PMDA Updates

June 2021

News

1. 13th Drug Information Association (DIA) China Annual Meeting (Virtual)

The 13th DIA China Annual Meeting was held from 20–23 May. Participants from the PMDA included Mr. UZU Shinobu (Senior Executive Director), Dr. NAKASHIMA Nobumasa (Associate Executive Director), and three other staff members. In addition, Mr. YASUDA Naoyuki (Office Director, Office of International Regulatory Affairs) from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), and another member participated.

In this meeting, the PMDA participated mainly in the three sessions mentioned below:

In a session titled "Global Regulatory Modernization Townhall - Regulatory Modernization to Protect Public Health," Mr. UZU provided details about the PMDA's actions against COVID-19, updates for the revised Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, Regenerative and Cellular Therapy Products, Gene Therapy Products, and Cosmetics (PMD Act), and information regarding approaches from regulatory science.

In a session titled "ICH Day", Mr. YASUDA from the MHLW gave a speech about the latest International Council on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) trends in Japan, and other staff provided PMDA and Japanese industry activity updates in Good Clinical Practice (GCP) renovation, including implementation and consideration of ICH Q12 in Japan from both regulatory and industry perspectives.

A session titled "PMDA and JPMA Joint Session" was chaired by Dr. NAKASHIMA with Ms. NAKAGAWA from the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA). In this session, the PMDA and MHLW staff members spoke about how the Japanese regulatory authorities have responded to COVID-19. The JPMA delivered a presentation on perspectives from the industry regarding the conducting of clinical trials during the pandemic. Then, this session was followed by a panel discussion where an active exchange of opinions among the speakers took place. Questions from viewers were answered by session speakers, which led to a greater understanding of Japan's latest actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Japan.

2. ICH Incheon Virtual Meeting

The ICH held virtual meetings on May 25 and June 1–3, 2021. These virtual meetings were an alternative to the face-to-face meetings scheduled in Incheon, Republic of Korea, due to COVID-19. Dr. NAKASHIMA Nobumasa (Associate Executive Director for International Programs, PMDA), Dr. SATO Junko (Office Director, Office of International Programs, PMDA), and Mr. YASUDA Naoyuki (Office Director, Office of International Regulatory Affairs, MHLW), attended with other officers from the MHLW and the PMDA.

The main outcome of the meeting included further expansion of the ICH membership. The ICH Assembly welcomed the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), Saudi Arabia, as a new member, as well as two new observers: The Federation of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AEC), Azerbaijan, and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), UK. For the Management Committee elections, representatives from the following regulatory members were re-elected: The National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), Brazil; the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), Republic of Korea; and the National Medical Products Association (NMPA), China. Industry members from the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) and the International Generic and Biosimilar medicines Association (IGBA) were also re-elected.

Regarding the status of the working groups, we noted significant milestones, such as Q3C (R8), M8, S1B (R1), and S12. Q3C (R8) reached Step 4 (Adoption of an ICH Harmonized Guideline) for the revision of Residual Solvents. M8 also reached Step 4 for eCTD v4.0 Question and Answer (Q&A) Document v.1.5, Specification for Submission Format for eCTD v.1.3, and eCTD v4.0 Implementation Package v.1.4. S1B (R1) reached Step 2 (Adoption of the Draft Guideline) for Addendum to the Guideline on Testing for Carcinogenicity of Pharmaceuticals. S12 also reached Step 2 for the new ICH S12 Guideline on Nonclinical Biodistribution

Considerations for Gene Therapy Products. The assembly supported the following three topics as new topics, noting the need for further discussion on the timeframe for their initiation: The revision of ICH Q1 Guidelines on Stability Testing and related ICH Q5C Guideline on Quality of Biotechnological Products, the Revision of ICH Q6A and Q6B on Specifications, and New ICH Guideline on General Principles on Planning and Designing Pharmacoepidemiological Studies that Utilize Real-World Data for Safety Assessment of a Medicine.

The next ICH meeting was planned to be held from November 15–18, 2021, in Vancouver, Canada, but due to COVID-19, it will be held virtually.

3. PMDA-ATC Webinar for SFDA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On May 19, the PMDA held a webinar titled "PMDA-ATC Webinar for Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." The webinar was the first PMDA ATC (Asia Training Center) Seminar held based on the "Memorandum of Cooperation between the MHLW of Japan and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority on Medical Products" signed by the SFDA and the MHLW in December 2020. The theme of the webinar was pharmacovigilance and risk management. The PMDA shared the Japanese regulatory system based on ICH and PMDA's experiences with approximately 30 regulators of the SFDA engaging in the area. The PMDA continuously makes efforts to strengthen capacity building by training the SFDA's technical staff in the PMDA-ATC for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Regulatory Affairs.

4. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Life Sciences Innovation Forum, Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (APEC- LSIF-RHSC) Meeting

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Life Sciences Innovation Forum, Regulatory Harmonization Steering Committee (APEC-LSIF-RHSC web conference was held on May 20, 2021. Key participants from Japan included Dr. NAKASHIMA Nobumasa (Associate Executive Director for International Programs, PMDA), Mr. KOGA Daisuke (Division Director, Asia 2nd Division, PMDA), Dr. NAKAMURA Kenichi, Ms. HATA Tomomi (National Cancer Center Japan, NCC), and a staff member of the MHLW.

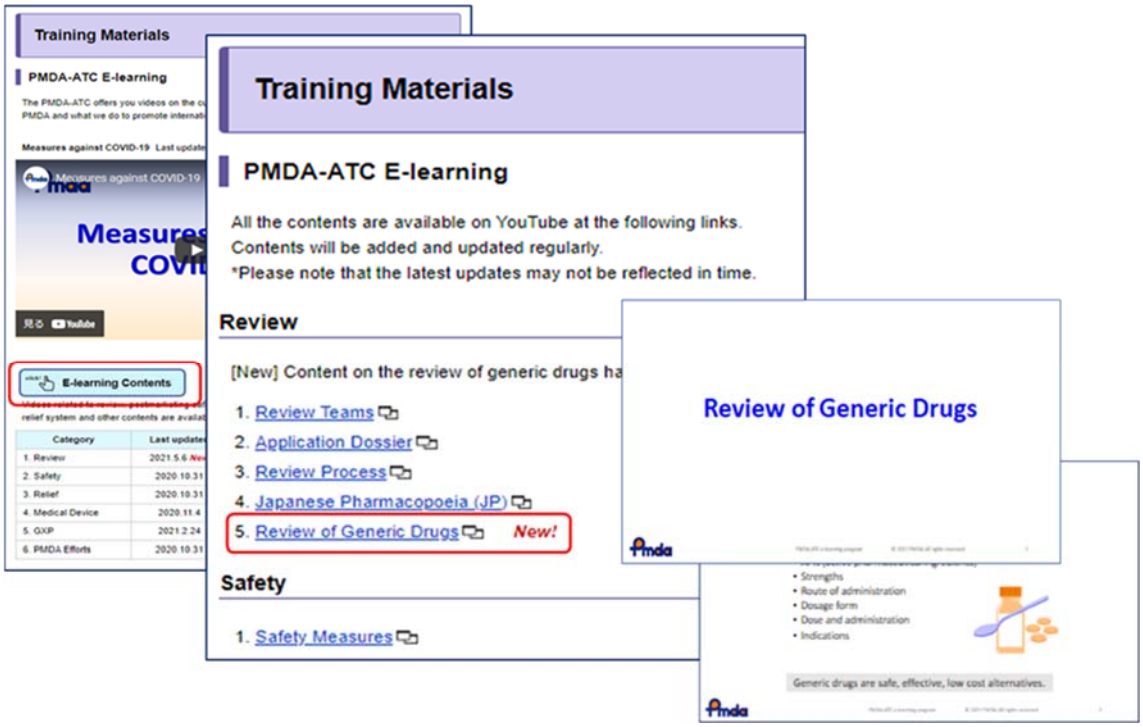
The APEC-LSIF-RHSC aims to "promote a strategic framework for regulatory convergence of medical products regulation" and is co-chaired by Dr. NAKASHIMA, along with Dr. Limoli from the U.S. FDA. Regulatory authorities of APEC economies, representatives from industry coalitions (pharmaceuticals, bio-pharmaceuticals, medical devices), and academia participated in the meeting. APEC-LSIF-RHSC has established Centers of Excellence (CoEs) focusing on seven Priority Work Areas (PWAs) to offer workshops for regulatory capacity building to regulators and relevant personnel. PMDA is endorsed as CoEs on MRCT/GCP Inspection PWA, Pharmacovigilance PWA, and Medical Device PWA.

At the meeting, the PMDA reported on the National Communications Commission (NCC), together with the PMDA, and concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the LSIF in April 2021 as a joint CoE on MRCT/GCP Inspection PWA with the PMDA. Together, they co-sponsored the "PMDA-ATC with National Cancer Center MRCT Webinar 2021" in January 2021. The NCC introduced their institution and a plan to cohost a future seminar with the PMDA. Furthermore, the PMDA reported the results of the PMDA-ATC Pharmacovigilance Webinar 2021 and their plan to hold the PMDA-ATC Medical Devices Webinar in November 2021.

5. PMDA-ATC E-learning Updated Content Information

The PMDA has provided the PMDA-ATC E-learning system since January 2020. In this system, we are pleased to announce that new content entitled "Review of Generic Drugs" has been released. This content introduces the lifecycle of new drugs and generic drugs, the review process, and points to consider for generic drugs. The e-learning website can be accessed through the following link:

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/int-activities/training-center/0003.html



6. Call for Applications to the PMDA-ATC & U.S. FDA Pediatric Review Webinar 2021

The PMDA Asia Training Center for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Regulatory Affairs (PMDA-ATC) will hold the "PMDA-ATC & U.S. FDA Pediatric Review Webinar 2021," together with the Food and Drug Administration of the United States (U.S. FDA) on September 14 (preliminary session) and from September 21–24. This seminar has been designed for pediatric drug application reviewers from overseas regulatory authorities. The objective of the seminar is to provide participants with opportunities to acquire knowledge and perspectives on a wide range of topics, including ICH E11 (R1) and pediatric clinical trials through lectures and case studies, and consequently apply them to enhance the development of pediatric drugs in the participants' own countries or regions.

Please refer to the following website for details of PMDA-ATC & U.S. FDA Pediatric Review Seminar 2021.
https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/symposia/0208.html

English Translations of Review Reports

The following is the latest information on the English version of review reports on the PMDA website.

Pharmaceuticals

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/review-services/reviews/approved-information/drugs/0001.html

Brand Name	Non-proprietary Name	Posting Date
Darzalex [Partial Change Approval]	daratumumab (genetical recombination)	May 18
Velcade [Partial Change Approval]	bortezomib	May 18
Corectim [Initial Approval]	delgocitinib	May 21
Braftovi [Partial Change Approval]	encorafenib	May 28
Mektovi [Partial Change Approval]	binimetinib	May 28

English translations of Notifications and Administrative Notices

The following are the English versions of the Notifications and Administrative Notices newly published on the PMDA website.

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/review-services/regulatory-info/0003.html

Issue Date	Document Type & No.	Title	Posting Date
Mar. 23, 2021	PSEHB/PED Notification No. 0323-1 PSEHB/MDED Notification No. 0323-1	Basic principles on Utilization of Registry for Applications	May 20, 2021
Mar. 23, 2021	PSEHB/PED Notification No. 0323-2 PSEHB/MDED Notification No. 0323-2	Points to Consider for Ensuring the Reliability in Utilization of Registry Data for Applications	May 20, 2021

Safety Information

Dear Healthcare Professionals Letter of Rapid Safety Communication (BLUE LETTER) (June 1, 2021)

- Shock and anaphylaxis by Joyclu 30mg intra-articular injection

http://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/esc-rsc/0001.html

Pharmaceuticals Revisions of PRECAUTIONS (June 2, 2021) (June 1, 2021, Originally Posted in Japanese)

- Diclofenac etalhyaluronate sodium

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/revision-of-precautions/0009.html

Pharmaceuticals Revisions of PRECAUTIONS (June 3, 2021)

- Clozapine

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/revision-of-precautions/0009.html

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Safety Information No. 383 (June 10, 2021)

1. MID-NET (Medical Information Database NETwork)
2. Revision of Precautions (No. 323)
3. List of Products Subject to Early Post-marketing Phase Vigilance

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/medical-safety-information/0019.html

Pharmaceuticals Revisions of PRECAUTIONS (June 15, 2021)

- Ixekizumab (genetical recombination)
- Pembrolizumab (genetical recombination)

https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/safety/info-services/drugs/revision-of-precautions/0009.html

Events

Conferences/Meetings the PMDA hosts or participates in:

Date	Title	Location
June 27-July 1	57th DIA 2021 Global Annual Meeting	Virtual

Reports from Overseas

Our officers deliver lively reports of their activities at their stationed overseas authorities.

Recent efforts to address availability problems of medicines

Availability of medicines has been recognized as a key priority to be addressed in EU and several initiatives have been undertaken [1]. It is also high on the agenda in "European medicines agencies network strategy to 2025" [2]. As pointed out in the strategy, the causes of availability* issues of medicines are multifactorial and the solutions require actions at different levels involving all stakeholders.

* "European medicines agencies network strategy to 2025" differentiates between availability (supply disruption/shortages) and accessibility (commercialisation/ downstream decision making together with therapeutic challenges in small markets).

This report highlights some of the latest efforts to address availability problems of medicines in EU.

On 3rd June 2021, a reflection paper to forecast demand of medicines has been published on EMA website [3]. It was developed by a Steering Group on Shortages of Medicines (called "EU Executive Steering Group on Shortages of Medicines Caused by Major Events") [4] established in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the document provides practical recommendation and examples specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, the main principles are applicable to other situations which require forecasting demand for medicines. Of note, monitoring and mitigating potential and actual shortages of critical medicinal products and medical devices during public health emergencies has been proposed as the extended mandate of EMA by European Commission and just recently backed by the Council [5].

As another effort from a different angle, EMA has started a pilot project for orphan medicines and medicines to treat cancer by declaring their market launch intentions on a voluntary and confidential basis since 25th March

2021. It aims to help regulators understand why delays may occur in the marketing of certain medicines in EU Member States after they receive a marketing authorisation [6].

As one of the important activities of EMA, attention should be paid to the future trends in this field, as well as to others including the evaluation of quality, efficacy and safety of medicines.

1) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/post-authorisation/availability-medicines#eu-level-coordination-on-medicines-availability-section
2) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/about-us/how-we-work/european-medicines-regulatory-network/european-medicines-agencies-network-strategy
3) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/eu-regulators-develop-recommendations-forecast-demand-medicines
4) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/public-health-threats/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/availability-medicines-during-covid-19-pandemic#eu-executive-steering-group-on-shortages-of-medicines-caused-by-major-events-section
5) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2963
6) https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/pilot-project-market-launch-intentions-centrally-authorised-products-practical-questions-answers_en.pdf

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