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Dated: December 21, 2023.

Lauren K. Roth,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2021–N–0039]

Electronic Submissions; Update to the Specifications for Preparing and Submitting Postmarket Individual Case Safety Reports for Vaccines; Technical Specification

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) is announcing the availability of version 2.3 of the Specifications for Preparing and Submitting Postmarket Individual Case Safety Reports (ICSRs) for Vaccines (Specifications). The version update is not applicable to CBER-regulated drug products marketed for human use with approved New Drug Applications (NDAs) and Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs); CBER-regulated therapeutic biological products marketed for human use with approved Biologic License Applications (BLAs); Whole Blood or blood components; and human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps) regulated solely under the Public Health Service Act.

ADDRESSES: You may submit either electronic or written comments at any time as follows:

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted,

such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security Number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):* Dockets Management Staff (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA–2021–N–0039 for "Electronic Submissions; Update to the Specifications for Preparing and Submitting Postmarket Individual Case Safety Reports for Vaccines; Technical Specification". Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240–402–7500.

- **Confidential Submissions—**To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and

contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure laws. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240–402–7500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Wagman, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, Bldg. 71, Rm. 7301, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 240–402–7911.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

CBER is announcing the availability of version 2.3 of the Specifications for Preparing and Submitting Postmarket ICSRs for Vaccines (available at <https://www.fda.gov/industry/about-esg/cber-vaccine-icsr-implementation>). The version update has been prepared to provide updated specifications on submitting re-challenge information, to correct values for the 'Vaccination Facility Type' (FDA.G.k.4.r.14.8), and to record modifications to the 'Attachment File Name' (FDA.C.1.6.1.r.3) as well as various document formatting refinements. In addition, version 2.3 includes updated business rules (Appendix I of the Specifications) which provide details on data field specifications. The version update is not applicable to CBER-regulated drug products marketed for human use with approved NDAs and ANDAs; CBER-regulated therapeutic biological products marketed for human use with approved BLAs; Whole Blood or blood components; and HCT/Ps regulated solely under section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264).

At this time, all existing eVAERS submitters (vaccine manufacturers and others responsible for reporting ICSRs for vaccines) have successfully transitioned to reporting in version 2.2.

All eVAERS submitters are expected to transition from version 2.2 to the current version 2.3 as soon as possible.

Additional information about electronically submitting postmarket individual case safety reports (ICSRs) for vaccines to VAERS is available at <https://www.fda.gov/industry/about-esg/cber-vaccine-icsr-implementation>.

Dated: December 21, 2023.

Lauren K. Roth,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2023-D-4177]

Quality Considerations for Topical Ophthalmic Drug Products; Revised Draft Guidance for Industry; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a revised draft guidance for industry entitled “Quality Considerations for Topical Ophthalmic Drug Products.” This revised draft guidance discusses certain quality considerations for ophthalmic drug products (*i.e.*, gels, ointments, creams, and liquid formulations such as solutions, suspensions, and emulsions) intended for topical delivery in and around the eye. Specifically, this revised draft guidance discusses microbiological considerations; approaches to evaluating visible particulate matter, extractables and leachables, and impurities and degradation products; use of in vitro drug release/dissolution testing as an optional quality control strategy for certain ophthalmic dosage forms; recommendations for design and delivery and dispensing features of container closure systems; and recommendations for stability studies. The revised draft guidance applies to marketed products including ophthalmic drug products approved under new drug applications (NDAs), abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs), and biologics license applications (BLAs), as well as to over-the-counter (OTC) monograph drugs, drugs compounded by outsourcing facilities, and the drug or biological product constituent part of a

combination product. This guidance revises the draft guidance for industry of the same name issued in October 2023.

DATES: Submit either electronic or written comments on the revised draft guidance by February 26, 2024 to ensure that the Agency considers your comment on this revised draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on any guidance at any time as follows:

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else’s Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see “Written/Paper Submissions” and “Instructions”).

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):* Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in “Instructions.”

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2023-D-4177 for “Quality Considerations for Topical Ophthalmic Drug Products.” Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as “Confidential Submissions,” publicly viewable at

<https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- **Confidential Submissions**—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states “THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.” The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as “confidential.” Any information marked as “confidential” will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA’s posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the “Search” box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

You may submit comments on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)).

Submit written requests for single copies of the revised draft guidance to the Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10001 New Hampshire Ave., Hillandale Building, 4th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the revised draft guidance document.