From: OC GCP Questions
To: [redacted]
Subject: GCP Question / new safety information to be disclosed to study participants
Date: Friday, June 06, 2014 12:10:24 PM

Good afternoon –

Regarding reporting of serious adverse events, 21 CFR 312 64(b) requires an investigator to "immediately report to the sponsor any serious adverse event" to the sponsor, except for study endpoints. Study endpoints that are also serious adverse events are reported to the sponsor in accordance with the protocol, unless there is evidence suggesting a causal relationship between a drug and an event (e.g. death from anaphylaxis).

Study protocols and other aspects of the investigational plan may also provide additional instructions to clinical investigators regarding serious adverse event reporting, such as the timeline for submitting a report to the sponsor after a clinical investigator becomes aware of the event's occurrence and what the sponsor considers appropriate documentation of awareness. Investigators have an obligation under 21 CFR 312.60 to ensure that the trial is conducted according to the investigational plan. FDA's Guidance for Industry: Investigator Responsibilities -- Protecting the Rights, Safety, and Welfare of Study Subjects recommends that investigators develop a plan for supervision and oversight of the clinical trial, including procedures for ensuring that study staff comply with the protocol and adverse event assessment and reporting requirements. (See http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM187772.pdf). Such procedures might reasonably include processes for ensuring that information about hospitalizations and other serious adverse events is obtained by the site in a timely manner, and in turn reported to the sponsor in accordance with the protocol and 21 CFR 312.64(b) ."

Although "timely" is not specifically defined, we would expect the report to be submitted in a way (time) that would protect the safety and welfare of the research subjects.

A discussion related to this issue occurs in FDA's draft guidance "Safety Reporting Requirements for NDs and BA/BE Studies" (available at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/.../Guidances/UCM227351.pdf).

The revised requirements for IND safety reporting became effective March 28, 2011. Please see link below

http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/InvestigationalNewDrugINDApplication/ucm226358.htm

If you need additional information, please contact the Center for Drugs, Office of Medical Policy at the email address below.
CDEROMP@fda.hhs.gov

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact us again at gcp.questions@fda.hhs.gov should you have additional information.

Kind regards,

Doreen M. Kezer, MSN
Senior Health Policy Analyst
Office of Good Clinical Practice
Office of the Commissioner, FDA

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:09 PM
To: OC GCP Questions
Subject: GCP Question / new safety information to be disclosed to study participants

Dear FDA member,

I would have a question regarding the following topic: new safety information discovered during the course of a clinical trial.

As per ICH-GCP: *Both the informed consent discussion and the written informed consent form ….should include explanations of the following: That the subject …. will be informed in a timely manner if information becomes available that may be relevant to the subject s willingness to continue participation in the trial.*

We would like to know if you could provide guidance on what the FDA considered as "timely".

Of course we understand that if this is a critical information, patient must be informed immediately. However, when this information is not critical but still relevant, how much time does a sponsor have to inform the clinical sites/investigators and how much time do the clinical sites have to inform the clinical trial patients?

For example if it is discovered that the drug under development is associated with the following new adverse drug reactions: headache, urinary tract infection, dizziness. What would be considered as an acceptable timeline to inform clinical trial patients about this?

Any guidance that you could give would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely.

[Redacted]