

PHARMACOPOEIAL DISCUSSION GROUP ACHIEVEMENTS

The Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) held its interim videoconference on 24 March 2026.

The discussions focused on strategy and policy issues as the PDG continues to develop its activities beyond its original harmonisation mandate — expanding membership, engaging with ICH Q4B, and broadening its global outreach. The Korean Pharmacopoeia (KP) also provided feedback on the timeline and challenges associated with its Observing Phase participation in PDG ([link](#)). These discussions will inform the continued planning and coordination of PDG activities.

Within the framework of ongoing reflections on its future direction, the PDG discussed aspects related to its strategic approach. The PDG also reflected on stakeholder engagement, exchanging views on strengthening outreach and interactions with the global pharmaceutical community.

Following previous discussions, the PDG provided an update on the proof-of-concept phase for maintenance of the [ICH Q4B annexes](#) at the ICH Management Committee meeting in November 2025. The feedback received from ICH highlighted that implementation of texts covered by Q4B annexes may be identified either through full adoption of the text (standard approach) or through a parallel approach whereby the PDG-harmonised text is also acceptable. Based on this clarification, the PDG defined the next steps and decided to focus on a single example to illustrate the concept, with a view to further discuss with ICH on the most appropriate approach. This could provide a basis for future updates of ICH Q4B annexes to incorporate additional pharmacopoeias and ICH regulatory members.

Individual work programme sign-offs included a revised general chapter on Capillary Electrophoresis (B-02) and a correction to the general chapter on Amino Acid Determination (B-01). Several additional sign-offs, including some covering excipients, are expected in the coming months. The current work programme, including all ongoing items, is available on the dedicated websites ([General chapters](#), [Excipients](#)).

The next face-to-face meeting will be hosted by the IPC on 8–10 December 2026 in Ghaziabad (India).

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