



# Human Factors Considerations for Combination Products

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# Overview

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- **Introduction to combination products**
- **Combination product use errors**
- **Introduction to human factors and new FDA draft HF guidance document**
- **FDA review process for combination products**



# Combination Products

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- **Formal Definition in 21 CFR 3.2(e):**
  - *Therapeutic and diagnostic products*
  - *Combine >1: drugs, devices, biological products*
- **Involve multiple FDA Centers, e.g.:**
  - Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER)
  - Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
  - Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH)
- **Raise many regulatory, policy, and review management challenges**



# Combination Product Examples

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- **Prefilled Syringes**
- **Pen Injectors, Autoinjectors**
- **Pharmaceutical Aerosol Delivery Devices/Inhalation Products**
- **Transdermal Delivery Systems/Patches**



# Human Factors and Comb. Products

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- Unlike other medication dosage forms, combination products *require user interaction*
- Combination products are unique in that their safety profile and product efficacy *depends on user interaction*

# Comb. Product Use Errors (1 of 6)

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## Drug route of administration confusion caused by product container



- Oral or topical drug products packaged in injectable vial containers
- Products that require dilution prior to administration packaged in containers that afford direct administration



- Oral inhalation drug products packaged in capsules



- Topical products in packages that look similar to ones used for oral, nasal, eye, or ear products

# Comb. Product Use Errors (2 of 6)

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## Dosing devices

- **Inappropriate device for the drug product**
  - Related to drug viscosity, dosing, or patient population
- **Use errors due to unit of measure confusion**
  - Units were inconsistent with the dosing directions
  - Units were abbreviated or values had trailing zeros
  - Device markings were uncommon for the device type
  - Device markings were illegible, or were obscured when the drug product was added to the device
  - The device was not able to measure all possible doses



# Comb. Product Use Errors (3 of 6)

## Pen injectors and autoinjectors

- **Inadequate product differentiation**
  - Within a product line or across similar products
- **Unusual or unexpected device operation**
  - E.g., needle stick injuries due to user holding device upside-down
- **Confusing or complex device controls**
- **Electronic display legibility or message clarity**
  - E.g., font size and visual contrast
  - E.g., confusion from lack of preceding zeroes (.5 mg instead of 0.5 mg) or presence of trailing zeroes (5.0 mg instead of 5 mg)
- **User injury due to lack of protection against incorrect use**





# Comb. Product Use Errors (4 of 6)

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## Transdermal Patch Products

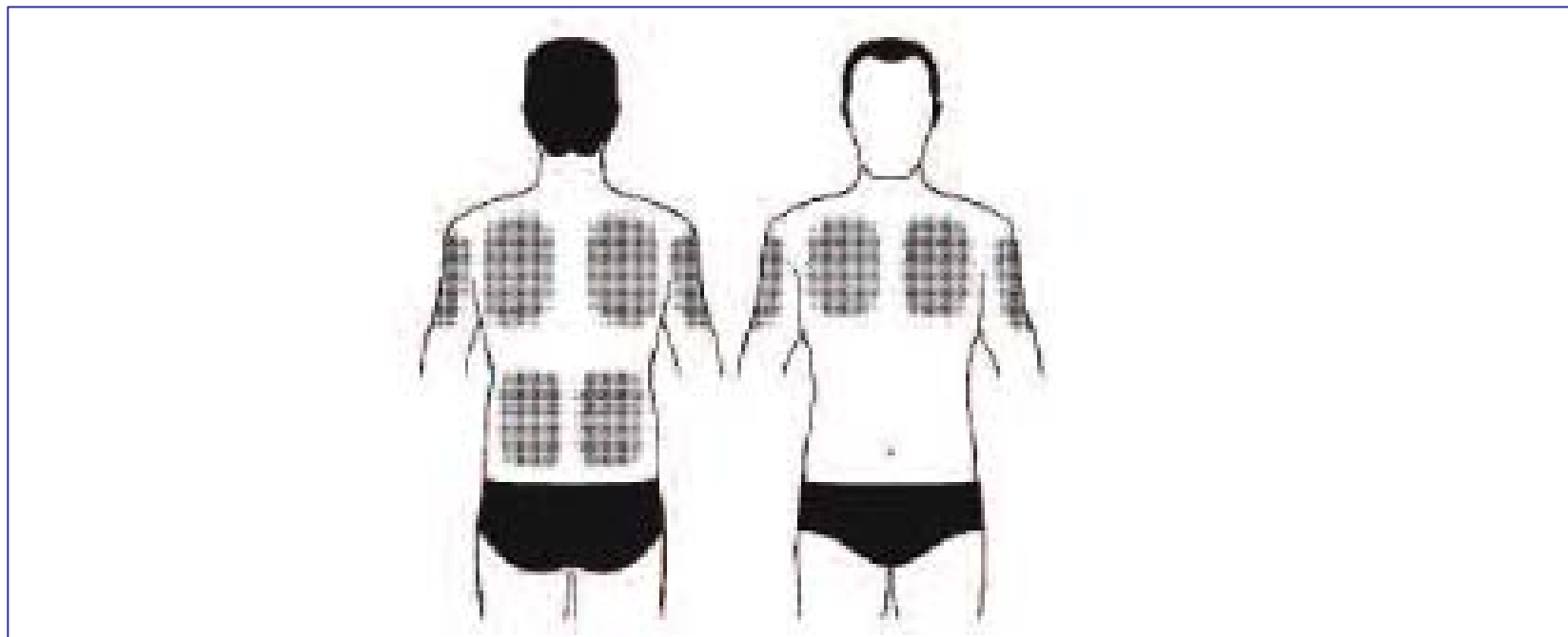
- Where to apply?
- How many patches to apply?
- How to apply?
- How long to wear?
- What to do during activities of daily living: showering, swimming, exercise?
- What to do if patch falls off?
- How to remove?
- How and where to dispose?

# Comb. Product Use Errors (5 of 6)

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## Transdermal Patch Products

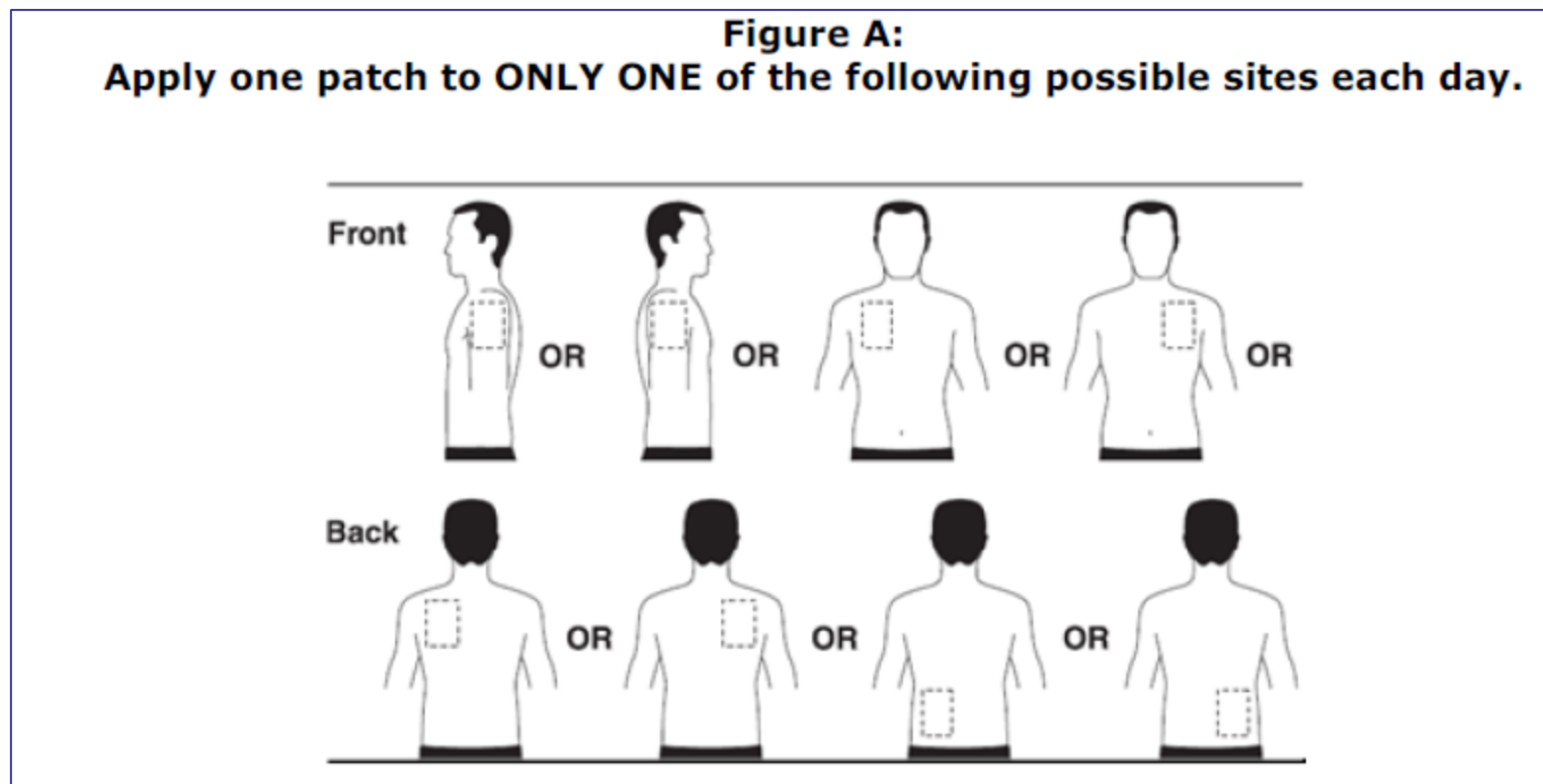
- Original user instructions: where to apply patch



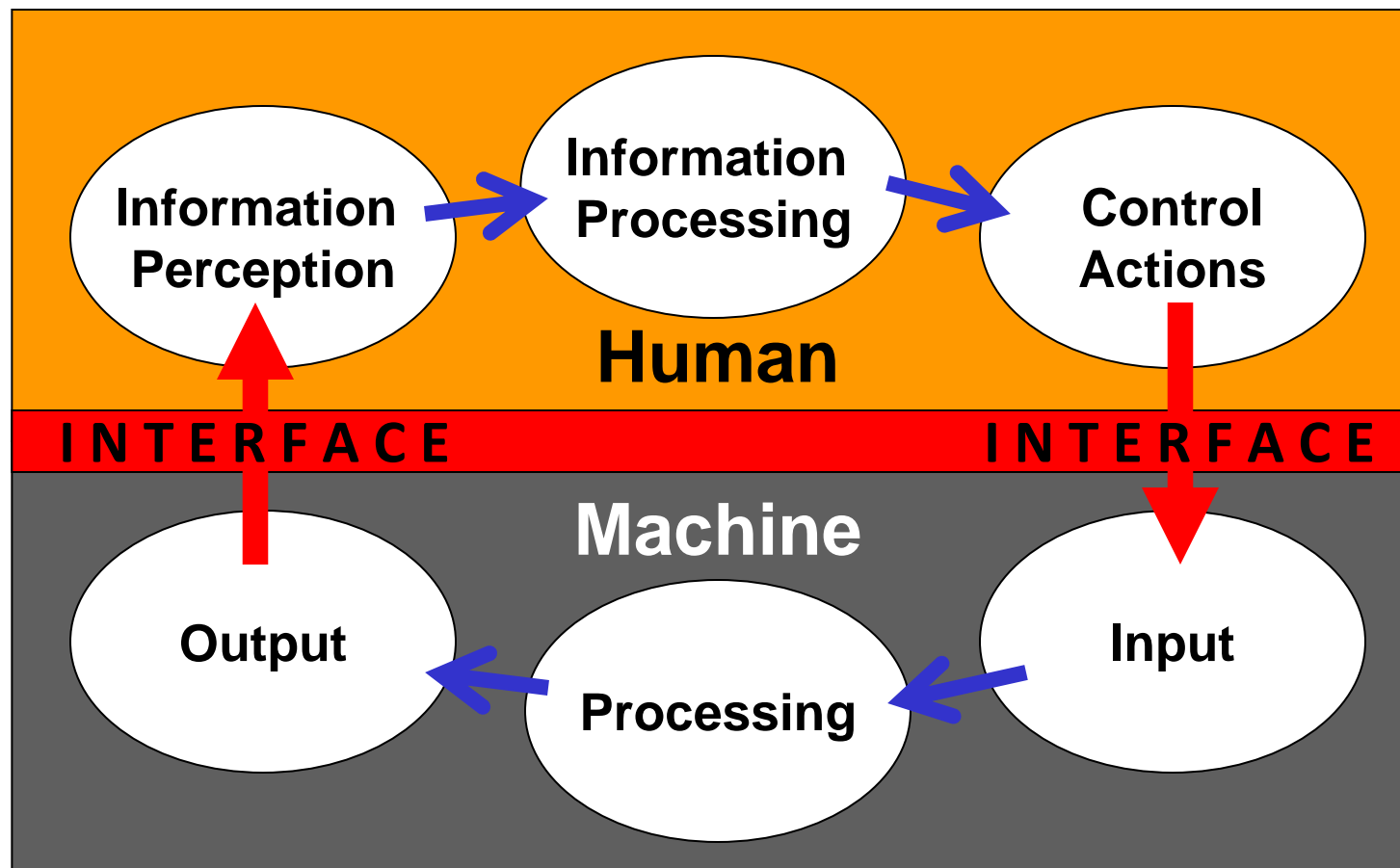
# Comb. Product Use Errors (6 of 6)

## Transdermal Patch Products

- Revised user instructions: where to apply patch



# Device-User Interface





*Contains Nonbinding Recommendations  
Draft - Not for Implementation*

## Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

### Applying Human Factors and Usability Engineering to Optimize Medical Device Design

**DRAFT GUIDANCE**

**This guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.  
Document issued on: June 22, 2011**

You should submit comments and suggestions regarding this draft document within 90 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Identify all comments with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

For questions regarding this document, contact Ron Kaye at [ron.kaye@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ron.kaye@fda.hhs.gov) or (301) 796-6289, or Molly Story at [molly.story@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:molly.story@fda.hhs.gov) or (301) 796-1456.

*When final, this document will supersede Medical Device Use-Safety: Incorporating Human Factors Engineering into Risk Management (Issued July 18, 2000).*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
Office of Device Evaluation





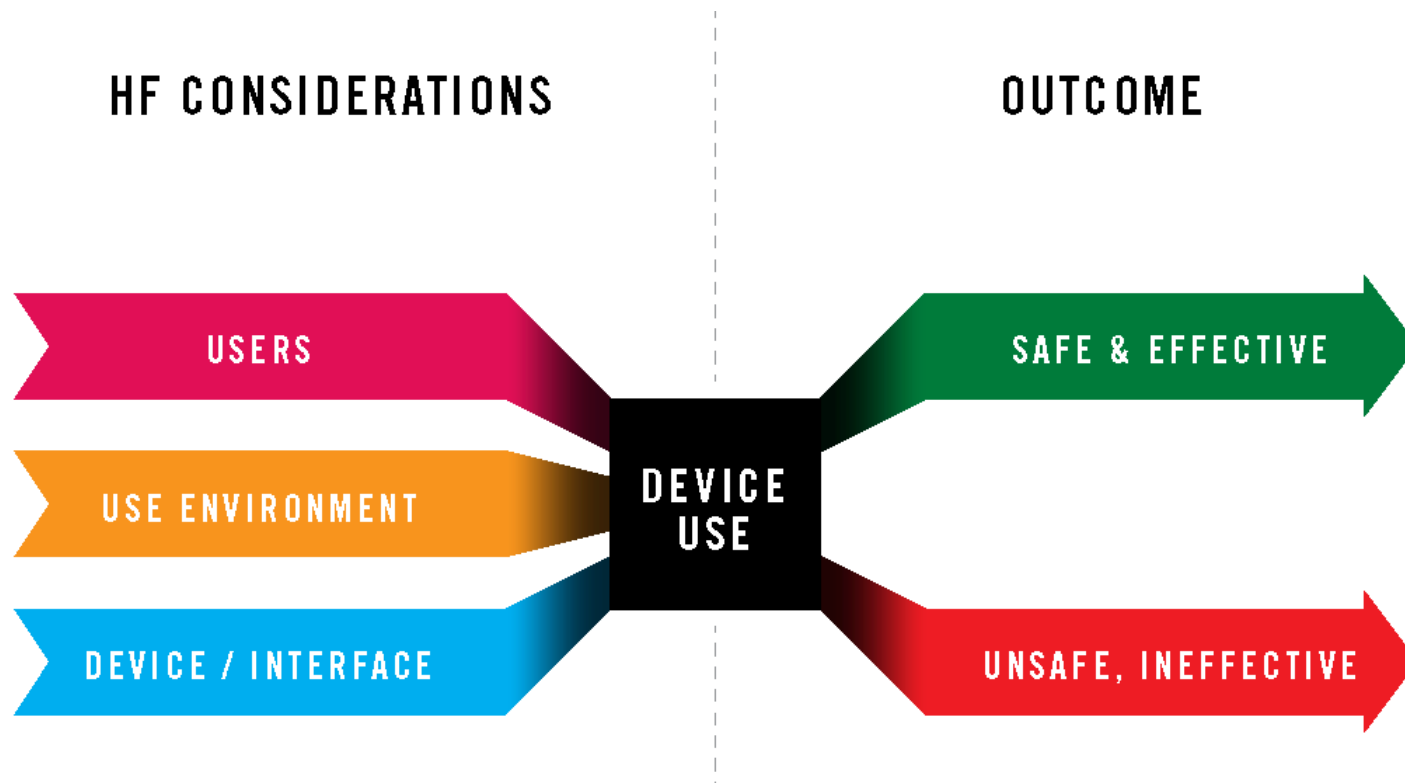
# Draft Guidance: Major Sections

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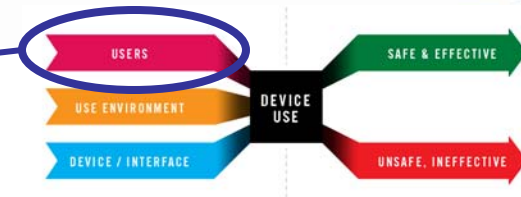
- **Device Users, Use Environments and User Interfaces**
- **Preliminary Analysis Methods**
- **Formative Evaluations and Hazard Mitigation and Control**
- **Human Factors/Usability Validation**



# Human Factors of Device Use



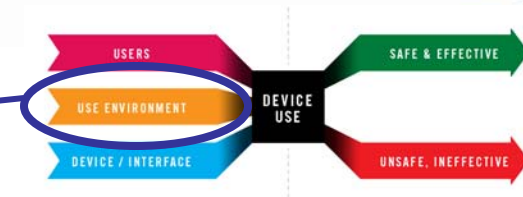
# Users



- **Professional or non-professional**
  - Job title and responsibilities
- **Knowledge and experience levels**
- **Age and functional capabilities**
  - Physical, sensory/perceptual, cognitive/intellectual
- **Mental and emotional condition**

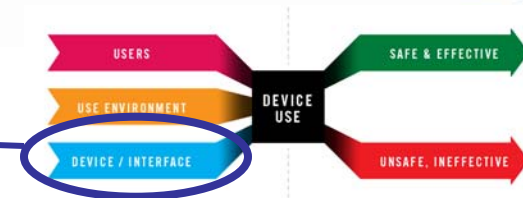


# Use Environment



- **Clinical environment**
  - Hospital, clinic, etc.
- **Transitional care environment**
  - Rehabilitation, assisted living, long-term care, etc.
- **Home environment**
  - House, mobile home, townhouse, apartment, etc.
- **Community setting**
  - Office, school, retail, outdoors, etc.
- **Mobile environment**
  - Car, plane, train, bus, ambulance, medevac, etc.

# User Interface



- **Tasks**

- Unpacking, assembly/set up
- Use
- Supply replenishment, maintenance, repair

- **Interactions**

- **Input**
  - Knobs/dials, switches, buttons; connections
- **Output**
  - Visual: displays, lights
  - Auditory: beeps, alerts/alarms, voice
  - Tactile: resistance, vibration, temperature



# Preliminary Analyses

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## Two ways to discover use-related hazards:

### 1. Apply analytical techniques

- Apply variety of techniques to identify use-related hazards and risks
  - *Can be difficult to anticipate all hazards*

### 2. Conduct user-based evaluations

- Conduct hands-on testing to identify unanticipated hazards
  - *Sometimes called “Usability Testing” or “Use Testing” or “User Testing” or “Formative” Evaluations*



# Formative Evaluations

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- **While the device is still under development**
  - Include representative end users
  - Test simple product mock-ups or early prototypes
- **Done early in the design process**
  - At this stage use-related problems can be addressed more easily and less expensively
- **Best when performed iteratively**
  - Repeat until the device is optimized and ready for human factors/usability validation testing



# Risk Mitigation

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- **Develop a risk mitigation strategy**
  - Modify interface design, user instructions, and/or training to address the problems found
- **Re-test to demonstrate effectiveness of mitigation**
  - Not sufficient to simply state that the device will be modified or that mitigations will be implemented later
- **Residual risk is acceptable if discussed, reasonably limited, not capable of elimination or further reduction, and benefits outweigh it**



# Human Factors/Usability Validation

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- **Demonstrates and provides evidence that a medical device, as designed, can be used safely and effectively:**
  - By representative intended users
  - Under realistic use conditions
  - For critical (high-risk) and essential tasks
- **Objective and subjective data:**
  - Use errors and failures are observed and recorded
  - User opinion and feedback is collected from users afterward, particularly related to any use problems



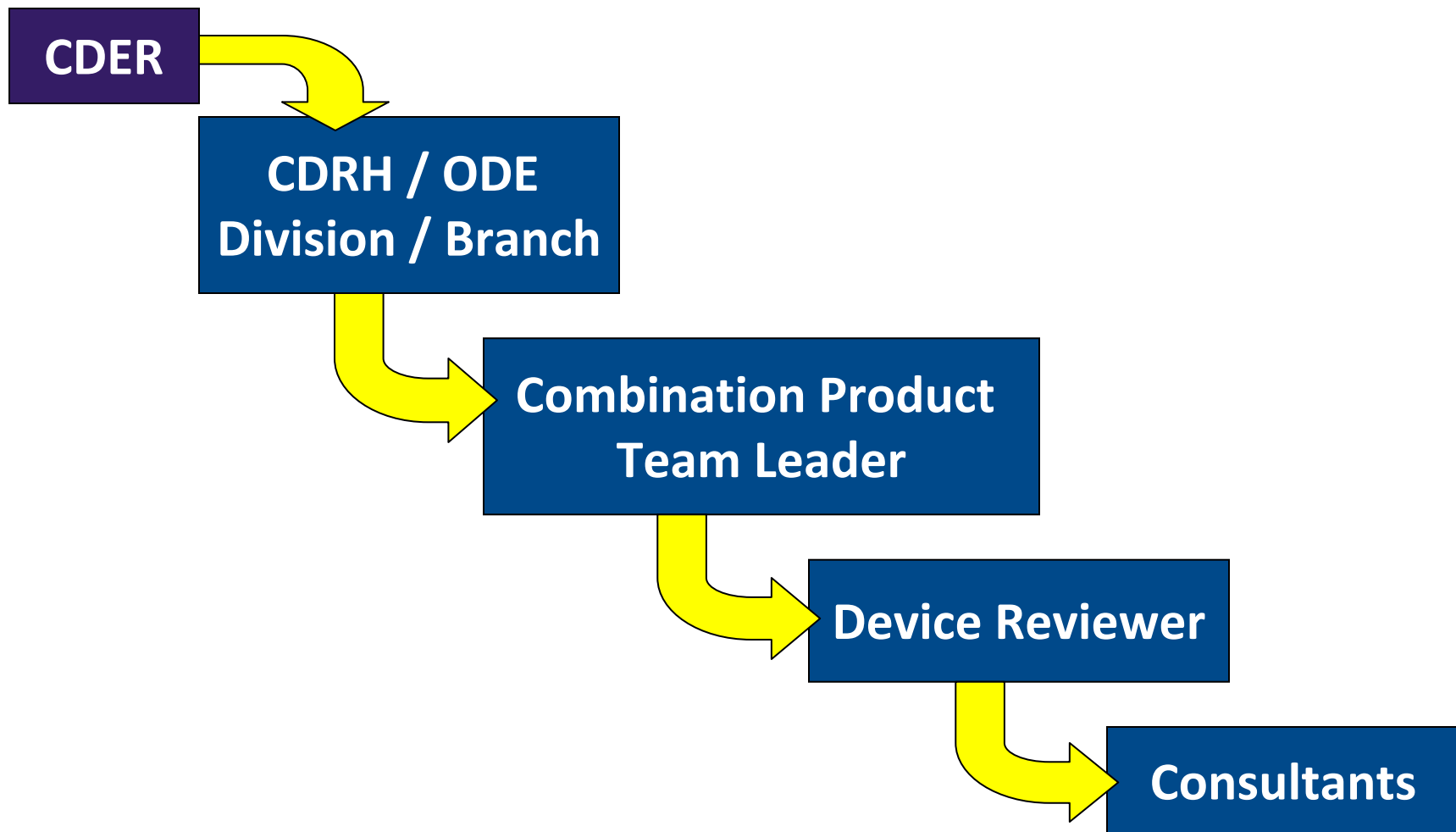
# CDER Submission Review Team

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- **Clinical, Clinical/Pharmacology, Pharmacology/Toxicology**
  - **Statistics**
  - **Office of New Drug Quality Assessment (ONDQA): Chemistry and Biopharmacology**
  - **Division of Medication Errors Prevention and Analysis (DMEPA)**
    - Product naming, labeling, risk management
- ***Consult with CDRH on combination products***



# CDRH/HF Process with CDER Lead







# FDA Expectations for HF Data

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- **Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment**
- **Identify and mitigate risks, including use-related**
- **Conduct human factors/usability validation testing on any strategies implemented to mitigate *significant* use-related risks**
  - Use representative users & realistic testing conditions
  - Fully describe testing protocols and results
  - Analyze and justify residual risks
- **Document everything in the Design History File**



# Realistic Product Testing Conditions

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- **Use finalized device design and labeling**
  - For drug delivery devices, use of placebo is acceptable
  - For injection systems, use of injection pad is acceptable
- **Identify other potential adverse use conditions**
- **Allow realistic interactions, as far as possible**
  - Provide participants with device as they would receive it (e.g., in its original packaging, with all documentation)
  - Allow participants to use the device as they normally would (e.g., without interference from test facilitator)
  - Observe user-device interactions; debrief participant



# Selection of Tasks Tested

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- **Task selection should be derived from results of an assessment of use-related hazards and risks**
- **Tasks tested do not necessarily include all tasks in the instructions**
  - Include *essential tasks* – i.e., tasks associated with basic product use (e.g., preparatory tasks before an injection)
  - Include *safety-critical tasks* – i.e., tasks that could lead to use errors or failures and have negative clinical impact
- **Include a rationale for your task selection in the study protocol and report**



# Realistic Instructions and Training

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- **Participant interaction with instructions and training:**
  - Decide: instructions or no instructions
  - Decide: users trained or untrained
- **Conduct separate studies on labeling and training prior to product validation:**
  - Assess the clarity and effectiveness of labeling (e.g., instructions for use, other documentation, packaging)
  - Determine level and nature of training necessary (if any)



## Advice: Consult FDA Early

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- **Discuss product development plans with FDA before your design is considered “final” (and changes would be difficult)**
  - Experts in CDRH, ONDQA, OND, and DMEPA may have advice to offer based on experience
- **FDA will review human factors/usability testing protocols on request**
  - *Before implementation is recommended!*



# FDA Guidance on Human Factors

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- Guidance (2000): ***Medical Device Use-Safety: Incorporating Human Factors Engineering into Risk Management:***  
<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm094460.htm>.
- Draft guidance (2011): ***Applying Human Factors and Usability Engineering to Optimize Medical Device Design:***  
<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm259748.htm>.
  - NOTE: *This guidance is not yet in effect but it reflects FDA-CDRH's current thinking and approach to human factors.*



# Acknowledgment and Questions

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## My thanks to:

- QuynhNhu Nguyen, FDA / CDRH / ODE / DAGID
- Carlos M. Mena-Grillasca, FDA / CDER / OMEPRM

## Contact:

- Molly Follette Story: [molly.story@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:molly.story@fda.hhs.gov)
- FDA/HF web site: [www/fda.gov/humanfactors](http://www/fda.gov/humanfactors)



# Considerations for Disabled Users

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- **Intended users = design = testing = labeling**
  - **Design for your users and their limitations**
    - Some devices are designed for people with specific medical conditions that are associated with disabilities or impairments
      - e.g., diabetes, arthritis, allergies
  - **Test a representative sample of these users**
    - Low vision is not the same as blindness
  - **Include information in your labeling about the populations for which the device is appropriate**
  - **Provide a rationale in your FDA submission**