

Implementing the WHO-listed authority framework Achievements – Challenges – Benefits

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Joint UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO meeting with manufacturers and suppliers SESSION 11 December 05th, 2024





2 - 6 December 2024



Achievements

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The WLA initiative

Replacing the concept of SRAs

Following ICH structural changes in 2015, need for replacing the term Stringent Regulatory Authority (SRA) and eligibility criteria based on the pre-reform membership to ICH



Objectives



To provide a transparent and evidence-based pathway for RAs to be globally recognized

To promote access and the supply of safe, effective and quality medical products



To optimize use of limited resources by facilitating reliance





Milestones and outlook for the future



1. Includes one regional regulatory system – European Medicines Regulatory Network

authorities as WHO-Listed

Authorities"

4



https://www.who.int/news/item/31-10-2023-landmark-listing-of-first-threecountries-as-who-listed-regulatory-authorities https://www.who.int/news/item/20-05-2024-largest-number-of-regulatoryagencies-for-medical-products-approved-as-who-listed-authorities

World Health Organization

Global situation as of November 2024



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58th ECSPP meeting, October 2024

Considering the successful implementation of the WHO-listed authority (WLA) framework

A soon as all SRAs will complete the transition

The term "Stringent Regulatory Authority" (SRA) will be read as "WHO-listed authority" Applicable to all previously published norms and standards guidance, including all WHO Technical Report Series (TRS) and other documents endorsed by the **Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations** (ECSPP), as well as any future updates or revisions of such documents

The terms SRAs (*medicines*) and highly performing NRAs (*vaccines*) will not be used in the future

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World Health Organization



Challenges in implementing the framework

Frontiers in Medicine Sections ~ Articles Research Topics Editorial board About journal ~

ORIGINAL RESEARCH article

Front. Med., 23 September 2024 Sec. Regulatory Science Volume 11 - 2024 | https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2024.1467229 This article is part of the Research Topic The Changing Focus of Regulatory Frameworks Around the Globe and the Opportunities for Harmonization

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WHO-listed authorities (WLA) framework: transparent evidence-based approach for promoting regulatory reliance towards increased access to quality-assured medical products



https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2024.1467229

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Challenges: stakeholders' perspective



9

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS



Challenge: UNCLEAR WLA Equations for reliance

The ultimate responsibility and decision for use of tWLA and WLA lists resides with the users (e.g., regulatory authorities, procurement agencies) and depends on the specific context of its intended use

Reliance strategies should be:

- scientifically sound
- evidence based
- proportionate to risks



UNCLEAR Understanding the difference between ML3/4 and WLA, specifically in terms of reliance and guiding procurement activities

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Elements for performance evaluation of a regulatory system



11

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Understanding the difference between

ML3/4 and WLA,

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The example of MA

GBT

31 GBT sub-indicators (ML1, ML2 and ML3)

Legal provisions, Governance, Resources (HR, FR, infrastuctures and equipment), Regulatory processes, transparency, accountability and communication, M&E



3 mandatory ML4 GBT sub-ind 3 PE indicators Expert review of 2-3 MAA assessments

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PE

Support to MAH (regulatory and scientific advice) Compliance with timelines (efficiency) Publication of regulatory actions (transparency)

Evaluation Criteria		No. of sub-indicators		
1. Application process		3		
2. Assessment report				
2.1	Quality of the report	11		
2.2	Completeness of the report	4		
2.3	Scientific rigour 2.3.1 Clinical 2.3.2 Quality 2.3.3 Non-clinical	3		
2.4	Scientific opinions/Outcomes	1		
3. Assessment follow-up		2		

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12

Challenge: CONVOLUTED

the modular approach

- Requested by Member States to ensure more flexibility in attaining the WLA designation
- Allows for the stepwise listing of specific regulatory functions or product categories

COMPLEXITY of decisions on reliance for stakeholders



COMPLEXITY of the PE for candidate WLAs









Difficult tracking







Currently, out of 36 WLAs:



- 34 are listed in <u>all functions</u> in both product streams
 - 1 is listed in <u>all functions</u> for medicines





Challenge: RISKY *Considerations*

PE prioritization of candidate WLAs

- > Chronology
- > Anticipated level of efforts
- Estimated readiness
- Recognition of reference RAs
- Potential to expand PQ products

02

01

03

- Cooperation and strengthening of other RAs
- > Transparency

Risk-based evaluation pathways & recognitions

 Routine arrangements
(standard pathway)
Vs.
transitional arrangements
(abridged and streamlined pathways)



WHO advocacy for the framework

- Actively promoting awareness
- > Participating in several discussion fora
- > Arranging *ad hoc* meetings/workshops
- Providing explanations and clarifications at each request

RISKY

Limited time to transition

- risk of procurement disruption
- impact on PQed products
- scarce resources or different priorities

RESULTS WLAs in the pipeline

9 out of 22 tWLAs are also listed as

ML3/4

22 out of 57 tWLAs remaining in the list

5 out of 13 remaining tWLAs are under evaluation 4 out of 6 candidates in the pipeline are (the last) SRAs

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Next listing expected in 2025

• • • • UNFP/

World Health Organization

Limited time to transition

RISKY

- risk of procurement disruption
- impact on PQed products
- scarce resources or different priorities

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Challenges: COMPLEX & RESOURCE INTENSIVE for candidate WLAs (& for WHO)





Considerations



Complex & resource intensive

- Granularity of requirements
- Transparency vs. confidentiality
- Inputs form multiple centers/depts
- Pressure to achieve (*political and from manufacturers*)
- Engagement of experienced staff (*task force*)
- Top management/gvt involvement
- Laborious

Rationale

- 1. Outcome of extensive consultations
- 2. Ensures completeness and robustness of the process
- 3. Promotes the adoption of GRP
- **4. Transparency** leads to **trust** and **trust** leads to **reliance**
- 5. Focuses on the **regulatory system as a whole**
- 6. Not all RAs are expected to
 - become WLAs now



Benefits

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Perceived benefits and potentials



Evidence-based, objective and transparent process

Promotes investments in regulatory systems to reach higher standards

Allows more equitable geographical distribution of trusted authorities adopting GRP

Contributes to significantly strengthen trust among the population

Allows abbreviated pathways (faster registration), increasing global access to medicines/vaccines

Facilitates the adoption of recognition agreements, promoting awareness and confidence, with the potential to lead to regulatory convergence

Potential to streamline procuring processes, shortening and improving the supply chain (reducing shipping times, mitigating risks of disruptions and increasing flexibility in meeting local demand)



Resources



https://www.who.int/initiatives/wholisted-authority-reg-authorities





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Regulatory Systems Strengthening **[RSS]** Team Regulation and Safety [REG] Unit Regulation and Prequalification [RPQ] Department Access to Medicines and Health Products [MHP] Division World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland)

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WLA impact on prequalification of medical products

Session 11: Regulatory Updates from WHO and Partners

Joint UNICEF-UNFPA-WHO meeting 05 December 2024

Rogerio Gaspar Unit Head, a.i., WHO Prequalification Director, Department of Regulation and Requalification Division of Access to Medicines and Health Products





WHO systematic approach for Accelerating Access

Impactful use

- Health-care Infrastructure
- Sustained capacity for healthcare workers
- Workflow integration
- Implementation research & update
- Digital Health and Innovation

Selection, procurement & supply

- Technical specifications
- Standardized Nomenclature
- Market shaping

National Policy for health products

 Guidance for essential and priority lists, Health Technology Assessment, sustained financial coverage

nnovation

Access

 Integrate global guidelines and evidence into national policy

Science, R&D & Innovation

- Convene and catalyze science
- Facilitate multi-centre trials
- Horizon scanning future innovation
- Sharing of pathogens, samples and access to products

Management of IP & Market

access

- Technology and knowledge transfer
- Design target product profiles
- Licensing
- Accelerated equitable access schemes

Manufacturing

- Sustained high quality manufacturing
- Training and quality assurance
- Regional production

Global policy & regulation

- Guidelines & normative functions
- Strengthening Regulatory Capacity
- Reliance:
 - WHO Listed Authorities
 - Pre-Qualification



WHO Division of Access to Medicines and Health Products (MHP)



Assistant Director General Yukiko Nakatani







Assistant Director General **Yukiko Nakatani**

Regulation and Prequalification (RPQ) Rogério Gaspar



Knowledge Management Advisor Quality Management Advisor

Regulation and Safety

Hiiti Sillo

Regulatory Systems Strengthening

Regulatory Convergence and

Networks

Facilitated Product Introduction

Laboratory Network and Services

Pharmacovigilance

Incidents and Substandard /

Falsified Medical Products

Prequalification Rogério Gaspar (a.i.)

Inspection Services

IVD Assessment

Medicines Assessment

Vaccines & Immunization Devices Assessment

Vector Control Products Assessment

Medical Devices

Mandate: Regulation and Prequalification Dept.

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To support Member States in strengthening robust, resilient and reliable regulatory systems through diverse, tailored approaches that ensure the quality, safety, effectiveness and accessibility of medicines, vaccines and other essential health products supplied to lowincome countries, reaching populations in need.

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World Health Organization

Prequalification: Ensuring quality-assured medical products (Dec 2023)

Medicines Medical devices **Diagnostics** Finished pharmaceutical product (FPP), active In vitro diagnostics (IVD), male circumcision device (MCD) & Immunization device (ImD) & cold chain equipment (CCE) pharmaceutical ingredient (API), quality control lab (QCL), Emergency Use Listing (EUL) biotherapeutic product (BTP) & similar biotherapeutic • Cold/freezer Injection device product (SBP) for therapeutic Cholera • Hep C room G6PD Cold box & Refrigerated HIV/AIDS BTP/SBP (cancer, MDR bacterial Vaccine carrier • Glucose meter & HPV vehicle COVID-19, insulin) infections Refrigerator & Cold chain test strips* Malaria Child health Neglected tropical • SARS-CoV-2 freezer HbA1c point of accessory COVID-19 diseases Coolant pack • Temperature care test* Syphilis Diarrhoea New-born & young monitoring device Tuberculosis Injection device • Hep B infants** • Ebola virus for vaccine Waste diseases Nicotine management **113** IVDs, **1** MCD Hep B replacement equipment • Hep C therapy** EUL: 40 COVID-19, 6 Ebola, 4 Zika HIV/AIDS • Reproductive 443 ImDs/CCEs Influenza health Malaria Tuberculosis 657 FPPs (inc. 15 BTPs, 12 SBPs), 168 APIs, 58 QCLs * Completed the development of technical specifications ** Call for expression of interest issued. No PQed product yet Vaccines Vector control Inspection Vaccine (Vx), snake antivenom & Emergency Use Listing (EUL) Vector control product (VCP) & active ingredient BTP, SBP Bioequivalent • FPP, API study • 24 priority COVID-19 • Aircraft Insecticide-treated Clinical trial ImD diseases, Dengue disinfection net IVD Laboratory covering all Ebola virus product Larvicide • VCP vaccines required diseases Indoor residual Space spraying Vaccine for routine Malaria spraying product product immunization Snake 636 inspections (2020-2023) Cholera antivenom 87 VCPs **151** Vx, EUL: **13** Vx

Cumulative numbers of PQed/EULed products as of December 2023

Vaccine manufacturing capacity: limited in some regions





¹WHO Global vaccine market report 2022

African Vx manufacturing capacity Required, existing, planned DS production and gaps²



Outbreak Penta MMR Malaria HIV/AIDS PCV BCG YF COVID-19

DS: drug substance ² Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) 2022

2022 Top 10 manufacturers by volume³

including COVID-19







³ WHO Global vaccine market report 2023

Prequalified FPPs: (663 PQed FPPs as of 04 Dec 2024)



PQ FPPs per assessment type



FPPs: A	FPPs: Abridged		
Country	# PQed FPPs	Countr	
USA	34	India	
Germany	15	China	
India	13	Singapore	
UK	9	Spain	
Romania	8		
Switzerland	8	Switzerla	
South Korea	6	Banglade	
Greece	5	France	
Spain	5	Indonesia	
Sweden	5	Netherlar	
Denmark	4	Pakistan	
Austria	3	South Kor	
Ireland	3	Ukraine	
Portugal	3	Egypt	
Australia	2	Germany	
Belgium	2	Latvia	
China	2		
Italy	2	Nigeria	
Bangladesh	1	Brazil	
France	1	Japan	
Japan	1	Thailand	
Latvia	1		
Slovenia	1		

FPPs: Full assessment				
Country	# PQed FPPs	# companies		
India	319	26		
China	54	17		
Singapore	11	1		
Spain	7	2		
Switzerland	5	4		
Bangladesh	4	4		
France	4	2		
Indonesia	4	4		
Netherlands	4	1		
Pakistan	4	3		
South Korea	4	2		
Ukraine	4	3		
Egypt	3	2		
Germany	3	2		
Latvia	3	2		
Nigeria	2	1		
Brazil	1	1		
Japan	1	1		
Thailand	1	1		



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NTD



Global status of national regulatory systems

(medicines and vaccines regulation as of Nov 2024)



- Vaccines produced in countries with ML 3/4 NRAs are eligible for PQ or EUL
- ML3/4 NRAs are eligible for becoming WLAs

Source: WHO RSS database, June 2024

NRAs benchmarked as ML3 / ML4 with GBT



NRA: National Regulatory Authority GBT: WHO Global Benchmarking Tools

List of ML3 and ML4 NRAs, June 2024

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WHO Listed Authorities (WLA) & transitional WLA (tWLA)



WLA: 36 regulatory agencies from 34 countries, 33 member states as of Nov 2024 tWLA ends on 31 March 2027





Working together to build and strengthen Robust, Resilient and Reliable Regulatory Systems

as an enabler to access, from universal health coverage to emergencies response



WHO Collaborative Registration Procedure

Global Health Products Procedures: <u>EU-M4all</u> / <u>Swissmedic MAGHP</u>

Promoting / implementing

- Good regulatory practices
- Good reliance practices
- Regulatory collaboration, convergence & harmonization

WHO National Control Laboratory Network for Biologicals



International Drug Safety – adverse events - Monitoring



Partnership is key: Coalition of Interested Parties (CIP) Voluntary WHO-led Network for Regulatory systems Strengthening, launched in 2021









Working together !!!

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Regulation and Prequalification (who.int)

Rogerio Gaspar, Director, Department of Regulation and Prequalification (RPQ)


WHO Coalition of Interested Parties Network CIP updates and way forward

Engy Elhosary *Technical officer WHO/RPQ/REG/RSS*

Joint UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO meeting with manufacturers and suppliers Session11 December 05th, 2024



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CIP Network Members



30 CIP NETWORK MEMBERS Participants: 26

Observers: 4



NUMBER OF CIP MEMBERS

By level of engagement



CIP Network Members











Scope of CIP Network activities

1. The CIP Network's activities span the life cycle of regulatory systems strengthening activities 2. The WHO five-step capacity building model guide the roles and activities of CIP Networks members 3.The network and scope of collaboration between the NRA and the CIP Network members will be agreed upon and documented in CIP Toolkit





Benefits of Participation

Enhanced regulatory capacity

- > Capacity building
- Access to expertise and tools
- > Financial resources
- > Sustainability

Strengthened international collaboration

- Harmonization and standardization
- > Networking opportunities
- Joint projects and initiatives

Improved public health outcomes

- Increased access to quality, safe, effective and affordable medical products
- Enhanced surveillance and response to public health threats and challenges







Operationalization of the CIP Network







Operationalization of the CIP Network







CIP Network support for regulatory system strengthening in 2024









CIP Network: Mapping Expertise & Tools



136 Expertise

In all Regulatory functions

23 Tools

e.g., Database, Training courses...







Prioritization Model for CIP Network Engagement

NRAs engaged in benchmarking activities using the WHO GBT

Countries targeted by CIP Network members

Countries with several partners

Countries lacking partner support

Targeting countries identified as regional leaders

Countries engaged in regional reliance structures

Countries earmarked for vaccine manufacturing or as technology hubs

Countries more vulnerable to emergency situations

ML3 NRA who require support to maintain ML3





Priority Countries for 2025

20 Countries



Education/training Technical Infrastructure/ICT assistance Capacity building 3 **Political will** Networking Financial support

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World Health Organization unicef 🚱 **Success Story... Rwanda IDP** IDP **IDP IDP Finalization Formal** follow up follow up follow up follow up of **Benchmark** (onsite) (virtual) (onsite) (virtual) **Benchmark IDP** implementation **Oct 2024** July 2024 Aug 2024 Sep 2024 May 2024 **Dec 2022** Sep 2023 Feb 2024 **CIP Network support for Rwanda FDA** 2nd CIP CIP 3rd CIP 1st CIP Coordination Network **Network** Network Coordination Meeting Coordination coordination Phase II meeting meeting meeting (virtual) (onsite) (virtual) (virtual)

Success Story... Senegal







Keys for Success

 Regular monitoring and feedback to ensure implementation of plans and tracking of support activities

 Enhanced Transparency and Communication across CIP members and Member states



 Resources and Expertise within the CIP Network supporting capacitybuilding efforts





Next Steps for 2025

- ✓ CIP Network Expansion
- ✓ Foster Regional Support
- ✓ Expansion of the scope of CIP Network activities











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