Clarity and Openness in Reporting: E3-based

News Summary

May 2025

CORE Reference Webinar: 11 June 2025, 13.30-14.15 CET (12.30-13:15 UK time)
External speaker Obaraboye Olude from Privacy Analytics will present a webinar on the topic "Statistical anonymization software for utility-preserving privacy protection in clinical documents for public disclosure".

Please register for the webinar by emailing info@emwa.org and expressing your interest.

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MEDICINES AND VACCINES

ICH

1. The ICH announced 21 May 2025 it will develop four new guidelines addressing real-world evidence, comparative efficacy studies, rare disease drug development, and manufacturing process changes for advanced therapies. The press release with details is available here.

2. ICH released a draft guideline (E21 dated 14 May 2025) for public consultation on assessing new drugs for pregnant populations in clinical trials: "Inclusion of Pregnant and Breastfeeding Individuals in Clinical Trials."

CTR and CTIS

1. EMA CTIS Simplification Task Force Topics for analysis was released last month and recommends a revised roles matrix for CTIS that reduces complexity by reducing the number of user roles. The Task force also recommends the creation of a new safety module, with the aim to simplify the overall business rules for the Annual Safety Report. Please see the Topics for analysis document for more details regarding other topics and recommendations.

2. EMA held a CTIS Information Day on 22 May 2025. The half-day informational webinar provided an overview of CTIS, its optimisations, best practices, and upcoming developments. A video recording is available on the event page.

3. The latest CTIS newsflashes, which include key updates and links to reference materials, can be found at the following link:

- CTIS newsflash - 16 May 2025. EMA is redesigning the CTIS training materials for sponsor users, based on stakeholder feedback. The launch dates will be announced in upcoming issues of newsflash.
- CTIS newsflash - 27 May 2025. Following the end of public consultation on 22 April 2025 on the revised draft ICH M11 Technical Specification, an overview of received comments has now been published on the EMA website. To help, Jonathan Mackinnon in his protocol development issue PD#75 has provided a short summary of the comments contained in the 47 page document "...feedback requested more hands-on implementation instruction rather than high-level guidance that "may" or "should" be used. There were a few interesting points on more guidance on how to implement QbD, engage with patients, and navigate a strategy in the absence of clear regulatory guidance..."

4. As outlined in CTIS newsflash 16 May 2025, CTIS users have been requested to convert their email authentication method so that they can login with their own email address instead of using the legacy username (i.e. username@id.ema.europa.eu). All users should now be able to login with their own email address. In case of any issues, you are encouraged to open a ServiceDesk ticket.

EU Regulatory

European Health Data Space (EHDS) News

The European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network will hold a webinar on 25 June 2025 (1-2 pm) entitled : The Ethical & Legal Side of Health Data: Trust, Privacy & the EHDS - QUANTUM Patients and Citizen Forum. Register for the webinar in advance.

UK and MHRA News

The UK MHRA is holding a consultation into the use of external control arms based on real-world data (RWD) to support regulatory decisions. The draft is open for comment until 30 June. MHRA wants sponsors to continue running randomized controlled trials, when possible, but the draft guideline opens the door to submissions based on external control arms made from RWD. The press release can be accessed here and the draft guideline can be accessed here.

FDA Guidance and News

1. On 24 April 2025, the latest PRS Release Notes were published. With this release to the Modernized PRS, users can now upload study documents including the Study Protocol, Statistical Analysis Plan, and Informed Consent Form. Users can also review the information entered into the Participant Flow module on the Results Summary page. For more information, please see the Release Notes.

2. FDA has announced completion of first AI-assisted scientific review pilot and an aggressive agency-wide AI rollout timeline. According to the press release, the generative AI tools enable FDA scientists and subject-matter experts to minimize time spent on monotonous, repetitive tasks that typically hinder the review process. Read about it here.

3. FDA released a draft guidance "Accelerated Approval and Considerations for Determining Whether a Confirmatory Trial is Underway" in January 2025. For drugs granted accelerated approval, sponsors have been required to conduct confirmatory studies post-approval to verify and describe the anticipated effect on irreversible morbidity or mortality or other clinical benefit. This guidance was developed following an amendment in the FD&C Act to help ensure timely completion of such trials. Late comments (beyond the 10 March 2025 deadline) can be provided here.

EMA Guidance and News

1. On 14 May 2025, EMA released the revised External guidance on the implementation of the EMA policy on the publication of clinical data for medicinal products for human use - Version 1.5 - along with the Summary of changes to the 'External guidance on the implementation of the EMA policy on the publication of clinical data for medicinal products for human use'. Please also see EMA Policy 0070 in Practice below for additional information.

2. On 19 May 2025, EMA released its Data Protection Notice for the Organisation Management System (OMS) activities which outlines the processing of personal data, including collection, storage, and publication of organisation/location data to support EU regulatory activities and business processes.

3. The EMA and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) have published a joint workplan "Data and AI in medicines regulation to 2028". Further details are provided under AI/Machine Learning heading below .

4. An HMA-EMA LinkedIn live event on the publication of the reflection paper entitled "Clinical Evidence 2030" will be held on 11 June 2025 at 11:00 CET. The event will be live-streamed via EMA's LinkedIn.

Health Canada

On 30 April 2025, as part of the regular PHUSE webinar presentations, Anaya Rehman from Certara covered "Strategic Alliance: A Case Study of a Successful Health Canada Public Release of Clinical Information Submission Through a Collaborative Endeavour" and the presentation is now available to view online.

Real-World Data

PHUSE will hold Webinar #2: Estimands in Real-World Evidence Studies on 5 June 2025 at 11:00 (EDT)/ 16:00 (BST) / 17:00 (CEST). Registration and details of the webinar are here. A link to the recording of Webinar 1 held on 22 April 2025 entitled "An Introduction to the Estimands and Target Trial Emulation (TTE) Frameworks" can also be found on this page. These two webinars form part of a series of five webinars, with details of the remaining three still to be announced.

Transparency and Disclosure Resources and News

1. The French working group on "Transparency and the publicising of the results of health research" was appointed by the French Ministry of Research, in conjunction with the French Ministry of Health to address the problem of publication bias. The group's recently published report highlights the need for a national law requiring timely public posting of trial results. The report is available in French and in English. Check out the summary by TranspariMED.

2. The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) audit report shows that 100% of the 141 clinical trials it funded between 1 February 2011 - 31 January 2023 were registered and 91% had published their results. Although registration of MRC trials is consistently 100%, only 73% were registered in the MRC's required registries in this audit period. The MRC notes that ClinicalTrials.gov is not a WHO primary registry and therefore not accepted as meeting MRC registration requirements. The 2024 summary report is available here. Check out the summary by TranspariMED.

3. Krystelis will hold a webinar on 13 June 2025 entitled "Plain Language Summaries of Publications - From Inception to Innovation." Register in advance here.

4. Recently published new WHO guidance for reporting results in registries is available. In the publication the authors discuss the rationale for reporting summary results in trial registries, review the current landscape of registry policies, and present the new WHO guidance. Publication citation: Reporting summary results in clinical trial registries: updated guidance from WHO. Chan, An-Wen et al. The Lancet Global Health, Volume 13, Issue 4, e759 - e768.

EMA Policy 0070 in Practice

1. EMA published updated guidance on 14 May 2025 (v1.5) on publishing clinical data on medicines for human use. A summary of changes is available to download here which presents a summary of information that has been updated and/or amended/deleted in the new guidance. The summary includes the location of the update within the document together with a summary of the additional information provided. The current effective versions and document history are also available on the EMA website.

2. The Real Life Sciences webinar on 17 June 2025 entitled "Improve Your Process for Managing Confidential Information How to Identify, Confirm, and Redact Confidential Information to Protect Your Intellectual Property" will also review the updated EMA Policy 0070 guidance document (v1.5). Register in advance here.

Development Strategy News

1. Transcelerate webinar entitled "Next Step Towards Publication of the Vulcan UDP (Utilizing the Digital Protocol) Implementation Guide to Accelerate ICH M11 Adoption" will be held on 25 June 2025. Registration and details here.

2. Two recently published and linked (April [Part 1] and May 2025 [Part 2]) articles in the journal *Trials* make interesting reading and acknowledge the contribution of CORE Reference to CSR authoring:

- 'Clinical Study Reports—a systematic review with thematic synthesis: Part 1. History, contents and structure, definitions, and terminology' Aronson, J.K., Onakpoya, I.J. *Trials* 26, 141 (2025).
- 'Clinical Study Reports—a systematic review with thematic synthesis: Part 2. Studying benefits, harms, and the benefit to harm balance of pharmacological interventions' Aronson, J.K., Onakpoya, I.J. *Trials* 26, 145 (2025).

3. China adopted ICH E17 General Principles on Planning/Designing Multi-Regional Clinical Trial (MRCT) in 2019 and drafted its own guidance in 2024 (in Mandarin). Conducting MRCTs comes with challenges, such as complex trial design, regional differences in clinical practices, inconsistent regulatory requirements, and ethical concerns. This article discusses the key steps China NMPA has taken to address some of the challenges, such as pooling strategies, regional sample size allocation, and the holistic assessment of regional benefit-risk profiles.

4. Benefit-Risk Balance for Medicinal Products - Report of the CIOMS Working Group XII released in May 2025 can be downloaded for free from here.

5. The European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN) is a not-for-profit organisation that supports the conduct of multinational clinical trials in Europe. Check out the ECRIN website for upcoming events including:

- 24 June 2025: Pan-European public-private EU-X-CT Conference on cross-border access to clinical trials. Online participation is free.
- 27 June 2025: Refresher: Everything you need to know about submitting a European Multinational Clinical Study Proposal webinar.

6. In an episode of the Applied Clinical Trials Podcast hosted by Andy Studna, David Nickerson and Arlene Lee they provide an overview of tools developed to help clinical research operationalise ICH E6 (R3).

7. The PHUSE virtual webinar "Value-Driven Clinical Data Review, Together" will be held on 26 June at 10:00 (EDT) / 15:00 (BST) / 16:00 (CEST). Register in advance here.

Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning

1. OpenAI have release 11 courses through the AI Academy, one of which may be of interest: ChatGPT for Writing and Coding

2. Mati Kargren's LinkedIn group may be of interest. The latest article is a useful read: Technology in Clinical Trials 13 - Advanced prompting guide for medical and regulatory writers. This explores sophisticated prompting strategies for key regulatory submission documents, including CSPs, CSRs and ICFs.

3. 07 May 26 News Release: EMA Workplan Powerpoint: Data and AI in medicines regulation to 2028.

4. Feature Article on Clinical Trials Arena: 'Can AI replace medical writers? Experts say not immediately'

5. Canada's Drug Agency published their 2025 Watch List, an annual report on the future of health care in Canada. This year's list focused on the use of AI technologies in health care, such as AI for notetaking, disease diagnosis, and remote monitoring, and the issues that may arise with the implementation of these technologies.

6. Using de-identified NHS data from approximately 57 million people in England, researchers at University College London (UCL) and King's College London (KCL) are developing an innovative system to help clinicians, planners and policymakers predict health outcomes following the COVID-19 pandemic more effectively – while maintaining strict patient privacy standards. Foresight is an AI model specifically designed for healthcare that has been trained in the NHS England Secure Data Environment (SDE) on de-identified NHS data. Further comments can be viewed here, other comments from New Scientist and behind a paywall in Nature.

7. The EMA and the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) have published a joint workplan "Data and AI in medicines regulation to 2028". It sets out how the European medicines regulatory network plans to leverage large volumes of regulatory and health data as well as new tools to encourage research, innovation, and to support regulatory decision making for better medicines that reach patients faster. The workplan lays out a roadmap for managing, analysing, and sharing data across the network, while adhering to high security and ethical standards. The EMA news release is available here.

8. This open access article by James T. Lin entitled "Safeguarding proprietary data: The regulatory toolbox's fine print," presents a review of privacy policies and terms of service of several AI tools to help make informed decisions about data management and vendor qualification when using AI.

News from Asia Regulators

Taiwan FDA launched the renewed clinical study registry in December 2024. From 01 January 2025, all sponsors should register clinical studies approved by Taiwan FDA to disclose the required study information in the registry (content in Mandarin). Changes made in a protocol amendment should be updated in the registry within 1 month of the approval of the amendment. Sponsors are also expected to update the study info in the registry twice a year - in June and December. Sponsors who failed to do so will be listed and announced on the registry website.

News from US: Possible Impact on Clinical Trial Ecosystem

1. A summary of FDA Commissioner Martin Makary's report to the Senate Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies subcommittee on 22 May 2025 is provided here. Topics covered included the reduction in force, and the agency's new COVID-19 vaccine framework.

2. The blog article by Patrick Flanagan CEO Veristat, outlines the possible declining clinical trial industry and a shrinking biopharmaceutical market in the US as a result of prolonged internal

upheaval and staffing constraints in the FDA, notably following the FDA's reduction in force (RIF) in late 2024.

3. The April 2025 issue of Applied Clinical Trials explores the impact of a DEI ban on the clinical research ecosystem. Access the issue and relevant articles here.

4. A Reuters news report of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Health and Human Services Secretary Congressional interview on 14 May 2025 can be accessed here.

5. In a podcast on 27 May 2025 Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Health and Human Services Secretary suggested he wanted to stop government scientists from publishing their work in major medical journals including JAMA, NEJM, and The Lancet. Two separate reports of his interview can be accessed here and here. Further comment from BMJ can be found here.

MEDICAL DEVICES

This subsection covers transparency in relation to medical devices, and the emerging intersection of the regulatory medical devices and the regulatory drugs spaces. Devices information or regulations that impact the reporting of device studies are also covered. Combination products, including pharmaceutical and medical device components, may need to be reported under pharmaceutical legislation, depending on what the product is, and how regulatory authorities in different global regions assess combination products. Contextualisation is provided, where possible, to help readers navigate the information.

Medical Devices General Updates and News

The European Commission has opened for public consultation the act of setting up a new expert panel under the MDR, focused specifically on paediatric and orphan medical devices. Feedback period is from 19 May 2025 to 16 June 2025.

Updates from the Notified Bodies

1. The Notified Body BSI has released a white paper on MDR Impact for Combination Products & Substance-Based Devices.

2. The Notified Body BSI is organising a series of webinars designed to educate professionals in the In Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) medical device industry. Registration is free.

- Webinar 1: Understanding Regulatory Requirements and Standards Deadlines, 22 May 2025 (recording available on demand)
- Webinar 2: Demonstrating State of the Art for In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices, 10 June 2025
- Webinar 3: Best Practices for Performance Evaluation Reports/PMPF/PMS, 08 July 2025

EUDAMED News

1. The European Commission organised a EUDAMED workshop in Stuttgart, Germany on May 21, 2025. The slide presentations are available on the European Commission EU Health and Food Safety DG SANTE webpage. The next workshops will take place on October 8, 2025 in Rome, Italy and on December 3, 2025 in Brussels, Belgium.

2. MedTech Europe has just released "A Practical guide to the use of the European Medical Device Nomenclature (EMDN)". Manufacturers operating under the MDR) and IVDR are required to utilise the EMDN for regulatory submissions, and device registration in EUDAMED. EMDN facilitates device traceability and transparency in the EU.

EU Combine Initiative

The European Commission is organizing a Sponsor Webinar for the COMBINE 'All-in-One' coordinated procedure for combined studies on 20 June 2025. Watch out for more information here. Also expected in June is the publication of the Pilot Sponsor Guide.

UK MHRA

MHRA released a suite of guidance earlier this year designed to help medical device manufacturers understand and prepare for the new Post-market surveillance regulation for medical devices in Great Britain which will come into force on the 16th June 2025. Key new requirements are enhanced data collection, shorter timelines for reporting serious incidents and summary reporting to enable the MHRA and manufacturers to identify safety issues earlier, as well as clearer obligations for risk mitigation and communication to protect patients and users.