

INITIATIVES 3 AND 6 CROSSCUTTING PROPOSAL: Risk Management Project

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Timeframe: March-December 2021

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the proposed project is to strengthen the capacity of developing country vaccine manufacturers for the development of risk management plans for vaccine registration and PQ submissions to meet the ICH Topic E2E and EMA GVP Module V.

BACKGROUND

The risk management plan (RMP) is to be submitted as part of the Common Technical Dossier (CTD) submission for registration. The project is aimed at assisting manufacturers in learning how to prepare a robust RMP for a vaccine of their choice for which they wish to achieve registration and WHO prequalification.

RMPs are particularly important in the case of novel vaccines (targeting new diseases or produced using novel production platforms) with no or limited experience in the market. Since the information gathered from clinical trials is limited, manufacturers should have, based on their understanding of the product, production method, epidemiology of the disease, etc, the ability to define a plan to appropriately monitor the safety profile and effectiveness of the vaccine once it enters the market. Such plans may include among other phase 4 trials, observational studies, active surveillance for specific adverse events of interest (AESIs) and mechanisms to detect rare (unexpected or unknown) events that may occur at a frequency that is below the detection level in clinical trials.

The World Health Organization does not have any guidance document on how to prepare RMPs and hence applies the EMA GVP guidelines for this purpose. This is the required standard for the World Health Organization prequalification team in terms of risk management plans for vaccines.

SCOPE OF WORK

The project will be focused on and limited to the development of a risk management plan for the monitoring of safety and effectiveness of a vaccine product.

It will show the best practices for RMP development. To this end, the collaborative effort of a multidisciplinary team constituted by representatives of all relevant areas is required. The team would typically include among others, the safety, the regulatory, quality and the clinical teams within the company.

METHODOLOGY

The project involves an active learning process (learn-by-doing). Students must engage in higher order thinking tasks involving analysis, development, revision, synthesis, and evaluation. It is organised in phases:

Phase I: Companies will be informed of this project through e mail communication with copy of the proposal and will be invited to participate in a Webinar where the project will be described in detail.

Phase II: Development and conduct of an e learning training on RMP. This training will provide the basics of risk management planning according to the ICH E2E guideline, the EMA Guidelines on Good Pharmacovigilance Practice (GVP Modules) and the WHO COVID-19 Safety Surveillance Manual. All companies interested in participating in the project will be invited to designate 3-4 staff from different relevant areas (PV, CT, RA, other) to go through the e learning training. This virtual training will be a pre-requisite for participation in the risk management plan project.

Phase III: Companies interested in participating will be invited to propose a vaccine of interest for which the designated team will develop a RMP within a 5 months' period. A kickoff webinar will be scheduled where project managers and participants will discuss the roll out of the project including confidentiality requirements, opportunities for monitoring progress and timelines for completion.

Phase IV: Step by step development of the RMP by the companies' teams over 5 months with regular meetings with PMs and experts in the field to discuss progress and problems and propose solutions.

Phase V: Completion of the development of the plans is expected by end September. Plans will be submitted to DCVMN project managers who will facilitate a critical review by independent experts (regulators, former regulators, advisers to regulatory agencies on safety, other). Feedback from reviewers is expected within a month. The project should be completed by the end of the year.

NOTES:

- i. Special attention will be given to addressing any concerns that manufacturers may have regarding conflict of interest and confidentiality of the information.
- ii. Three expert consultants will be hired to assist in the plans' development through participation in the discussion meetings to address questions and help manufacturers with issues they may face with follow up on bilateral basis by email in case of need. Additionally, three to four other consultants, ideally regulators or former regulators, will be hired during the last phase of the project to independently review the plans from each company and to provide feedback for improvements.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES/ DELIVERABLES

Through the proposed project, participating teams from different companies will "learn-by-doing", how to prepare a risk management plan for a product of their choice, ideally one that the company is planning to submit for registration and further WHO-PQ.

This project will render two deliverables.

- 1. A robust Risk Management Plan meeting EU standard to be integrated into the CTD of a vaccine of companies' choice to be submitted for registration and WHO prequalification,**
- 2. A multidisciplinary team for risk management (safety and efficacy of vaccines) is established and expected to become common practice in the companies (i.e., Safety Management Teams).**

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Activity	Quarter											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Inform DCVMN members of proposal												
Development RMP e learning course												
RMP webinar												
E learning course conducted.												
Project kick off Meeting.												
RMP e workshops												
Participants submit their RMPs.												
RMPs review and feedback by experts												