

Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC, Corporate Square Office Park, 11 Corporate Square Boulevard, M/S E07, Atlanta, Georgia 30329, telephone 404/639-8025, e-mail EOW1@cdc.gov.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** Notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: October 4, 1999.

**Carolyn J. Russell,**

*Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

[FR Doc. 99-26482 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### Meeting

Office of the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announces the following meeting.

*Name:* Guide to Community Preventive Services (GCPS) Task Force Meeting;

*Times and Dates:* 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., October 13, 1999; 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m., October 14, 1999.

*Place:* The Sheraton Hotel Atlanta, Courtland and International Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, telephone (404) 659-6500.

*Status:* Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates approximately 40 people.

*Purpose:* The mission of the Task Force is to develop and publish a Guide to Community Preventive Services, which is based on the best available scientific evidence and current expertise regarding essential public health services and what works in the delivery of those services.

*Matters to be Discussed:* Agenda items include: an overview and update on the organizational changes and structure of the Guide Activity; update on the current dissemination activities and discussion on future initiatives for the Guide; coordination activities with the Clinical Guide; discussion and review of the current Methods issues; and review and discussion of Chapter development progress for the Tobacco Prevention and Control, Cancer, Prevention of Mental Health Disorders and Motor Vehicle Occupant Injury Chapters.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie Zaza, M.D., M.P.H., Chief, CPS Guide Development Activity, Division of Prevention Research and Analytic Methods, Epidemiology Program Office, CDC, 4770 Buford Highway, M/S K-73, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, telephone 770/488-8189.

Persons interested in reserving a space for this meeting should call 770/488-8189 by close of business on October 8, 1999.

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Dated: October 4, 1999.

**Carolyn J. Russell,**

*Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98D-0566]

#### International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH); Final Guidances entitled "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL3); "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Dosage Forms" (VICH GL4); "Stability Testing: Photostability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL5); Availability

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of three final guidances for industry entitled "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL3), "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Dosage Forms" (VICH GL4), and "Stability Testing: Photostability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL5). These guidances have been adapted for veterinary use by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) from guidances regarding pharmaceuticals for human use, which were adopted by the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Approval of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH). These VICH documents provide

guidance on stability testing of new animal drugs and new dosage forms of new animal drugs included as part of new animal drug applications (referred to as registration applications in the guidances) submitted to the European Union, Japan, and the United States.

**DATES:** You may submit written comments at anytime.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the final guidance documents entitled "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL3), "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Dosage Forms" (VICH GL4), and "Stability Testing: Photostability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL5) may be obtained on the Internet from the CVM home page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/fda/mappgs/vich.html>. Persons without Internet access may submit written requests for single copies of the final guidance to the Communications Staff (HFV-12), Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests.

You may submit written comments any time on the final guidance documents to the Policy and Regulations Team (HFV-6), Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regarding VICH: Sharon Thompson, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-3), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-594-1798, E-mail, "sthompso@cvm.fda.gov", or

Robert C. Livingston, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-1), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-594-5903, E-mail, "rlivings@cvm.fda.gov".

Regarding the guidance documents: William G. Marnane, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-140), Food and Drug Administration, 7500 Standish Pl., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-827-6966. E-mail, "wmarnane@cvm.fda.gov".

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

In recent years, many important initiatives have been undertaken by regulatory authorities, industry associations, and individual sponsors to promote the international

harmonization of regulatory requirements. FDA has participated in efforts to enhance harmonization and has expressed its commitment to seek scientifically based harmonized technical procedures for the development of pharmaceutical products. One of the goals of harmonization is to identify and reduce the differences in technical requirements for drug development among regulatory agencies.

FDA has actively participated in the ICH for several years to develop harmonized technical requirements for the approval of human pharmaceutical and biological products among the European Union, Japan, and the United States. The VICH is a parallel initiative for veterinary pharmaceutical products. The VICH is concerned with developing harmonized technical requirements for the approval of veterinary pharmaceutical products in the European Union, Japan, and the United States, and includes input from both regulatory and industry representatives.

The VICH meetings are held under the auspices of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). During the initial phase of the VICH, an OIE representative chairs the VICH Steering Committee.

The VICH Steering Committee is composed of member representatives from the European Commission, European Medicines Evaluation Agency; European Federation of Animal Health; Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products; the U.S. FDA; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Animal Health Institute; the Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association; the Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologics; and the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Two observers are eligible to participate in the VICH Steering Committee: one representative from the government of Australia/New Zealand, and one representative from the industry in Australia/New Zealand. The VICH Secretariat, which coordinates the preparation of documentation, is provided by the Confederation Mondiale de L'Industrie de la Sante Animale (COMISA). A COMISA representative also participates in the VICH Steering Committee meetings.

## II. Guidance on Stability Testing

These three guidances are entitled "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and Medicinal Products" (VICH GL3), "Stability Testing of New Veterinary Dosage Forms" (VICH GL4), and "Stability Testing: Photostability Testing of New Veterinary Drug Substances and

Medicinal Products" (VICH GL5). They have been adapted for veterinary use by the VICH from guidances regarding pharmaceuticals for human use which were adopted by the ICH and published in the **Federal Register** of September 22, 1994 (59 FR 48753), May 9, 1997 (62 FR 25634), and May 16, 1997 (62 FR 27115).

In the **Federal Register** of July 30, 1998 (63 FR 40721), FDA published these VICH guidances in draft form, giving interested persons until August 31, 1998, to submit comments. After consideration of comments received, final draft guidances were submitted to the VICH steering committee. At a meeting held on May 20, 1999, the VICH Steering Committee endorsed the three final draft guidances for industry, VICH GL3, VICH GL4, and VICH GL5.

VICH GL3 addresses the generation of stability information that should be included in submissions for new animal drug applications in the European Union, Japan, and the United States. VICH GL4 is an annex to VICH GL3 and supplements that document by providing specific guidance on what should be submitted regarding stability of new dosage forms by the new animal drug applicant, after the original submission of stability information made in a new animal drug application. VICH GL5 is also an annex to VICH GL3 and supplements that document by providing guidance on basic protocol for photostability testing for new animal drugs. These guidances will be implemented in May of 2000.

These guidances represent the FDA's current thinking on stability testing of new animal drugs and new dosage forms of new animal drugs. They do not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. You may use alternative methods as long as they satisfy the requirements of applicable statute and regulation.

As with all of FDA's guidances, the public is encouraged to submit written comments with new data or other new information pertinent to these guidances. The comments in the docket will be periodically reviewed, and, where appropriate, the guidances will be amended. The public will be notified of any such amendments through a notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

**Margaret M. Dotzel,**

*Acting Associate Commissioner for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99D-4070]

#### International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH); Draft Guidance on "Quality of Biotechnological Products in the Veterinary Field: Stability Testing of Biotechnological/Biological Products" (VICH GL17); Availability; Request for Comments

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability for comment on the draft guidance for industry entitled "Quality of Biotechnological Products in the Veterinary Field: Stability Testing of Biotechnological/Biological Products" (VICH GL17). This guidance has been adapted for veterinary use by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) from a guidance regarding pharmaceuticals for human use which was adopted by the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH). This draft VICH document is intended to provide guidance to applicants regarding the stability studies that should be conducted and the stability data that should be provided in support of new animal drug applications (NADA's) (referred to as marketing applications in the draft guidance) for veterinary biotechnological/biological products that are regulated by FDA.

**DATES:** Submit written comments by November 12, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Comments should be identified with the full title of the draft guidance document and the docket number found in the heading of this document.

Copies of the draft guidance document entitled "Quality of Biotechnological Products in the Veterinary Field: Stability Testing of Biotechnological/Biological Products" (VICH GL17) may be obtained on the