Recent Update of Medical Products Regulation in Japan

Masatoshi Narita
Councillor for Pharmaceutical Affairs
Minister's Secretariat
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan

2nd Joint conference of Taiwan and Japan on Medical Products Regulation

Agenda

- Three Pillars of “PMD Act” (Revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Act)
  - Safety Measures: Package inserts
  - Medical Devices
  - Regenerative Medicines

- *SAKIGAKE* Strategy
  - SAKIGAKE
  - Scheme to rapid authorization of unapproved drugs

Agenda

- Three Pillars of “PMD Act” (Revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Act)
  - Safety Measures: Package inserts
  - Medical Devices
  - Regenerative Medicines

- *SAKIGAKE* Strategy
  - SAKIGAKE
  - Scheme to rapid authorization of unapproved drugs

Overview of the revision of Pharmaceutical Affairs Act (PAA)

- Points of this revision are to;
  1. Strengthen safety measures regarding drugs and medical devices, etc.
  2. Revise medical device regulations based on its characteristics
  3. Introduce regenerative medicine product regulations based on its characteristics

- Name of PAA will be changed to “the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, Regenerative and Cellular Therapy Products, Gene Therapy Products, and Cosmetics” **= *“PMD Act”***.
- The chapter separated from drugs for medical devices will be prepared.

SAFETY MEASURES

First Pillar of the PMD Act

Background on the revision;

- Promotion of practical application of innovative medical products requires strengthening of safety measure system.
- Package inserts are important for notifying precautions for usage to medical institutions, and therefore, should be considered to be of high importance.
- PAA before the revision did not clearly mandate constant updating of package inserts, reflecting the latest information.
- Therefore, by taking account of the above to be revised, safety measures regarding medical products could be enhanced.

New Regulations;

- Contents of package inserts should be notified to MHLW on the time of approval and revision.
- Package inserts notified will be uploaded in a web-site.
- Paper package inserts of any medical devices will be able to be omitted under certain conditions.

MEDICAL DEVICES

Second Pillar of the PMD Act

Background on the revision;

- Medical devices have characteristics that are different from pharmaceuticals such as revisions in a short cycle.
- New medical devices take a long time reaching approval and marketing stages.
- In order to promote globalization of medical devices, the law must take into account of the consistency with the international standards.
- Therefore, regulatory revision taking in account of the characteristics of medical devices is necessary for promoting expeditious practical application and regulatory reasonability.

New Regulations;

- Scope of third party certification will be expanded.
- Standalone Medical Device Software (SMDS) will be regulated.

Regenerative Medicines

Third Pillar of the PMD Act

Background on the revision;

- Citizens have high expectations towards regenerative technology such as the iPS cells as being innovative technology. On the other hand, safety issues exist.
- Therefore, regulations should be created based on the unique characteristics of regenerative medicine products.

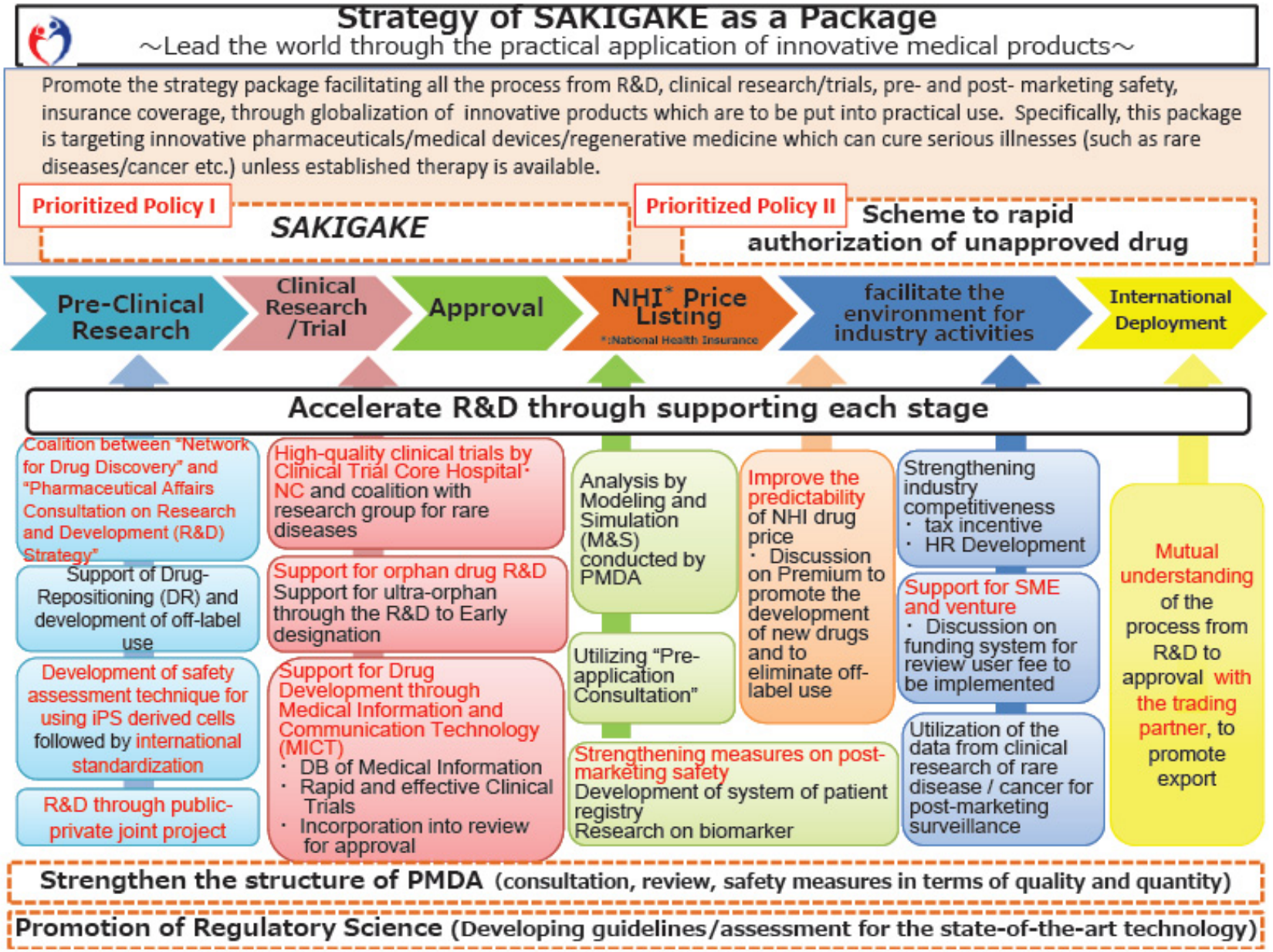
New Regulations

- Establishment of specific definition of regenerative medicine products: Introduction of new definition of regenerative medicine products apart from pharmaceuticals and medical devices in the PAA.
- Approval system for earlier commercialization of regenerative medicine products: Introduction of Tentative Approval with condition and effective period. Efficacy and safety will be further confirmed after tentative approval.
- Safety and ethics in the post market phase: Informed consent. Post market safety measures (infectious disease periodic reports, record retention etc.).

Agenda

- Three Pillars of “PMD Act” (Revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Act)
  - Safety Measures: Package inserts
  - Medical Devices
  - Regenerative Medicines

- *SAKIGAKE* Strategy
  - SAKIGAKE
  - Scheme to rapid authorization of unapproved drugs



http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health-medical/pharmaceuticals/140729-01.html

SAKIGAKE Designation System

SAKIGAKE is a system to put into practice innovative medicines/medical devices/regenerative medicines initially developed by Japan.

Designation Criteria

Medical products for diseases in urgent need of innovative therapy which may satisfy the following two conditions:

1. Having firstly developed in Japan and planned an application for approvals (desired to have PMDA consultation from the beginning of R&D)
2. Prominent effectiveness (i.e. radical improvement compared to existing therapy), can be expected based on the data of mechanism of action, non-clinical study and early phase of clinical trials (phase I to II)

Designation Advantage

: To shorten the time to approval

: To facilitate R&D

①Prioritized Consultation
[Waiting time: 2 months→1 month]
Shortening a waiting time for a clinical trial consultation from the submission of materials.

② Substantial Pre-application Consultation
[de facto review before application]
- Encouraging Consultation
- Accepting materials in English

③Prioritized Review
[12 months → 6 months]
Targeting total reviewing time: 6 months
* Accept the result of phase III study after the application on a case-by-case basis to shorten the time from R&D to approval

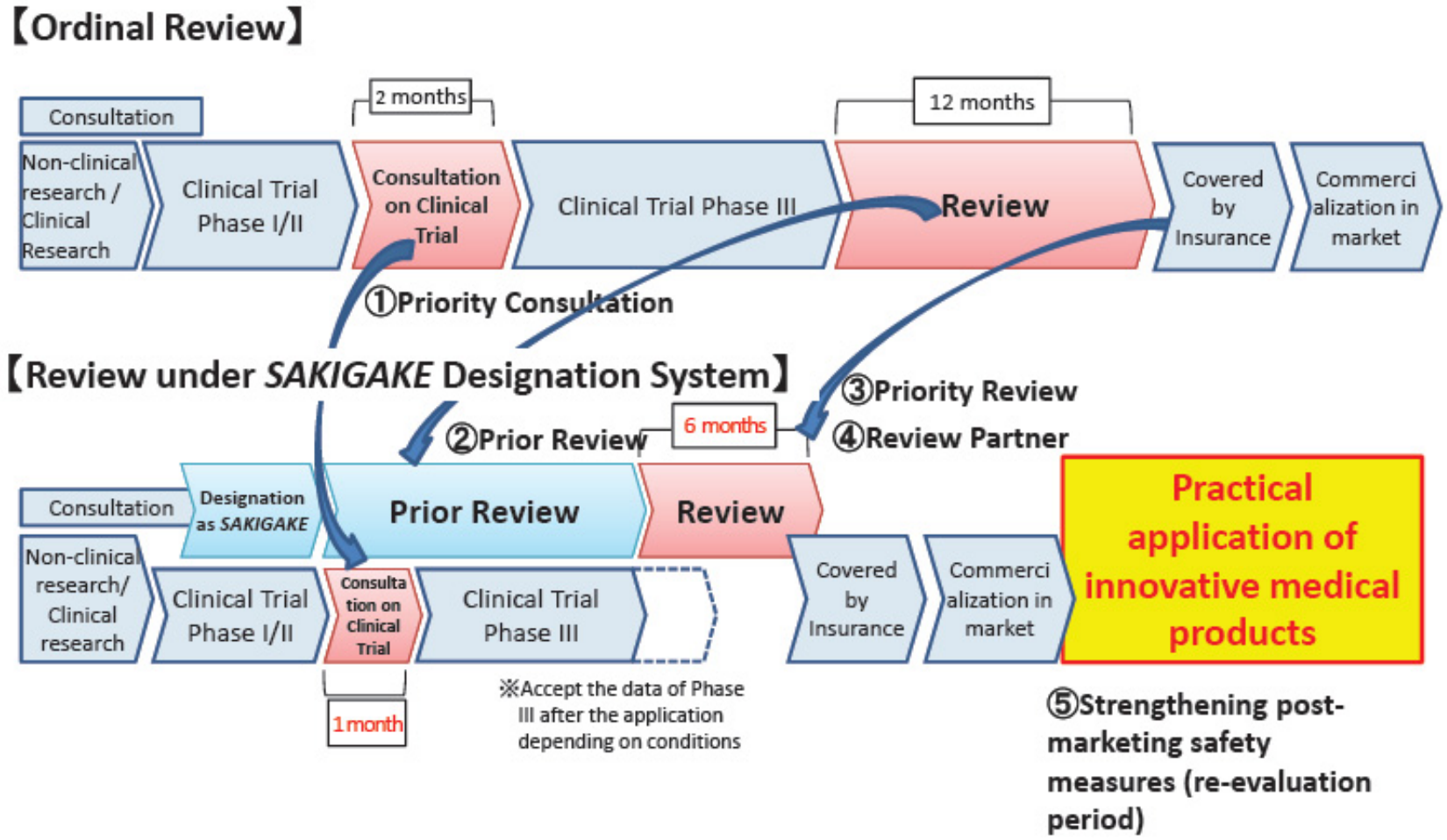
④Review Partner
[PMDA manager as a concierge]
Assign a manager as a concierge to take on overall management for the whole process toward approval including conformity assurance, quality management, safety measures, and reviewing application

⑤Substantial Post-Marketing Safety Measures
[Extension of re-examination period]
Strengthening post-marketing safety measures such as extension of re-examination period after approvals well as facilitating coalition with scientific societies, and global information dissemination.

Designation Procedure

1. **Option 1:** Application is to be submitted to Evaluation and Licensing Division (ELD) and to be reviewed by PMDA. The result of designation is to be notified within 60 days.
2. **Option 2:** ELD is to approach a potential applicant. The result of designation is to be notified within 30 days after the submission, if agreed by the applicant.

General Timeframe of *SAKIGAKE*



Scheme for Rapid Authorization of Unapproved Drug

Expand the scope of the Council on Unapproved Drug / Off-label Use to the products unapproved in EU/US, when satisfying certain conditions. Through the cooperation with industry on R&D for the products, lead the world in the practical use of innovative pharmaceuticals for life threatening rare/serious diseases.

Facilitate the environment for industries and support its R&D through proactive conduct of clinical trials or Advanced Medical Care at Clinical Trials Core Hospitals, and National Center for Advanced Medical Technology for products which have difficulty to make matching the data with company developing the product.

Unapproved drug /Off-label Use
(currently limited only to products approved in EU or US)

Accept and evaluate the as needed

Expand the current scope to products unapproved in EU/US if they satisfy one of the following conditions

① Conducting/finalizing phase III study in Japan
② Promising calinical data shown in public domain such as a paper in scientific journals
③ Achievement in Advanced Medical Care B

Evaluation committee on unapproved or off-labeled drugs with high medical needs

【Basic Scheme】(Almost all products fall into the scheme)

Request on a company / Public recruiting of company for R&D

Clinical Trial to be conducted by company

Submission of Application for Approval

【Where it takes time for matching due to R&D carried out overseas, etc.】

Clinical trials / Advanced Medical Care to be conducted at Clinical Trials Core Hospitals / National Center for Advanced Medical Technology to accumulate data enough for application

※Support the company for its R&D
※Utilize PMDA's Pharmaceutical Affairs Consultation on Research and Development (R&D) Strategy

Company conducting R&D

厚生労働省

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Thank you for your attention !

URL: http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/