Final
12 November 2014

Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group Meeting

Meeting Highlights

June 25-26, 2014
USP Headquarters
Rockville, Maryland, USA

1. Harmonization Topics Signed-off

1.1. General Chapters

1.1.1. New: G16 Thermal Analysis (EP)

1.1.2. Revised

B06 Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (EP)

This revision brings the chapter up-to-date with current practice, in particular to allow use of gradient gels.

1.2. Excipients

1.2.1. New: E56 Glucose Monohydrate/Anhydrous (EP)

1.2.2. Corrected

1.2.2.1. E55a/b Gelatin (EP)

This correction addressed an error in the test for peroxides.

1.2.2.2. E58 Mannitol (EP)

This correction addressed stakeholder comments regarding the Definition. It previously read “based on an anhydrous basis” and was changed to “based on dried substance.”

1.2.2.3. E21 Hypromellose (JP) and E26 Methylcellulose (JP)

A change to the cover page for these two monographs was necessary in order to accommodate USP's implementation of the elemental impurities chapters. Heavy metals will now be listed as a non-harmonized attribute.

1.2.2.4. E01/02 Alcohol/Dehydrated Alcohol (JP)

This correction addressed an error in the absorption test which was changed to a descending curve, not a raising curve.

2. Major Harmonization Topics

2.1. Elemental Impurities (USP)

2.1.1. Status of ICH Q3D Guidance Document

PDG agreed to begin harmonizing on a methods chapter as the approval of the ICH Q3D Step 4 is anticipated. USP will serve as the coordinating pharmacopoeia for the elemental impurities methods chapter.

2.1.2. PDG-Related Excipient Monographs Impacted by USP's Implementation of Elemental Impurities Standard

For any PDG monograph, heavy metals will be listed as a non-harmonized attribute.For transparency, PDG agreed that this change should be communicated to stakeholders.

2.2. Viscosity Tests: USP Chapter Concept Proposal (USP)

PDG reviewed the viscosity-test general chapters in USP compared to methods contained in both JP and EP to determine which viscosity methods could be considered for harmonization, as well as the monographs that reference them.

PDG agreed to consider a pilot project to harmonize methods on the following three monographs already in the PDG work program:

- Carboxymethylcellulose Sodium
- Hydroxyethylcellulose
- Hydroxypropylcellulose, Low Substituted

3. Harmonization Progress on PDG Work Program

3.1. Topics undergoing Harmonization

3.1.1. Q07 Color (EP)

A major challenge currently under discussion is how to translate the specifications of the visual color method in a monograph to the instrumental method being proposed.

3.1.2. Q09 Particulate Contamination (USP)

Considerations on flow microscopy will be incorporated into the next revision.

3.1.3. E08 Carmellose Sodium (USP)

One of the challenges with this monograph is to agree on specifications for degree of substitution for each grade. Feedback from manufacturers and IPEC is required to verify that PDG is going into the right direction.

3.1.4. E17 Ethylcellulose, Rev. 2 (EP)

PDG has proposed revising the GC method. IPEC did not support the proposed method, but they have not yet provided data demonstrating any issues with the proposal.

3.1.5. E24 Lactose Monohydrate, Rev 3 (JP)

The coordinating pharmacopoeia presented the current status of the monograph, including the data from cooperative laboratory tests in regard to the Clarity and Color of Solution. The data are being reviewed.

3.1.6. E28/29 Petrolatum/White Petrolatum (USP)

PDG discussed the status of the monograph with emphasis on issues related to limits for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. An enquiry would be sent to respective stakeholders.

3.1.7. E34 Saccharin Sodium (USP)

Due to the difficulties observed regarding the sample preparation, PDG agreed that the drying conditions for the IR test should be provided in the monograph.

3.1.8. E54 Copovidone (JP)

PDG reviewed slides detailing the conclusions on repeatability of the method and the stability of solutions of vinyl acetate. The coordinating pharmacopoeia plans to discuss these results next month, after which point they will provide validation data and a stage 4 draft.

3.1.9. E61 Starch, Pregelatinized (JP)

PDG discussed whether it might be possible to differentiate the two grades (i.e. Fully or Partially Pregelatinized Starches) based on viscosity. The coordinating pharmacopoeia will draft the viscosity method and send the proposal to IPEC.

3.2. Discuss Status of All Harmonization Items

PDG members discussed the status of all harmonization activities. Actions and outcomes were documented for all topics covered.

4. Discussion of PDG Process

4.1. Continuation of the Process Improvement Discussion

In order to make PDG processes more efficient, each pharmacopoeia reviewed the PDG process in order to identify what works well, as well as what can be improved upon.

Participants then discussed ways in which the process might be improved, including the following:

- Each pharmacopoeia will liaise with their respective stakeholders at early stages of the PDG process to identify potential issues and to provide local or regional information, such as specifications or impact of general chapter changes.
- Intensify exchanges, bringing together experts from each pharmacopoeia, when appropriate, to resolve issues on a case-by-case basis, throughout the PDG process.
- Align timing of Stage 4 publication as much as possible.
- Stakeholders are strongly encouraged to provide their comments at Stage 4 at the latest.
- Engage in more frequent sign-offs outside of face-to-face PDG meetings.
- To increase transparency and understanding of the PDG process (see 4.2).
- When an item enters the PDG work program, all pharmacopoeias are committed to undertake revisions through the PDG process; PDG partners should be made aware of unavoidable (e.g., compliance-related) changes.

4.2. Increasing Transparency

PDG revisited a discussion begun at the previous PDG meeting in Tokyo regarding how to communicate PDG's work and accomplishments to sister pharmacopoeias and stakeholders.

PDG agreed that a meeting summary ("meeting highlights") would be formally implemented at the Fall 2014 meeting, with a pilot to occur following this meeting.

- During the meeting, capture the conclusion of the discussions and next steps.
- Publish the meeting highlights on the respective pharmacopoeias' websites to make it available to all interested stakeholders.
- The document would be hyperlinked from the press release and published concurrently.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed for November 12-13, 2014 in Strasbourg, France.