

DRUG REGULATORY METHODS AND SCOPE FOR FURTHER HARMONIZATION IN EMERGING MARKETS

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ABSTRACT

Therefore, the data for the generic medicine are intended to demonstrate that it is clinically interchangeable with the innovator medication in terms of both its effectiveness and its level of safety. Such applications make an implicit reliance on the clinical data supplied in the dossier for the inventor, despite the fact that there is seldom a direct comparison made between the two dossiers when the application is being evaluated. This implicit comparison of clinical information may be confined under TRIPs because to the rules for data exclusivity, which may be understood as precluding reference to the clinical studies that first showed that a drug was effective and safe. This may be the case because TRIPs may be viewed as preventing reference to the clinical trials that initially proved that a compound was effective and safe. In certain situations, a product can be registered solely on the basis of chemical and manufacturing data (for example, an injectable formulation for which there is a recognised pharmacopoeia standard, such as the British Pharmacopoeia or the Pharmacopoeia), which describes the method of synthesis and quality control for the product. This is possible in certain situations. It is almost certain that dissolution testing and limited clinical data in the form of bioequivalence and/or bioavailability studies will be required to be included in the application for products that are intended for oral administration. These studies must demonstrate that the generic product is bioequivalent to the innovator product, or that it is clinically interchangeable with the innovator product. A clinical experiment comparing the proposed generic with the innovator and analysing the effects of both on clinical outcomes is the test of interchangeability that is considered to be the most stringent; nonetheless, these studies are only carried out very seldom.

KEYWORDS: Drug Regulatory, Drug product, clinical trial comparing

INTRODUCTION

In the last half-century, in reaction to many crises involving pharmaceutical goods, there has been a growth in the field of drug control. earliest regulatory standards were mainly concerned with ensuring the pharmaceutical quality of medical goods. Subsequent advancements in the early 1960s led to the establishment of criteria for verifying the effectiveness and safety of new medications. The earliest regulatory standards were largely connected to guaranteeing the pharmaceutical quality of medicinal products. There have been rules for the

regulation of drugs in place for at least the last half a century, but there are still a great deal of issues about the safety and quality of medications worldwide, including in both developing and industrialised nations. In 2002 and 2003, Rudolf and Bernstein¹ reported that counterfeit epoetin and atorvastatin were found in the United States. Furthermore, they estimated that the overall number of counterfeit pharmaceuticals accessible in the country accounted for around 1% of the entire pharmaceutical market. This percentage is much greater in many nations that are still developing. Studies have suggested that up to 65% of the quinine sold in Cambodia may be false, and it is thought that up to 50% of the prescription drugs sold in India may be fraudulent as well. The safeguarding of the general population's health should be the top priority of drug control policies. Medicines are not typical 'commodities'; they fulfil basic health requirements, and access to vital medicines is a fundamental human right, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Therefore, medications offer an added value to society. Before a consumer to make acceptable use of a medication, it must first be prescribed by a "learned intermediary" who has received adequate training, and then dispensed by a suitably trained individual. The market for medicines is clearly not a typical market in terms of economics; there are significant informational asymmetries and monopolistic behaviour by suppliers, which include patent rights and 'data exclusivity' arrangements that further enhance monopolies. As a result, these are the reasons that support regulating the pharmaceutical sector more broadly and limiting what it delivers in addition to the quality, safety, and effectiveness criteria. Over the course of the last ten to fifteen years, there has been a change in the balance of power between fostering the growth of the pharmaceutical sector and managing medicines in the interest of protecting public health. This movement has favoured encouraging the inventive industry. Regulation has been considered a "impediment" to both the growth of a sector and the revenues it generates.

The pressure that has been put on regulators as a result of this has been to quickly approve new medicines, sometimes on the basis of data that can only be described as preliminary (for instance, in the case of imatinib for acute leukaemia, there were no high quality trials completed at the time of initial approval (personal communication, Garattini)), in order to eliminate regulatory "bottlenecks" and to complete reviews and evaluations of data in the shortest amount of time possible. Additionally, there has been demand from patient advocacy organisations to expedite access to new 'breakthrough' drugs, for instance in the area of HIV/AIDS research.

In addition, the contemporary political environment favours the continuation of supply monopolisation by multinational corporations via the use of free trade agreements, patent laws, political lobbying, and judicial pressures. Only in the last two years have obstacles begun to emerge for the multi-national pharmaceutical sector, and the successful lobbying that has taken place as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis is primarily responsible for this development. Although they have not yet been used on a widespread scale, if at all, these strategies are being investigated as viable means to enhance access to vital medicines in poor nations. Some of these strategies include the creation of novel medications without the intention of making a profit, the use of compulsory licencing, and parallel importation. Given these circumstances, it is becoming more necessary to have efficient drug control. One of the reasons for the success of the global pharmaceutical business is that it has grown highly skilled at producing new medications. This is one of the reasons for the company's success.

The process of developing new medications should not be confused with the discovery of novel compounds. It has been hypothesised that the majority of the very effective new compounds that have been discovered in the previous ten years have been found in the course of research that was publicly supported rather than by the

pharmaceutical industry. It has been shown by Trouiller et al⁷ that novel medications for significant illnesses like malaria as well as other neglected diseases have not been produced in places where the pharmaceutical sector has not taken an interest. In order to bridge this vacuum in medication development, regulatory bodies for drugs and international organisations like the WHO are being called upon.

There are two responsibilities to play: the first is to advocate for or aid in the creation of medicines that are required, and the second is to ensure that new products satisfy suitable quality standards and that there is sufficient clinical data to establish that the drug is effective once a dossier has been completed. It is possible that the nations in which the neglected illnesses are widespread do not have the regulatory competence to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new medications. This is only one of the many issues that arise from this circumstance. It is possible that the new pharmaceutical law will be of assistance in this scenario. This legislation will make it possible for the Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) and the Committee on Medicinal goods for Human Use (CHMP) to provide the WHO with their scientific judgement about goods that are not necessarily intended for markets in the EU. It is obvious that, in the context of concerns about expanding access to medicines that are both effective and safe, it is of the utmost importance to assess how drug regulation 'fits' in with other policies that relate to health and the supply of medicines.

The World Health Organization's position is that drug regulation is an essential arm of any country's national medicinal drugs policy. The other parts of such a policy include a programme to ensure access, such as health insurance, a programme to ensure the best quality use of available medicines, and, where appropriate, a policy to ensure a viable local pharmaceutical industry. The WHO takes the position that drug regulation is an essential arm of any country's national medicinal drugs policy because it is an essential arm of any country's national medicinal drugs policy. This study's objectives are to (1) describe the components of efficient drug regulation; (2) define various systems that can meet these requirements; and (3) investigate currently important political and scientific factors that will affect the ability of drug regulatory authorities to guarantee that only safe, effective, and high-quality medicines are made available to the general public. The WHO paper titled "Effective drug regulation: A multi-country study" served as a source of inspiration for this research.

The following are the particular objectives of the study:

- To provide a description of the existing drug regulatory and registration systems in a number of countries in order to get an understanding of the ways in which these processes influence the quality and availability of medicines in developing nations
- To generate policy suggestions about how systems might more effectively enable acceptable quality pharmaceuticals to be brought to market
- To explore new issues and requirements provided by obligatory licencing, drugs for neglected illnesses, antiretroviral drugs, and TB drugs

Key players in drug registration

Drug regulation is an interaction not only between the law and the sciences, but also between regulators and the makers of pharmaceuticals, with input and influences from patients and the medical and health professionals. In addition, a drug regulatory authority, also known as a DRA, interacts with a wide variety of other authorities that are engaged in the health sector, such as the Ministry of Health and several other health

protection agencies. It is essential to have an efficient working relationship with other law enforcement organisations, such as customs and police, under specific circumstances. This may entail contact and/or control over medical practitioners, chemists, and drug merchants, in addition to interactions with agencies responsible for quarantine and the regulation of imports and exports. The organisation of the health sector will determine whether this interaction and/or control is necessary. DRAs also need to communicate with politicians; above all things, politicians need to be convinced of the significance of good regulation in order to guarantee that it is paid for at a level that is suitable. This can only be accomplished by interaction between DRAs and politicians. Regulation is not inexpensive, but in most cases, the expenses of regulation are more cost-effective than the potential waste on inefficient and hazardous pharmaceuticals. In a broader sense, efficient drug regulation calls for efficient legislation and administration, in addition to a system for controlling the market and enforcing penalties for violations of law that are applicable equally to both the public and the private sectors.

Objective

1. The study the most rigorous test of interchangeability is a clinical trial comparing the proposed generic.
2. The study Drug regulation has developed over the past 50 years in response to crises.

Process of drug registration: generic products

The procedure of registering generic versions of a product is comparable to that of registering a new chemical entity (NCE), although it is less complicated. When developing a new generic medicine, a business will first create a dossier that focuses mostly on the pharmaceutical chemistry of the product. This dossier will then be submitted for approval. It is presumed that an innovator product already exists (often in the same market), and that this innovator product has been shown to be clinically efficacious and safe (although this may not be the case in poorly managed markets). Therefore, the data for the generic medicine are intended to demonstrate that it is clinically interchangeable with the innovator medication in terms of both its effectiveness and its level of safety. Such applications make an implicit reliance on the clinical data supplied in the dossier for the inventor, despite the fact that there is seldom a direct comparison made between the two dossiers when the application is being evaluated.

This implicit comparison of clinical information may be confined under TRIPs because to the rules for data exclusivity, which may be understood as precluding reference to the clinical studies that first showed that a drug was effective and safe. This may be the case because TRIPs may be viewed as preventing reference to the clinical trials that initially proved that a compound was effective and safe. In some cases, a product can be registered on the basis of chemical and manufacturing data alone (for example, an injectable formulation for which there is a recognised pharmacopoeial standard, such as the British Pharmacopoeia or the United States Pharmacopoeia). These data describe the method of synthesis and quality control for the product. In other cases, a product must be approved by a regulatory agency. It is almost certain that dissolution testing and limited clinical data in the form of bioequivalence and/or bioavailability studies will be required to be included in the application for products that are intended for oral administration. These studies must demonstrate that the generic product is bioequivalent to the innovator product, or that it is clinically interchangeable with the innovator product. A clinical experiment comparing the proposed generic with the innovator and analysing the

effects of both on clinical outcomes is the test of interchangeability that is considered to be the most stringent; nonetheless, these studies are carried out only very seldom.

Post-marketing surveillance

Despite the fact that product registration is the primary focus of this analysis, the majority of DRAs also conduct postmarketing monitoring as part of their operations. The types of actions that fall under this category include the testing of 'faulty' items by quality control labs, the testing of marketed products on a random basis, and the investigation of claims of adverse reactions. This second aspect involves investigating claims of ineffectiveness as well as more traditional adverse effects. Although there is no evidence to indicate that mandatory reporting is more successful than voluntary reporting, it is possible to elicit reports of adverse reactions spontaneously from health professionals and pharmaceutical makers. Alternatively, it is also possible to mandate that adverse responses be reported. The reporting of adverse reactions is important not only because it may offer information on novel side effects of goods, but also because it can be a very helpful 'signal' of issues with the product's quality. Two instances of this include the difficulty that Pan Pharmaceuticals had with complementary and alternative medicines that were published in and the problem that paracetamol was contaminated with ethylene glycol. Both of these issues were described in.

In the case in question, claims of hallucinations in connection with a herbal sleeping pill led to an examination of the full range of goods manufactured by the firm. As a consequence of the inquiry, it was discovered that the company had faked quality assurance data, which is in violation of the GMP requirements. As a result of a widespread outbreak of acute renal failure in children, which led to a large number of fatalities and the deregistration of the business that manufactured the syrup, the government was forced to place a temporary ban on the sale of paracetamol syrup. Given the limited ability of the drug regulatory agency to enforce quality and inspection requirements, the entire ban on the product was the only method to assure that the dangerous items were removed from the market place. This was because of the limited capacity of the drug regulatory agency. These two instances bring to light the need of successful integration of post-marketing surveillance with the activities of DRA, as well as the requirement that nations be able to exercise complete control over their own markets.

Control of drug promotion

In addition to the aforementioned tasks, some DRAs have authority over the advertising and marketing of goods. There have been a number of studies that have shown that the strategy of letting firms self-regulate their marketing efforts is unproductive. This strategy leads to inaccurate claims being made about medications, as well as the improper use of drugs. There is a shift occurring away from the paradigm of regulation of advertising content known as self-regulatory, and towards systems known as pre-approval. On the basis of the data that is now available, it is reasonable that there should be an increase in the regulation of advertising and promotion. The preliminary review of ads necessitates the allocation of both resources and capabilities. This is the trade-off. It has the potential to be just as hazardous as unrestricted promotion if it is not carried out professionally, and it may also absorb resources that are required for the evaluation of new items. Direct-to-consumer advertising is a similar problem that is also beyond the focus of this study; nonetheless, there are a number of recent evaluations that show that, once again, it leads to abuse and overuse of drugs. These findings may be found in a variety of places online.

Cost of drug regulation

In most cases, the cost of implementing efficient drug registration and regulation is significant. Here the 10-Country Study that was carried out by the WHO, the country rapporteurs each contributed data that was used to assess the cost of drug regulation. The findings of this study are shown here. According to the findings of a research that offers a more thorough perspective, the fees that are paid in developing nations are far lower than those that are imposed in wealthy countries. Because of this, the topic of who should pay for drug regulation and what the cost should be is an important one for public policy. The vast majority of nations have instituted some kind of charge for using their services. The United States and Australia are two 'extreme' examples of this. In the United States, application fees paid by sponsors (also known as "user fees") are balanced with assurances that decision-making will occur in time-frames that are made possible with the increased resources. In Australia, the entire cost of drug regulation is covered by the fees levied on applications.

The issue with a model that is based on the concept of "fee for service" is that it might result in the possibility of regulatory capture. In this scenario, the regulators may be more concerned with making judgements that will benefit their "clients" than with making decisions that are necessary in the public's best interest. This has provided an in-depth analysis of this issue and contends that the introduction of a 'pay for services' model is a major factor in the current drug regulatory agencies' inability to withstand threats effectively. He proposes a variety of solutions to the issue, such as public accountability and openness, as well as management of the conflicts of interests of experts. For example, he argues that it should be necessary of expert advisers to regulatory bodies that they suspend any conflicts of interests while they are serving in office. In addition, Abraham suggests that DRAs should independently carry out certain critical testing of new goods, and that the state should be responsible for paying DRAs. Both of these ideas are part of Abraham's proposal. It has also been proposed that countries inside the EU should demonstrate a stronger commitment to the public health priority in regulation by supporting the registration authority to at least 50%, and this argument appears to have some merit.

CONCLUSION

It is important not to undervalue the difficulties and complexities of the medication registration process. It is naive to believe that just accelerating registration procedures would enhance access; nonetheless, this has been the argument put out by the sector, which fails to take into consideration concerns such as the regulation of the market and the guarantee of product quality. It is very improbable that supporting a single component in isolation would result in successful drug regulation since effective drug control relies on a full melange of components. International organisations have the ability to establish a framework for registration that has as its primary role the protection of the general public, while also enhancing access to the framework's provisions. Given the pressures that result from the legitimate economic interests of the multinational pharmaceutical manufacturers, there is a need for assistance to be provided to particular countries and regional activities. This support should be structured to guarantee that necessary medications are of high quality and are readily available at prices that are reasonable. This involves making certain that there are sufficient resources available on a national basis to evaluate and monitor the quality of medications. At this point in time, it seems unavoidable that donors will have to pay towards the development of medications for illnesses that are considered to be neglected. To accomplish this goal, it is vital to ensure that organisations such as the WHO have the appropriate resources, both scientific and otherwise, to offer the requisite level of leadership. However, the most crucial duty is to teach lawmakers and government officials that drug control is not a luxury

that should be supported by the private sector but rather a need that must be regulated. The user should be responsible for paying, but in this instance, the taxpayer, not the pharmaceutical producers, is the one who is really using the service.

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