Clarity and Openness in Reporting: E3-based

News Summary

August 2025

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MEDICINES AND VACCINES

ICH

Earlier this year the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP) published a section-by-section comparison of ICH E6(R2) to ICH E6(R3). Download the comparison document here.

EU Regulatory

The European Commission's COMBINE programme has had an update: a pilot coordinated assessment process for multinational combined studies has been launched as part of Project 1 of the COMBINE programme: the 'pilot is expected to streamline the authorisation process, reduce burden for sponsors and accelerate patient access to innovative treatments'.

UK and MHRA News

1. The HRA launched their new strategy, Boosting research that improves health and grows the economy, in July. It sets out their focus for the next 3 years to support their mission to make it easier to do research that people can trust. It was developed with staff, a community of volunteers, public contributors and partners from across the health and social care research sector.

2. The UK NHS clinical trials bulletin update for August 2025 is available here.

3. UK MHRA asks GPs to report all AI inaccuracies to Yellow Card scheme. The regulatory body specifically warned GP practices of the risk of hallucination when AI tools are used for tasks like transcribing and summarising appointments.

4. MHRA has been designated a WHO-Listed Authority (WLA) by the World Health Organization (WHO), joining the ranks of the world's most trusted regulatory bodies. Press release here.

5. A reminder about the MHRA phase I accreditation scheme and how to join. This is a voluntary scheme for organisations conducting phase I trials, in particular for those conducting first in human (FIH) trials. The scheme aims to make sure trials are as safe as possible and to create public confidence in the regulation of phase I clinical trials.

6. The results of an online survey conducted by HRA from November 2024 to January 2025 have been published. The results highlight where simplified arrangements could be valuable to researchers and the public but saw concerns about how this could work in practice. Access news about the report here and access a full copy of the report here.

7. MHRA have added the new page 'Route B substantial modification pilot' to the 'Medicines: clinical trials hub'. Although considered "substantial," this applies for such modifications that do not introduce significant new safety concerns and are subject to a risk-proportionate review instead of a full assessment. These modifications will be automatically approved unless the licensing authority intervenes within 14 calendar days.

8. The ISRCTN clinical trial registry is calling for users to review its prototype for submitting study results in a structured format in an opportunity for UK researchers to shape a system that they will have to use for many years to come. This comes as clinical trial registries worldwide need to meet new WHO requirements for a structured tabular results reporting format. To get involved, read ISTRN LinkedIn post and email them asking to share their templates with you.

Canada Guidance and News

1. Dr. Khaled El Emam has written a guest blog outlining his experience of being a Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) at the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC).

2. The WHO has officially designated Health Canada as WHO-Listed Authorities (WLAs), a status granted to national authorities that meet the highest international regulatory standards for medical products.

Australia/New Zealand Guidance and News

The Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR) has launched a refreshed website featuring a redesigned interface and an updated "News" section that showcases key developments in clinical trial initiatives, including the advantages of reporting trial results on the ANZCTR.

FDA Guidance and News

1. FDA Advances Drug Development Innovation by Establishing ISTAND as Permanent Qualification Program. The Innovative Science and Technology Approaches for New Drugs (ISTAND) pilot program has transitioned to a permanent drug development tool (DDT) Qualification Program.

2. The latest release notes for the Modernised PRS were released on 30 July 2025. This release highlighted the added functionalities to add locations and to update recruitment status.

3. The latest CT.gov demonstration video 'How to Download Study Records from ClinicalTrials.gov' is now available. All PRS videos can be accessed here.

4. In Aug 2025, FDA released a Draft Guidance for Industry "Approaches to Assessment of Overall Survival in Oncology Clinical Trials". Deadline for comments is 20 Oct 25.

5. A news summary report has been published reporting the outcome of a discussion between TransCelerate and FDA to advance use of pragmatic elements in clinical trials. The summary report from the discussion meeting held December 2024 can be accessed here. Further details of the announcement here.

6. FDA has published a list of guidance documents CDER intends to develop during 2025. Proposed guidances topics include biostatistics, adoption of ICH guidelines, and clinical/medical categories.

7. FDA has begun daily publication of adverse event data from the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS).The FAERS dashboard includes the total number of reports, serious reports and deaths reported as 3 distinct counts.

8. On 18 and 19 Sep 2025, the US FDA will host a virtual public workshop to discuss methodological and other challenges related to patient experience data, including the submission and evaluation of patient experience data in the context of the benefit-risk assessment and product labeling. Details and registration here.

9. FDA has released a series of clinical trials training modules. The courses are based on a collection of regulatory resources and are designed to enhance small business and industry assistance. Courses are available on demand from here.

EMA Guidance and News

1. A new page on EMA's website provides links to national repositories that contain materials on how to apply additional risk minimisation measures (RMM) tools to relevant medicines; these materials are published by national competent authorities in their official languages.

2. The CTCG/EMA Frequently Asked Questions document (version 1, 12 May 2025) was published in July entitled "Frequently asked questions related to Clinical trials submitted under the Regulation EU 536/2014". These FAQs were submitted to the EMA through different channels. They were addressed by the CTCG in collaboration with the European Medicines Agency Clinical Trials Systems and Clinical Trials Transformation workstreams. This document provides clear and concise answers to common questions, supporting sponsors in the efficient conduct of clinical trials across Europe. Notably, it will be regularly updated to include new questions and answers as additional areas requiring clarification are identified.

Real-World Data

On 23 September 2025, the FDA and the Duke Margolis Institute are hosting an all-day free hybrid public meeting on the use of real-world evidence (RWE) in regulatory submissions, discussing successes, challenges, and lessons learned. Register here.

Transparency and Disclosure Resources and News

1. Kaul et al's paper Improving the reporting and use of trial results in clinical trials registries: global practices, barriers, and recommendations is published in the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology (Oct 2025).

2. Article here on Veeva's new Disclosures Application that unifies CTMS, eTMF, and disclosure workflows on a single platform to allow for Sponsor management of approvals, redactions, quality checks, and timelines in a single place.

3. PHUSE 'Rare Disease/Small Population Data Sharing' project, within the Data Transparency Working Group has published a white paper reviewing potential barriers to the sharing of rare disease data. Included are discussions around rare disease-specific considerations and recommendations. The purpose of their publication is to provide practical guidance for anonymising clinical trial data, protect patient privacy while retaining data utility and to promote global consistency in data transparency practices. More information about the PHUSE project can be found here.

4. A talk entitled "Foundations of Biomedical Data Sharing & De-identification" will be held online on Tuesday 2 Sep 2025 (12.00-1.00pm EST). Further details and registration here. The focus is on two

primary privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) in use today—de-identification and synthetic data generation—along with tools that support their implementation.

5. PHUSE have published a white paper entitled "PHUSE Good Transparency Practice." This guideline has been developed to create a set of best practices to govern the anonymisation of clinical trial data, for external sharing or disclosure.

Development Strategy News

1. TransCelerate have updated two resources to address decentralised clinical trial (DCT) elements:

- The Patient Protocol Engagement Toolkit addendum provides additional considerations for involving patients and caregivers in decentralised trials (DCTs)
- The Study Participant Feedback Questionnaire addendum supports sponsors in gathering patient feedback in DCT settings.

2. Swissmedic regularly publishes information for healthcare professionals from market surveillance of medicinal products. According to the website: "The purpose of this new section is to use real-life case reports from Switzerland as a reminder of possible side effects that professionals should be aware of in day-to-day clinical practice."

3. The EFPIA Estimands Implementation Working Group (EIWG) has created a new US subteam. The new subteam will provide regional regulatory and guideline expertise.

4. Lanius et al published "Realizing the benefits of the estimand framework when reporting and communicating clinical trial results—some recommendations. (July 2025) Trials 26, 241 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-025-08915-6 The paper: "...provides recommendations and considerations for implementing the estimand framework in the reporting of results to realize its full potential of increased transparency for interpretation and decision-making'. Practical recommendations for implementing the estimand framework focusing on the results reporting, drawn from experiences with clinical trial teams are presented.

5. Bell et al published "Estimation Methods for Estimands Using the Treatment Policy Strategy; a Simulation Study Based on the PIONEER 1 Trial." Pharmaceutical Statistics 24:e2472. (2025) https://doi.org/10.1002/pst.2472

6. On 3 Sep 2025, WHO is launching the French translation of its Guidance for Best Practices for Clinical Trials, to strengthen the clinical trial ecosystems across Francophone countries. Time: 14:00–15:30 CEST; Format: Online with French-English interpretation. Register here.

7. ACRP have published an online clinical research glossary with more than 1,000 terms listed. It can be accessed here.

8. MRCT will hold a webinar entitled "Continued access to Investigational Products - guiding equitable and fair decisions" on Fri 12 Sep 11-12 pm (ET). Registration details here.

9. The U.S. FDA allows novel endpoints outside of clinical outcomes directly measuring how patients feel, function, and survive to be the basis of new drug approval. An online presentation detailing how often FDA exercises such regulatory flexibility, the evidence behind such novel endpoints, and what policies can be employed to provide certainty to patients and clinicians around FDA approvals based on these novel endpoints will be held on 18 Sept 2025 (5pm, London time). Details here.

10. Klein et al's August publication Healthy participant engagement in early clinical trials: results from the European EUFEMED survey is helpful in broadening understanding of including HVs in the drug development process.

Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning

1. On 08 August 2025, the European Commission published a final report on "Study on the deployment of AI in healthcare". The study was aimed to identify the current and future needs in clinical practice that AI could address, its potential to transform healthcare particularly with respect to cancer and delivery of healthcare in remote areas, assess sector-specific challenges, and provide recommendations on identified gaps, drawing inspiration from all EU Member States and relevant third countries with advanced deployment of AI in healthcare, e.g. US, Israel, and Japan.

2. Springer Nature has retracted a book with fake citations. According to information from Retraction Watch the book entitled "Mastering Machine Learning: From Basics to Advanced" contained many citations to nonexistent works.

3. Mateen et al have published thoughts on how to "better integrate AI into the design and execution of clinical trials". The open access comment piece entitled "Artificial intelligence and clinical trials: a framework for effective adoption" can be accessed here.

4. FDA, CTTI will hold a joint hybrid public workshop covering artificial intelligence in drug & biological product development on 7 Oct 2025. Further details and registration here.

5. A recent editorial published in Nature Biotechnology entitled "Clinical trials gain intelligence" can be accessed and downloaded from here (https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-025-02754-1).

News from Asia Regulators

1. The WHO has officially designated Labour and Welfare/Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (MHLW/PMDA) of Japan, as WHO-Listed Authorities (WLAs) a status granted to national authorities that meet the highest international regulatory standards for medical products. In addition, the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) – one of the first regulatory authorities to complete the WLA assessment for both medicines and vaccines in October 2023 – has had its listing scope successfully expanded, now covering all regulatory functions.

2. In May 2025, China CDE, NMPA released the draft "Technical Guidance for the Safety Information Assessment and Reporting of Paediatric Drug Clinical Trials" (No. 2025/21) (original release in Mandarin) - one of the key content includes paediatric-specific requirements for individual case safety reports (ICSRs) and DSURs. In the same month, CDE also launched a complementary Pilot Program for the Support Anti-tumor drug R&D for Kids (SPARK Program) (original release in Mandarin). Refer to this third-party article for more info in English.

3. In July 2025, China NMPA released the draft guidance "Principles for Pharmaceutical Change Research and Evaluation of Cell Therapy Drugs" (original release in Mandarin). The guidance includes a 3-tier classification system for changes, the technical requirements for comparability studies, recommendations on the quality risk assessment tools, and regulatory considerations specific to cell therapy. Refer to this third-party article for more info in English.

4. On 04 August 2025, Kohno et al. published an open-access article "Expediting Drug Development in Japan: A PMDA Perspective". Despite shortened review timelines for new drugs, Japan faces new challenges whereby new drugs approved overseas were either not yet developed or their development delayed in Japan. This manuscript describes PMDA's initiatives to continuously provide innovative drugs to patients in a timely manner, including promoting MRCTs and the use of RWD/RWE for drug approval.

News from US: Possible Impact on Clinical Trial Ecosystem

1. US medical journal Annals of Internal Medicine rejects US HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. call for retraction of vaccine study. Reuters report here. Access the published cohort study article here.

2. Nature Editorial dated 15 Aug 2025 'Cancelling mRNA studies is the highest irresponsibility'.

3. Data analysis by ProPublica highlights how many employees have left Health and Human Services (HHS) since January 2025. According to their analysis, over 3,000 scientists and public health specialists have left together with more than 1,000 regulators and safety inspectors. In total, their estimate is more than 20,500 staff or about 18% of the workforce at HHS have gone since January 2025.

4. BMJ News article 27 Aug 2025 Over 5000 US government health employees denounce "dangerous and deceitful" RFK Jr statements.

5. BMJ News article 27 Aug 2025 NIH director orders review of all grants, as new research priorities are announced.

6. BBC News article 28 Aug 2025 Fired CDC director says RFK 'weaponising public health' as more leaders quit agency.

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.

EU Transparency

1. The Swiss Human Research Act (HRA), Clinical Trials Ordinance (ClinO), and Ordinance on Clinical Trials with Medical Devices (ClinO-MD) have been amended to enhance clinical trial transparency and strengthen clinical study participant protection. The amendments to the ordinances came into force on 01 November 2024, with transparency provisions taking effect on 01 March. 2025. Review Swiss Medic's page on medical device trials for full information.

2. Swissmedic has adopted the new EU requirements for the electronic provision of instructions for use for medical devices with immediate effect (announced 08 Aug 2025). Details here. On 25 June 2025, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1234 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2226 as regards the medical devices for which the instructions for use may be provided in electronic form was adopted in the EU and has been in force since 16 July 2025.

3. Notified Body TüVSüD has released a white paper to explore how the EU AI ACT 2024/1689 impacts the medical device industry.

EUDAMED News

The EUDAMED gradual roll out planning timeline is under review (July 2025). The “state of play of the implementation of EUDAMED” can be viewed here.

EU COMBINE Initiative

1. See update under EU regulatory section above.

2. A webinar was held on 20 June 2025 for potential sponsors to learn about the pilot from the COMBINE Project 1 competent authority leads, hear about resources available and how to respond to the ‘call for expression of interest’. A video of the recording can be accessed here.

Asia

South Korea’s MFDS released the 4th revision of the Guidelines on Pre-Consultation for Innovative Products (original release in Korean) in June 2025. This revision includes updates on the adoption of digital medical technologies such as Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), AI-based diagnostic tools, and Mobile health applications. It also clarifies roles and responsibilities and the consultation process. This update may be relevant to medical writers who are involved in preparing submission materials and post-consultation feedback. Refer to this third-party article for more info in English.