

PART 320—BIOAVAILABILITY AND BIOEQUIVALENCE REQUIREMENTS

Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

320.1 Definitions.

Subpart B—Procedures for Determining the Bioavailability or Bioequivalence of Drug Products

- 320.21 Requirements for submission of in vivo bioavailability and bioequivalence data.
- 320.22 Criteria for waiver of evidence of in vivo bioavailability or bioequivalence.
- 320.23 Basis for measuring in vivo bioavailability or demonstrating bioequivalence.
- 320.24 Types of evidence to measure bioavailability or establish bioequivalence.
- 320.25 Guidelines for the conduct of an in vivo bioavailability study.
- 320.26 Guidelines on the design of a single-dose in vivo bioavailability or bioequivalence study.
- 320.27 Guidelines on the design of a multiple-dose in vivo bioavailability study.
- 320.28 Correlation of bioavailability with an acute pharmacological effect or clinical evidence.
- 320.29 Analytical methods for an in vivo bioavailability or bioequivalence study.
- 320.30 Inquiries regarding bioavailability and bioequivalence requirements and review of protocols by the Food and Drug Administration.
- 320.31 Applicability of requirements regarding an “Investigational New Drug Application.”
- 320.32 Procedures for establishing or amending a bioequivalence requirement.
- 320.33 Criteria and evidence to assess actual or potential bioequivalence problems.
- 320.34 Requirements for batch testing and certification by the Food and Drug Administration.
- 320.35 Requirements for in vitro testing of each batch.
- 320.36 Requirements for maintenance of records of bioequivalence testing.
- 320.38 Retention of bioavailability samples.
- 320.63 Retention of bioequivalence samples.

AUTHORITY: 21 U.S.C. 321, 351, 352, 355, 371.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 320.1 Definitions.

(a) *Bioavailability* means the rate and extent to which the active ingredient or active moiety is absorbed from a drug product and becomes available at the site of action. For drug products

that are not intended to be absorbed into the bloodstream, bioavailability may be assessed by measurements intended to reflect the rate and extent to which the active ingredient or active moiety becomes available at the site of action.

(b) *Drug product* means a finished dosage form, e.g., tablet, capsule, or solution, that contains the active drug ingredient, generally, but not necessarily, in association with inactive ingredients.

(c) *Pharmaceutical equivalents* means drug products in identical dosage forms that contain identical amounts of the identical active drug ingredient, i.e., the same salt or ester of the same therapeutic moiety, or, in the case of modified release dosage forms that require a reservoir or overage or such forms as prefilled syringes where residual volume may vary, that deliver identical amounts of the active drug ingredient over the identical dosing period; do not necessarily contain the same inactive ingredients; and meet the identical compendial or other applicable standard of identity, strength, quality, and purity, including potency and, where applicable, content uniformity, disintegration times, and/or dissolution rates.

(d) *Pharmaceutical alternatives* means drug products that contain the identical therapeutic moiety, or its precursor, but not necessarily in the same amount or dosage form or as the same salt or ester. Each such drug product individually meets either the identical or its own respective compendial or other applicable standard of identity, strength, quality, and purity, including potency and, where applicable, content uniformity, disintegration times and/or dissolution rates.

(e) *Bioequivalence* means the absence of a significant difference in the rate and extent to which the active ingredient or active moiety in pharmaceutical equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives becomes available at the site of drug action when administered at the same molar dose under similar conditions in an appropriately designed study. Where there is an intentional difference in rate (e.g., in certain extended release dosage forms), certain

pharmaceutical equivalents or alternatives may be considered bioequivalent if there is no significant difference in the extent to which the active ingredient or moiety from each product becomes available at the site of drug action. This applies only if the difference in the rate at which the active ingredient or moiety becomes available at the site of drug action is intentional and is reflected in the proposed labeling, is not essential to the attainment of effective body drug concentrations on chronic use, and is considered medically insignificant for the drug.

(f) *Bioequivalence requirement* means a requirement imposed by the Food and Drug Administration for in vitro and/or in vivo testing of specified drug products which must be satisfied as a condition of marketing.

[42 FR 1634, Jan. 7, 1977, as amended at 42 FR 1648, Jan. 7, 1977; 57 FR 17997, Apr. 28, 1992; 67 FR 77672, Dec. 19, 2002]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 74 FR 2861, Jan. 16, 2009, §320.1 was amended by adding paragraph (g), effective July 15, 2009. For the convenience of the user, the added text is set forth as follows:

§ 320.1 Definitions.

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(g) *Same drug product formulation* means the formulation of the drug product submitted for approval and any formulations that have minor differences in composition or method of manufacture from the formulation submitted for approval, but are similar enough to be relevant to the agency's determination of bioequivalence.

Subpart B—Procedures for Determining the Bioavailability or Bioequivalence of Drug Products

SOURCE: 42 FR 1648, Jan. 7, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§ 320.21 Requirements for submission of in vivo bioavailability and bioequivalence data.

(a) Any person submitting a full new drug application to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall include in the application either:

(1) Evidence measuring the in vivo bioavailability of the drug product that is the subject of the application; or

(2) Information to permit FDA to waive the submission of evidence measuring in vivo bioavailability.

(b) Any person submitting an abbreviated new drug application to FDA shall include in the application either:

(1) Evidence demonstrating that the drug product that is the subject of the abbreviated new drug application is bioequivalent to the reference listed drug (defined in §314.3(b) of this chapter); or

(2) Information to show that the drug product is bioequivalent to the reference listed drug which would permit FDA to waive the submission of evidence demonstrating in vivo bioequivalence as provided in paragraph (f) of this section.

(c) Any person submitting a supplemental application to FDA shall include in the supplemental application the evidence or information set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section if the supplemental application proposes any of the following changes:

(1) A change in the manufacturing site or a change in the manufacturing process, including a change in product formulation or dosage strength, beyond the variations provided for in the approved application.

(2) A change in the labeling to provide for a new indication for use of the drug product, if clinical studies are required to support the new indication for use.

(3) A change in the labeling to provide for a new dosage regimen or for an additional dosage regimen for a special patient population, e.g., infants, if clinical studies are required to support the new or additional dosage regimen.

(d) FDA may approve a full new drug application, or a supplemental application proposing any of the changes set forth in paragraph (c) of this section, that does not contain evidence of in vivo bioavailability or information to permit waiver of the requirement for in vivo bioavailability data, if all of the following conditions are met.

(1) The application is otherwise approvable.