Administrative Notice
May 23, 2022

To: Pharmaceutical Affairs Section, Prefectural Health Department (Bureau)

Pharmaceutical Evaluation Division,
Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

# Questions and Answers (Q&A) on the "Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for the Treatment of Heart Failure" (Part 2)

Evaluation in clinical studies to be conducted for the purpose of development of heart failure drugs has been handled in accordance with the "Revision of the 'Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for the Treatment of Heart Failure'" (PFSB/ELD Notification No. 0329-18, issued by the Director of Evaluation and Licensing Division, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, dated March 29, 2011) and the "Questions and Answers (Q&A) on the 'Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for the Treatment of Heart Failure'" (Administrative Notice of Evaluation and Licensing Division, Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, dated March 29, 2011).

Questions and Answers (Q&A) on the "Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for the Treatment of Heart Failure" (Part 2) have been compiled as shown in the Appendix. Please consider informing relevant parties under your jurisdiction of this matter.

# Appendix Q&A on the "Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for the Treatment of Heart Failure" (Part 2)

## CHRONIC HEART FAILURE

**Q1**

As mentioned in the 2016 European Society of Cardiology (ESC) clinical practice guidelines, Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Chronic Heart Failure (Revised in 2017) and other relevant guidance, a disease classification based on left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) has been established. As a result of this establishment, what indications or precautions should be provided when the results of clinical studies in chronic heart failure patients with reduced LVEF or preserved LVEF showed the usefulness in either one of the patient populations?

**A1**

When clinical studies have been conducted based on the Guidelines for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs for the Treatment of Heart Failure and the usefulness of the drugs has been demonstrated, the indication has, in principle, been defined as "chronic heart failure" and specified in the INDICATIONS and PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING INDICATIONS sections so as to clarify the appropriate target patients (e.g., conditions for prior treatment, etc.) for the drug based on the clinical study results.

In recent years, the concept of disease classification according to LVEF has become established in Japan and foreign countries, and thus clinical studies have been implemented by separating the population of chronic heart failure patients: studies involving only those with decreased LVEF and studies involving only those with preserved LVEF.

In consideration of the above, for a drug which has been demonstrated to be useful only in clinical studies involving either chronic heart failure patients with reduced LVEF or chronic heart failure patients with preserved LVEF, the indication will, in principle, be "chronic heart failure", as in the past. However, it should be appropriately stated in the PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING INDICATIONS section that the population in which the benefit was demonstrated in clinical studies is the recommended population, as well as for LVEF information and other relevant matters (e.g., The efficacy and safety of this drug in patients with chronic heart failure with preserved LVEF have not been established. Therefore, this drug should be administered to patients with chronic heart failure with reduced LVEF).

The statements in the INDICATIONS and PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING INDICATIONS sections should be reviewed as appropriate, considering that the concept of this disease classification may change in the future.