Volume : 2 | Issue : 4 | Apr 2013 • ISSN No 2277 - 8179

Research Paper

Pharma

KEYWORDS : CTD, WHO , ICH

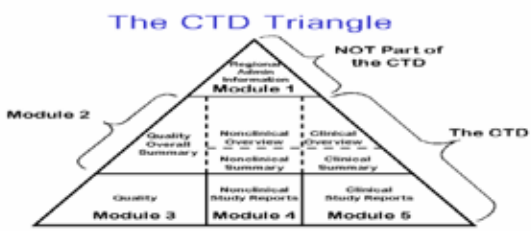
The Common Technical Document- its contents, History, Advantages and complexities

Pushpinder Paul

Executive production, Orchid Chemicals and pharmaceuticals, Aurangabad, Maharashtra

ABSTRACT

The Common Technical Document (CTD) is a set of specification for application dossier for the registration of Medicines and designed to be used across Europe, Japan and the United States. It was developed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA, Europe), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA, U.S.) and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (Japan). The CTD is maintained by the International Conference on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).The agreement to assemble all the Quality, Safety and Efficacy information in a common format (called CTD - Common Technical Document) has revolutionized the regulatory review processes, led to harmonized electronic submission that, in turn, enabled implementation of good review practices. For industries, it has eliminated the need to reformat the information for submission to the different ICH regulatory authorities. The CTD is organized into five modules. Module 1 is region specific and Modules 2, 3, 4 and 5 are intended to be common for all regions. In July 2003, the CTD became the mandatory format for new drug applications in the EU and Japan, and the strongly recommended format of choice for NDA submitted to the FDA. An electronic version of the Common Technical Document (eCTD) can be produced using the information developed by the eCTD Implementation Working Group. After the United States, European Union and Japan, the CTD has been adopted by several other countries including Canada and Switzerland



CONTENT OF THE FORMAT: This section provides an overview of module contents for a multisource product in greater detail.

Module 1- Administrative information and prescribing information:
This module should contain documents specific to WHO and each region; for example, application forms or the proposed label for use in the region. The content and format of this module can be specified by WHO and the relevant regulatory authorities.

A summary of the Bioequivalence/Bioavailability information should be provided according to WHO's Bioequivalence Trial Information Form (BTIF).

Quality information summary (QIS) - see WHO's Guideline on submission of documentation for a multisource (generic) finished pharmaceutical product (FPP): quality part for instructions.

Module 2 - CTD summaries:
This module should begin with a general introduction to the pharmaceutical, including its pharmacological class, mode of action and proposed clinical use. In general, the Introduction should not exceed one page.

A summary of the quality information should be provided according to WHO's Quality overall summary – product dossier (QOS-PD) template.

The organization of these summaries is described in Guidelines for ICH M4Q, M4S and M4E.

Module 3 - Quality:
Information on quality should be presented in the structured format described in Guidelines ICH M4Q and WHO's Guideline on submission of documentation for a multisource (generic) finished pharmaceutical product (FPP): quality part.

Module 4 - Nonclinical study reports:
Generally not applicable for multisource products (some exceptions may apply).

Module 5 - Clinical study reports:
The human study reports and related information should be presented in the order described in Guidelines ICH M4E and WHO's Multisource (generic) pharmaceutical products: guidelines on registration requirements to establish interchangeability.

HISTORY OF FORMAT:
WHO Technical Report Series, No. 953 (TRS No. 953), Annex 3 (2009) entitled Procedure for Prequalification of Pharmaceutical Products outlines the procedure and considerations for the process undertaken by WHO in providing United Nations agencies with advice on the acceptability in principle of pharmaceutical products for procurement by such agencies. TRS No. 953 states:

"This activity of WHO aims to facilitate access to priority essential medicines that meet WHO-recommended norms and standards of acceptable quality".
As mentioned in TRS No. 953, in submitting an expression of interest (EOI) for product evaluation, the applicant should send to the WHO focal point (together with the other data requirements) a product dossier (PD), in the format specified in the WHO guidance documents on submitting product data and information. Through the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) process, considerable harmonization has been achieved on the organization of the registration documents with the issuance of the common technical document (CTD) guideline. This recommended format in the CTD guideline for registration applications has become widely accepted by regulatory authorities both within and beyond the ICH Regions.

This document, Guideline on submission of documentation for a multisource (generic) finished pharmaceutical product (FPP): Preparation of product dossiers (PDs) in common technical document (CTD) format provides recommendations on the format and presentation for these types of PDs. This guideline is intended to Assist applicants on the preparation of PDs for multisource products by providing clear general guidance on the format of these dossiers; Fully adopt the modular format of the CTD as developed by ICH; and Provide guidance on the location of regional information (Module 1) and other general data requirements. These measures are intended to promote effective and efficient processes for the development of these PDs and the subsequent assessment procedures.

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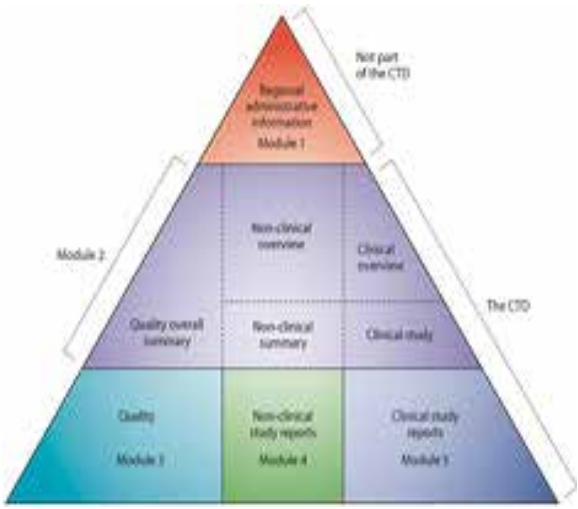
The Paper CTD is destined to be replaced by its electronic counterpart, the eCTD.



ADVANTAGE AND COMPLEXITIES:

This guideline applies to PDs for multisource pharmaceutical products containing existing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) of synthetic or semi-synthetic origin and their corresponding finished pharmaceutical products (FPPs). For the purposes of this guideline stringent regulatory authority. APIs from fermentation, biological, biotechnological or herbal origin are covered by other guidelines. This guideline primarily addresses the organization of the information to be presented in PDs for multisource products. It is not intended to indicate what studies are required. It merely indicates an appropriate format for the data that have been acquired. Applicants should not modify the overall organization of the CTD as outlined in the guideline. This guideline presents the agreed upon common format for the preparation of a well structured CTD for PDs that will be submitted to WHO. A common format for the technical documentation will significantly reduce the time and resources needed to compile PDs for the prequalification of multisource pharmaceutical products and will ease the preparation of electronic submissions. Assessments and communication with the applicant will be facilitated by a standard document of common elements. In addition, exchange of regulatory information between national medicine regulatory authorities (NMRAs) and with WHO will be simplified.

Ultimately, this is intended to support the objectives of the Prequalification Programme in listing pharmaceutical products of acceptable safety, efficacy and quality in the interest of public health.

This general filing guideline should be read in conjunction with other applicable WHO and ICH reference documents and guidelines that provide further guidance and recommendations on the topic-specific content requirements for multisource products, notably:

- Multisource (generic) pharmaceutical products: guidelines on registration requirements to establish interchangeability (TRS No. 937, Annex 7, 2006);
- Bioequivalence trial information form (BTIF);
- Guideline on submission of documentation for a multisource (generic) finished pharmaceutical product (FPP): quality part;
- Quality overall summary – product dossier (QOS-PD).

Together these guidelines, templates and reference documents mentioned within are intended to assist applicants and WHO by harmonizing with international approaches and facilitating the preparation and subsequent assessment procedures for PDs through the integration of the internationally accepted CTD format and, where possible, terminology. Once implemented these guidelines will supersede the following guidelines and template which were in use prior to the development of this guideline:

- Guideline on submission of documentation for prequalification of multi-source (generic) finished pharmaceutical products (FPPs) used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; Supplement 1 - Dissolution testing; Supplement 2 - Extension of the WHO List of Stable (not easily degradable ARV) APIs;
- Pharmaceutical Quality Information Form (PQIF).

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