FDA will provide you with feedback, highlighting the errors found during the processing of the sample submission.

### Sample Submission Validation Process

Follow these steps to submit a sample submission:

1. [Request a Sample Application Number](#)
2. [Submit your sample](#)
3. [Resolve technical issues](#)
4. [Submission and study data support](#)

#### 1. Request a Sample Application Number

To initiate the process of submitting a sample submission, notify the electronic submissions staff at [ESUB-Testing@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ESUB-Testing@fda.hhs.gov) to request a Sample Application Number.

Include the following in your email:

*Fig. 4 – Snippet of FDA eCTD sample web page*

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

# eCTD v4.0 Resources

FDA

- ICH eCTD v4.0 Materials (<https://www.ich.org/page/ich-electronic-common-technical-document-ectd-v40>)
  - ICH eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package
  - Supplemental Documents for eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package
  - Regional Implementation Information & Regional Links
  - Change Control
- FDA eCTD v4.0 Regional Implementation Information  
(<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/electronic-regulatory-submission-and-review/electronic-common-technical-document-ectd-v40>)
  - FDA eCTD v4.0 M1 Implementation Package
  - eCTD v4.0 Technical Conformance Guide
  - Link to ICH eCTD v4.0 webpage
- FDA Related Guidance and Specifications
  - eCTD Guidance – Revision 8 (<https://www.fda.gov/media/135373/download>)
  - FDA Data Standards Catalog (<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/data-standards-catalog>)
  - FDA Study Data Technical Conformance Guide (<https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/study-data-technical-conformance-guide-technical-specifications-document>)

# What's New?

## eCTD Submission Standards for eCTD v3.2.2 and Regional M1

- 03/20/2024 – Updates to [File Format Specification](#)
  - **Removed recommendation to include PDF archive format copy** when submitting .doc/.docx, .xls/.xlsx
  - Updated file format added:
    - Modeling & Simulation file types: .pumascp, .jmd, .qmd
- 09/09/2024 – Updates to
  - Version of Lorenz tool
  - [eCTD Technical Conformance Guide](#)
    - As of April 1, 2024, FDA published final guidance "[Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format: IND Safety Reports Guidance for Industry](#)", which provides a new method to submit these reports
  - [Comprehensive Table of Contents Headings and Hierarchy](#)
    - adding Valid-Values.xml v6.0 (support date TBD)

### Module 5 Clinical Study Reports

- 5.2 *Tabular listing of all clinical studies*
- 5.3 *Clinical study reports and related information*
- ...
- Pharmacogenomics*
- Pharmacokinetics*
- Quality of life*
- Hepatic Impairment Study* (TBD)
- Renal Impairment Study* (TBD)
- Drug-drug Interaction Study* (TBD)
- Mass Balance Study* (TBD)
- Population PK Report* (TBD)

# What's New?

## 4. Send a Sample Submission to FDA

Submitting a sample eCTD or standardized data sample is optional and can provide valuable feedback. This is separate from the test submissions made as part of the ESG account signup process.

Please refer to the following pages:

- [Submitting standardized study data](#)
- [Submitting eCTD v4.0 \(may include standardized study data sample\)](#)

*Tip: Submit the sample early to allow time to make adjustments prior to final submission.*

## Submit a Standardized Data Sample to FDA

Formerly “Submit an eCTD or Standardized Data Sample to FDA”

- FDA now encourages all eCTD samples to be in v4.0 format
- Standardized data samples can be submitted for sample evaluation and feedback utilizing **either** v3.2.2 or v4.0 format

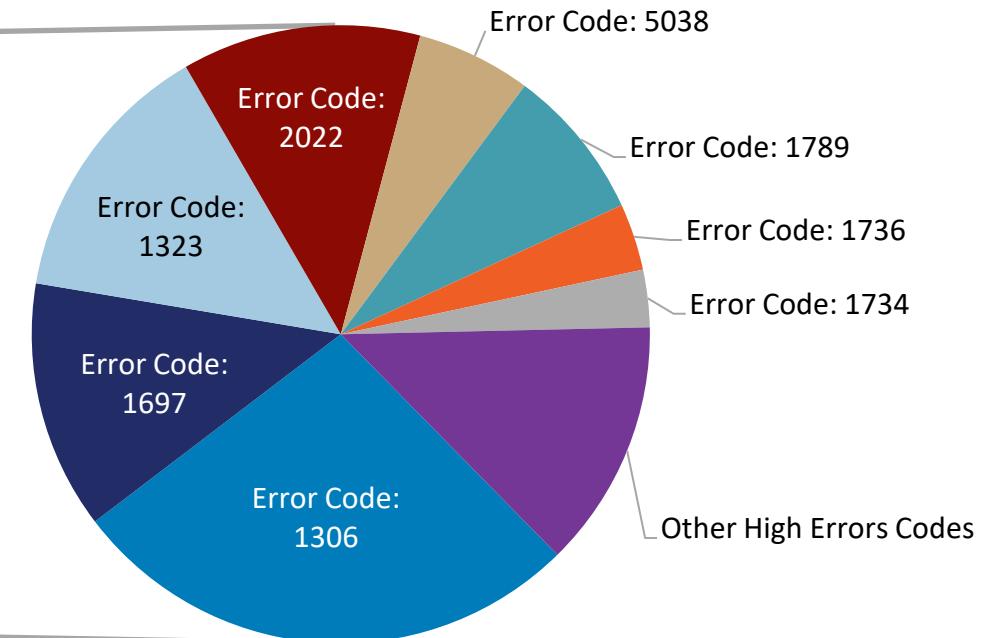
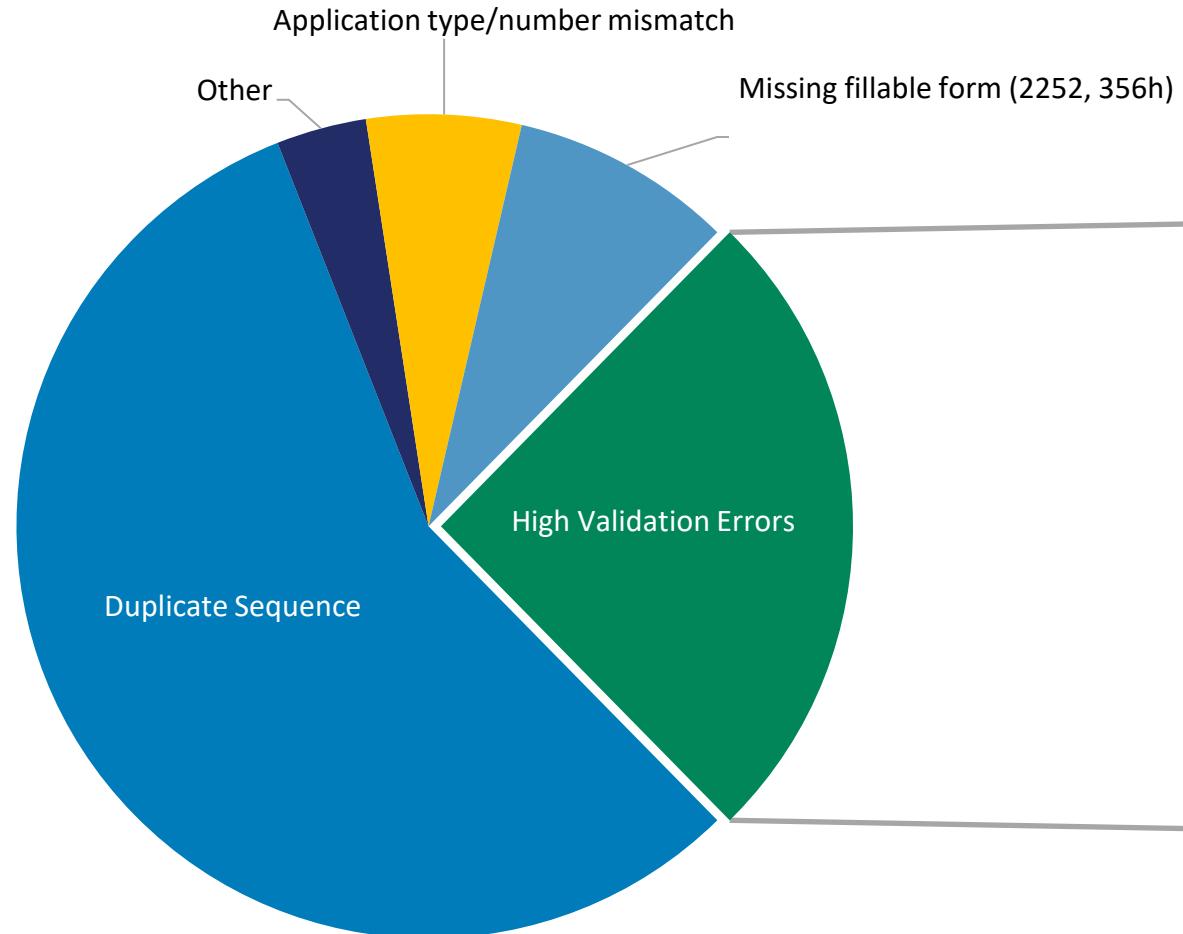
# Top Reasons for ANDA eCTD Rejection

FDA

From January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024

**50,434 ANDAs were submitted.**

Approximately 1% received rejections



# What is CDER NextGen Portal?

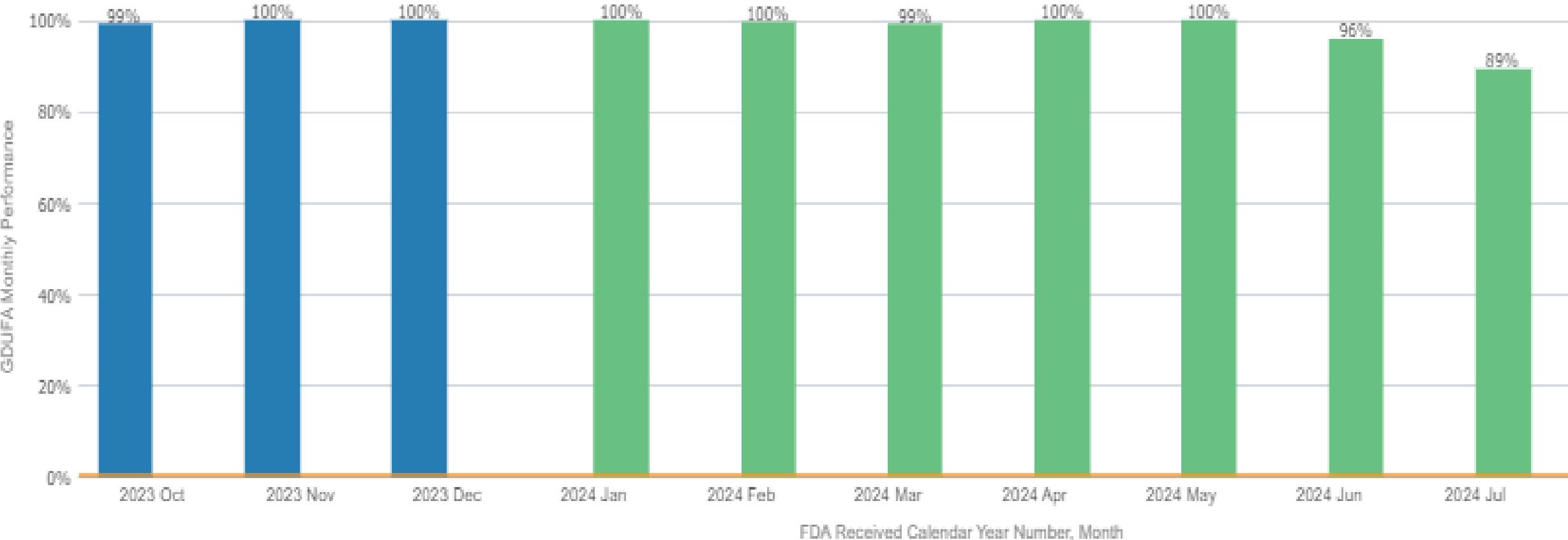
The CDER NextGen Portal serves as a comprehensive platform for collaboration and reporting, specifically designed to facilitate non-eCTD submissions. The portal allows sponsors to submit notifications, correspondence, and exempt human drug applications efficiently. This collaborative capability consistently reduces regulatory overhead for sponsors, academic institutions, research organizations, and small businesses.



# Controlled Correspondence Metrics FY 24

Submissions	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	July 24	FY 24
Controlled Correspondence	264	257	213	329	321	260	262	301	278	307	2792
Level 1	235	224	190	282	287	217	236	273	241	270	2455
Level 2	29	33	23	47	34	43	26	28	37	37	337

# Controlled Correspondence Metrics for FY 2024



# Generic Drug Structured Assessment – Bioequivalence (GDSA-BE)

FDA

## OGD Structured Review Templates in NEXUS (Appian) – *Enterprise-level solution*

Modernization of drug review *from* unstructured narrative *to* structured data with dynamic and interactive collaboration capabilities utilizing an integrated system.



## OGD Generic Drug Structured Assessment (GDSA) Development

- Stage I: Labeling Review Tool (LRT)
- Stage II: Bioequivalence Review Modules (GDSA-BE) (March 2022 – Present) ★

## Problem – Current Approach

- A freestyle narrative-based Bioequivalence(BE) assessment, which is in place for decades
- Assessors evaluate individual applications in relative isolation without fully assessing the wealth of information at FDA's disposal.
- Labor intensive tasks to process data, conduct data analysis, and extract and supply standard information to the review templates
- Created inconsistency and lack of standardization across BE reviews, inability to share prior knowledge and manage information

## Solution – Time to Modernize

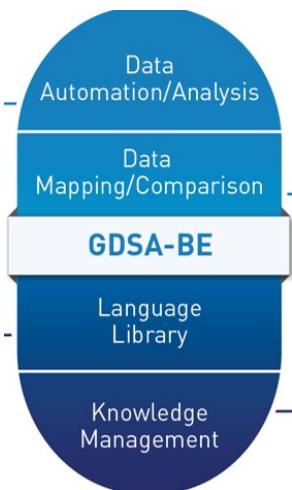
- **Generic Drug Structured Assessment – Bioequivalence (GDSA-BE)** has been conceptualized to enable efficient project management and streamlined review workflow along with the introduction of review automation, data analytics and knowledge management.
- A systematic approach to an efficient and consistent BE assessment which aids rapid and well-informed regulatory decision-making

## Auto-Population and Auto Analysis of eCTD, PK/BE Data and IIG Data

- ❑ Auto-population of eCTD data in review template for solid Oral Dosage forms by BEAM tool
- ❑ Auto-analyze PK/BE data for two-way crossover study by BEAM tool
- ❑ Auto-fill data from FDA Mercado database resources into BE review inactive ingredients section and automate data analytics

## Standardization and Consistency of Review Language

- ❑ Systematize and standardize review language in Executive Summary section
- ❑ Mapping BE deficiencies with the Letter to Applicant
- ❑ Enhanced consistent deficiency language usage by linking to a deficiency language library
- ❑ Knowledge management for BE deficiency database



## Efficient Communication and Processes Between Assessors and PMs

- ❑ Enhanced communication with built-in comments features and footnote references
- ❑ Improved efficiency by incorporating track changes and version comparison features

Persona-based notifications, task sequencing, etc. for in-time communication between assessors and PMs

## Advanced Progress Monitoring and Quality of Reviews

- ❑ "Data Discovery - Reviews" for Project Managers to track review progress using status, milestone dates, and field searches.
- ❑ "My Tasks" for Assessors to monitor their assigned tasks by status and field searches.
- ❑ "Validate" feature to ensure all required fields are completed prior to finalizing review to improve quality control of review.
- ❑ Dynamic print templates for each finalized review

# Upcoming Release Highlights for GDSA-BE

Generic Drug Structured Assessment - Bioequivalence

v2.0  
September  
23rd

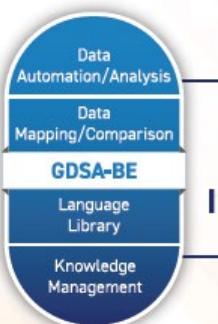
FDA

## NEW FEATURES

- Redesigned review navigation
- Comment ability expanded
- Reformatted BE review PSG date
- One-step validation
- Secondary assessors can finalize
- BE Review/Executive summary OSIS status integration
- Template format enhancements

## VERSION 2.0

- Section 3.2 - Increased character count to 4k for paragraph boxes
- Section 3.2 & 4.2.2 - Allow for PK/PD Pediatric MDD values
- Section 4.1.X.4.4 - Ability to activate/de-activate Group Analysis section
- Section 4.3.1 Dissolution Data - solution for large number of tables
- Project Managers can edit Goal Dates



Please visit Office of Generic Drugs(OGD) booth for more information on GDSA-BE.