FDA’s Proposed Rule for Oversight of Laboratory Developed Tests: Part II: FDA’s Proposed Phaseout Policy – Key Considerations & Open Questions

After an over decade-long discourse amongst interested stakeholders, on October 3, 2023, FDA unveiled its **proposed rule and policy** to increase oversight over LDTs.

If finalized as proposed, FDA would implement a new “phaseout policy” that would, across five stages and within four years, apply the same regulatory requirements applicable to in vitro diagnostics (IVDs) on the majority of clinical laboratories offering tests as LDTs. Once implemented, tests offered as LDTs that do not meet the applicable regulatory requirements, including premarket review and the quality system regulation, may be expected to come off the market.

In our **first post** in this Insight series, we recapped the underpinnings of the proposed rule and policy, including the significant discussions contained in the proposed rule on (1) the rationale for the agency’s proposed phaseout policy and (2) FDA’s legal authority for issuing the rule.

In this Insight, we provide our full analysis of FDA’s proposed five-stage phaseout policy and the open questions that remain. Read the full Insight **here**.

FDA’s Proposed Rule for Oversight of Laboratory Developed Tests: Part I: Underpinnings of FDA’s Proposed Rule



On October 3, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published its widely anticipated **proposed rule** on the regulation of laboratory developed tests (LDTs). The proposed rule and policy are the latest in an over decade-long discourse amongst interested stakeholders – laboratories, IVD manufacturers, regulatory agencies, Congress, providers, and patients – as FDA has sought to enhance oversight over LDTs.

In this Insight, we recap the underpinnings of the proposed rule and policy, including the two lengthy discussions contained in the proposed rule on (1) the rationale for the agency's proposed phaseout policy and (2) FDA's legal authority for issuing the rule. Stay tuned next week for our additional analysis of the details of FDA's proposed five-stage "phaseout" policy and the open questions that remain.

Contact the authors or a member of the Goodwin **Life Sciences Regulatory & Compliance** team for any questions. Read the full Insight **here**.

FDA Proposes Phased Approach to Regulating Laboratory Developed Tests

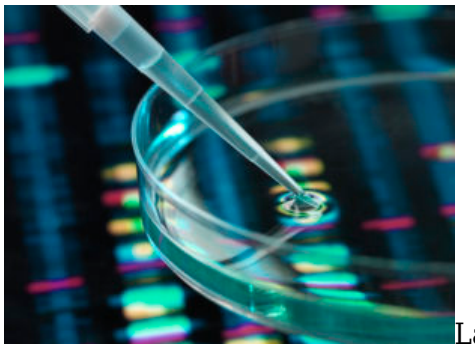


On September 29, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) posted and scheduled for publication its long-awaited **proposed rule** concerning FDA regulation of laboratory developed tests (LDTs). If enacted, the proposed rule would amend the Agency's regulations to make explicit that in vitro diagnostic products (IVDs) are devices under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and this includes when the manufacturer of the IVD is a laboratory.

Upon finalization of the rule, FDA proposes to phase out its general "enforcement discretion" approach for LDTs so that tests manufactured by a laboratory would generally fall under the same enforcement approach as other IVDs.

Comments to the proposed rule are due 60 days after the date of publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register. We will provide our full analysis of the proposed rule in the coming days. Contact the authors or a member of the Goodwin **Life Sciences Regulatory & Compliance** team for any questions.

Is it Biosimilar or Interchangeable? It Won't Be Easy to Tell Under FDA's Latest Draft Labeling Guidance



Last week, **FDA released** a draft guidance, "**Labeling for Biosimilar and Interchangeable Biosimilar Products**" that—when finalized—will revise and replace its July 2018 final guidance, "**Labeling for Biosimilar Products**." FDA noted that this 2023 Draft Guidance reflects recommendations based on the "valuable experience about labeling considerations" that FDA has gained through its approval of 42 biosimilar products, including four interchangeable biosimilar products.

Notably, the 2023 Draft Guidance provides further recommendations regarding when to use a biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product name, and when to use the reference product name in labeling:

- The biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product's proprietary name[1] (or if the product does not have a proprietary name, its proper name[2]) should be used when –
    - Information in the labeling is *specific to the biosimilar (or interchangeable biosimilar) product*, including such references to the product in the INDICATIONS AND USAGE, DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, DESCRIPTION, and HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING sections, and/or
    - For "directive statements and recommendations for preventing, monitoring, managing, or mitigating risk," including such references to the product in the BOXED WARNING, CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, and DRUG INTERACTIONS sections.

- When referring to the *drug substance* in the labeling, the biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product's proper name should be used.

- When information *specific to the reference product* is described in the biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product's labeling (for example, data from clinical trials of the reference product in the ADVERSE REACTIONS and CLINICAL STUDIES sections), the reference product's proper name should be used.

- In sections of the labeling containing *information that applies to both the biosimilar (or interchangeable biosimilar) product and the reference product*—such as BOXED WARNING, CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, ADVERSE REACTIONS—the labeling should use the core name of the reference product followed by the word "products."[3]

FDA acknowledges that the application of these recommendations is highly context-dependent and may not always be clear, but recommends that biosimilar and interchangeable biosimilar product sponsors evaluate all statements in product labeling carefully to determine the most appropriate product identification approach in each instance.

Another noteworthy aspect of the 2023 Draft Guidance is the Agency's recommendation regarding the biosimilarity statement and footnote in the HIGHLIGHTS section of a biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product's labeling.[4] Previously, FDA recommended a biosimilarity statement for a biosimilar product and an interchangeability statement for an interchangeable biosimilar product. The 2023 Draft Guidance now recommends a statement and footnote in the HIGHLIGHTS section that the product is biosimilar to the reference product, *regardless of* whether the product is a biosimilar or an interchangeable biosimilar to the reference product. In the **Federal Register notice** announcing the 2023 Draft Guidance, FDA acknowledges that this marks an "evolution in our thinking" and explains that "a labeling statement noting that certain products within a 351(k) [Biologics License Application] have been approved as interchangeable, and explaining the interchangeability standard, is not likely to be useful to prescribers, who can prescribe both biosimilar and interchangeable biosimilar products in place of the reference product with equal confidence that they are as safe and effective as their reference products." FDA further states that "information about interchangeability is more appropriately located in the Purple Book rather than labeling."

Other notable elements of the 2023 Draft Guidance include recommendations regarding how to describe pediatric use data in a range of scenarios and how to incorporate immunogenicity data. With respect to immunogenicity data, the 2023 Draft Guidance suggests that a contextual paragraph[5] generally be included in the relevant CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY subsection before describing the available immunogenicity data for the reference product and the biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product. The 2023 Draft Guidance also outlines the Agency's expectations for patient labeling—such as a Medication Guide, Patient Information, or Instructions for Use—for a biosimilar or interchangeable biosimilar product, if the reference product has such patient labeling.

Information on how to submit comments on the 2023 Draft Guidance can be found at **https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FDA-2016-D-0643.**

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[1] The proprietary name of a biosimilar product is a brand name determined by the sponsor. The fictitious example provided in the 2023 Draft Guidance is "NEXSYMEO."

[2] The proper name of a biosimilar product is the nonproprietary name designated by FDA that consists of a biological product's core name plus a unique four-letter suffix. The fictitious example provided in the 2023 Draft Guidance is "replicamab-cznm."

[3] The fictitious example provided by FDA in the 2023 Draft Guidance is "replicamab products".

[4] The fictitious example provided by FDA in the 2023 Draft Guidance is "NEXSYMEO (replicamab-cznm) is biosimilar* to JUNEXANT (replicamab-hjxf)" and the accompanying footnote is "Biosimilar means that the biological product is approved based on data demonstrating that it is highly similar to an FDA-approved biological product, known as a reference product, and that there are no clinically meaningful differences between the biosimilar product and the reference product. Biosimilarity of *[BIOSIMILAR OR INTERCHANGEABLE BIOSIMILAR PRODUCT'S PROPRIETARY NAME]* has been demonstrated for the condition(s) of use (e.g., indication(s), dosing regimen(s)), strength(s), dosage form(s), and route(s) of administration) described in its Full Prescribing Information."

[5] The Agency's suggested paragraph is, "The observed incidence of anti-drug antibodies is highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Differences in assay methods preclude meaningful comparisons of the incidence of anti-drug antibodies in the studies described below with the incidence of anti-drug antibodies in other studies, including those of [*proper name of reference product*] or of other [*core name*] products."

Modernizing the FDA's 510(k) Program for Medical Devices: Selection of Predicate Devices and Use of Clinical Data in 510(k) Submissions

On September 6, 2023, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a trio of draft guidances in its efforts to "strengthen and modernize" the 510(k) Program and provide for more "predictability, consistency, and transparency" for the 510(k) premarket review process. In this post, we discuss the two new draft guidances with broad applicability to the 510(k) Program:

- "**Best Practices for Selecting a Predicate Device to Support a Premarket Notification [510(k)] Submission**"
- "**Recommendations for the Use of Clinical Data in Premarket Notification [510(k)] Submissions**"

The two draft guidances address a number of fundamental issues of concern with the 510(k) process.

Read the full client alert **here**.

LDT Proposed Rule Remains Under OIRA Review

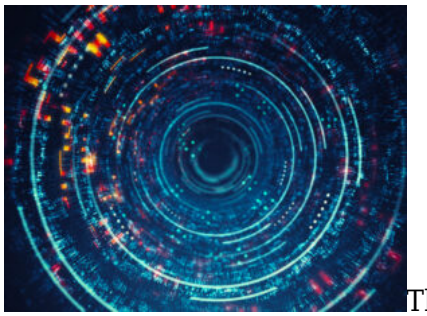
Throughout August 2023, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President ("OIRA") has **held stakeholder meetings** regarding a proposed rule which, if enacted, would amend the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's ("FDA's") regulations to make explicit that laboratory developed tests ("LDTs") are devices under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The next stakeholder meeting on the proposed rule is scheduled for September 6, 2023.

Per its **website**, OIRA received the proposed rule from FDA on July 26, 2023. The proposed rule was initially **published** this past spring on the Biden Administration's Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions with a target publication date of August 2023. The forthcoming stakeholder meeting on September 6th suggests that OIRA may continue its review process well into September, if not later.

The publication of the proposed rule would mark the first significant FDA action on LDTs since its two 2014 draft guidances (available **here** and **here**) and 2017 **discussion paper**. The proposed rule is also expected to be controversial after prior U.S. Department of Health & Human Services statements concerning regulation of LDTs and legislative attempts to further define the LDT regulatory framework. Once cleared by OIRA, the proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register and subject to public comment.

We will continue to monitor for updates on the LDT proposed rule. Contact Goodwin Life Sciences Regulatory & Compliance team members for any questions.

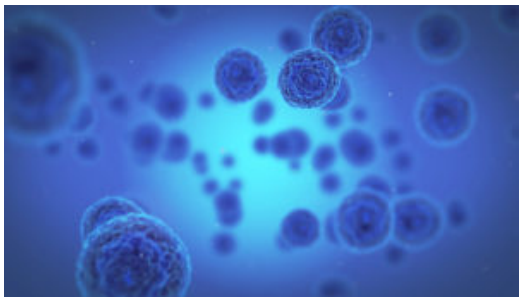
FDA Issues Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-Enabled Device Software Functions Draft Guidance

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently issued its **draft guidance** entitled "Marketing Submission Recommendations for a Predetermined Change Control

Plan for Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-Enabled Device Software Functions." The draft guidance follows the passage of the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act of 2022 (FDORA), which explicitly authorized the Agency to approve or clear Predetermined Change Control Plans (PCCPs).

We summarize some of the key takeaways from FDA's draft guidance. Read the client alert **here**.

The Long (Un)Winding Road Part 2: FDA's Final Transition Guidances for COVID-19 Devices



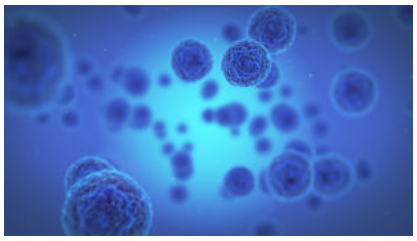
On March 24, 2023, the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health announced the issuance of two much anticipated final guidances that describe the Agency's transition plans for medical devices that fall within certain COVID-19 enforcement policies or that were issued emergency use authorizations ("EUA"s):

- **Transition Plan for Medical Devices That Fall Within Enforcement Policies Issued During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency** (the "Enforcement Policies Final Guidance")
- **Transition Plan for Medical Devices Issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)** (the "EUA Transition Final Guidance")

The guidances follow the announcement in early 2023 that the Biden Administration plans to wind-down a number of pandemic-related programs and to allow the COVID-19 public health emergency ("PHE") declaration, which has been in effect since January 2020, to expire on May 11, 2023.

We summarize some of the key takeaways from FDA's finalized transition plans. Read the client alert **here**.

The Long (Un)Winding Road: FDA Maps Out How the End of the Public Health Emergency Will Impact its COVID-19 Policies



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has issued more than eighty (80) guidance documents describing flexibilities that would be available to manufacturers of medical devices, drugs and biological products, and foods during the public health emergency. Several of these guidance documents have been modified, updated, or withdrawn as circumstances have changed, and on March 13, 2023, the FDA issued a **notice** in the Federal Register that outlines how it intends to unwind a large swath of COVID-19-related guidance documents that are still in effect. FDA sorted seventy-two (72) COVID-19-related guidances into several categories, based on how long and in what form they will continue to be in effect after the expiration of the public health emergency declaration, which is expected on May 11, 2023.

Read the client alert **here**.

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3 Key Considerations for Promoting Transparency for AI/ML-Enabled Medical Devices



Today, developers of innovative medical devices are increasingly utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies to derive important insights with the promise of transforming the delivery of healthcare. Yet, concerns regarding the transparency of AI/ML-enabled devices, or the degree to which information about such devices is communicated to stakeholders, threatens not only perceptions as to the safety and effectiveness of such devices by regulators, but

also trust in such technologies from patients and healthcare providers alike.

Read the full **article** written by **Steven Tjoe** in *PM360 Magazine*.

Visit the **Goodwin on Medtech hub** to stay informed on important developments affecting medtech innovators and investors.