

**VICH GL24 (PHARMACOVIGILANCE: AERs)**

**October 2007**

**For implementation at Step 7**

# **PHARMACOVIGILANCE OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS: MANAGEMENT OF ADVERSE EVENT REPORTS (AERs)**

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Adopted at Step 6 of the VICH Process  
by the VICH Steering Committee  
on 18 October 2007

**for implementation to be determined,**  
pending adoption of VICH Guideline 30 (Controlled list of Terms)  
and VICH Guideline 35 (Electronic Standards for Transfer of Data).

***Regulatory Authorities may consider implementation at an earlier stage as appropriate.***

## **I. Introduction**

Pharmacovigilance of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) can be defined as the detection and investigation of the effects of the use of these products, mainly aimed at safety and efficacy in animals and safety in people exposed to the products. This document will only deal with the spontaneous reporting system for identification of possible adverse events following the use of marketed VMPs.

Within all regions involved in the VICH process there are certain legal obligations for the pharmaceutical industry, the commercial party responsible for the products, with regard to adverse events reported to them. Those legal obligations relate to the acceptance of adverse event reports and the storage and submission of those reports to the authorities.

It is of importance for all parties, the Marketing Authorization Holders (MAHs), the Regulatory Authorities (RAs) and the users of VMPs to develop harmonized and common systems, common definitions and standardized terminology within pharmacovigilance. Harmonization of those elements between the regions facilitates the reporting responsibilities for the MAHs, many with worldwide activities. At the same time harmonization of systems and requirements facilitates the inter-regional comparison of data and exchange of information, thereby increasing the general knowledge of a product's general performance and safety profile.

## **II. Scope**

The scope of pharmacovigilance in this VICH document is defined as the management of the detection and investigation of the clinical effects of marketed VMPs mainly concerned with the safety and efficacy in animals and the safety in people exposed to these products. While pharmacovigilance in its broadest sense may entail a wide range of activities, this document only deals with the spontaneous reporting system for the identification of possible adverse events following the use of marketed VMPs.

## **III. Definitions**

The terms and definitions in this document are intended to harmonize other previously used terms referring to similar concepts. Within the scope of this document the following definitions of items or actions have been developed.

### **III.1 Veterinary Medicinal Product (VMP)**

Any medicinal product with approved claim(s) to having a protective, therapeutic or diagnostic effect or to alter physiological functions when administered to or applied to an animal. The term applies to therapeutics, biologicals, diagnostics and modifiers of physiological function.

The “same biological VMP” is defined as originating from the same MAH being responsible for pharmacovigilance of this/these VMPs with same manufacturing specifications.

The “same pharmaceutical VMP” is defined as originating from the same MAH being responsible for pharmacovigilance of this/these VMPs with same formulations.

A “similar pharmaceutical VMP” is defined as:

- originating from the same MAH being responsible for pharmacovigilance of this/these VMPs,
- the same active ingredients,
- major excipients with the same or similar pharmaceutical function,
- at least one common registered species.

### **III.2 Adverse Event (AE)**

An adverse event is any observation in animals, whether or not considered to be product-related, that is unfavorable and unintended and that occurs after any use of VMP (off-label and on-label uses). Included are events related to a suspected lack of expected efficacy according to approved labeling or noxious reactions in humans after being exposed to VMP(s).

An AE may at some point be concluded by a RA to be an adverse reaction when there is at least a reasonable possibility (i.e., relationship cannot be ruled out) that harmful and unintended observations were a response to a VMP administered at doses normally used in animals for prophylaxis, diagnosis or therapy of disease or for modification of physiological function.

### **III.3 Serious Adverse Event**

A serious adverse event is any adverse event which results in death, is life-threatening, results in persistent or significant disability/incapacity, or a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

For animals managed and treated as a group, only an increased incidence of serious adverse events as defined above exceeding the rates normally expected in that particular group is considered a serious adverse event.

### **III.4 Unexpected Adverse Event**

An unexpected adverse event is an adverse event of which the nature, severity or outcome is not consistent with approved labeling or approved documents describing expected adverse events for a VMP.

### **III.5 Adverse Event Report (AER)**

An adverse event report is a direct communication from an identifiable first-hand reporter (see IV.7) that includes at least the following information:

- an identifiable reporter
- an identifiable animal(s) or human(s)
- an identifiable VMP
- one or more adverse events

One animal or one human being, or a medically appropriate group exhibiting similar clinical signs should be included in a single report.

### **III.6 Marketing Authorization Holder (MAH)**

The Marketing Authorization Holder is the commercial party who, according to the RA is responsible for the pharmacovigilance of the VMP.

### **III.7 Regulatory Authority (RA)**

The Regulatory Authority is the national or regional authority which, according to the legislation, is responsible for the issuing, adaptation or withdrawal of marketing authorizations/licences of VMPs and for pharmacovigilance activities.

### **III.8 Periodic Summary Update (PSU)**

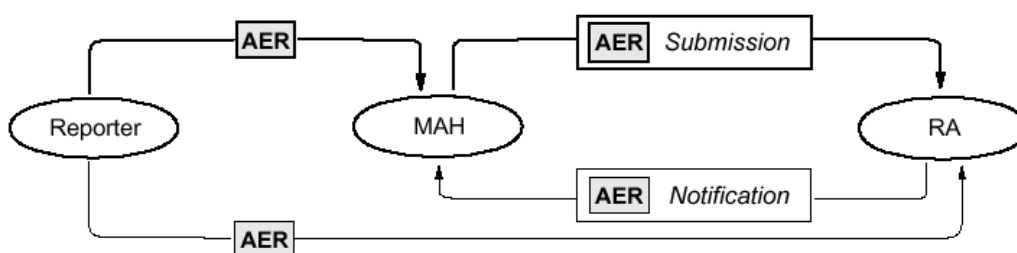
The document submitted to the RA at set intervals to support the continued marketing and the adequacy of the approved labeling of the VMP and will include an analysis of all AERs received during the interval.

### III. 9 International Birth Date

International Birth Date (IBD) is the date of the first marketing authorization for same or similar product granted in any VICH region.

## IV. The Pharmacovigilance Process

### IV.1 Information Flow in the Pharmacovigilance System.



The flow of information is illustrated below:

### Information Flow in the Pharmacovigilance System.

Data preferably flows as shown in the upper half of the figure, where the reporter communicates with the MAH and the MAH submits AERs it has received to the RA. An alternate path is shown in the lower half, where the reporter communicates with the RA and the RA notifies the MAH of AERs it has received.

### IV.2 Informational Unit

The basic unit of information in the pharmacovigilance system covered by this document is the AER.

### IV.3 Recording AERs

The MAH must record each AER received and store it in a manner which allows easy access to the data. The receipt, acknowledgement or recording of an AER by the MAH or the RA does not necessarily have any implication regarding the veracity or authenticity of the AER nor implies any degree of causality.

## **IV.4 Submitting AERs**

The MAH should submit an AER to regional authorities as provided by relevant laws or legislation either as an expedited submission or as a periodic submission.

The submission of an AER does not necessarily imply an endorsement or agreement with its content, unless regional or national regulations require differently.

## **IV.5 Expedited AER Submissions**

Expedited submission of certain AERs may be required, related to the seriousness or unexpectedness of the reported event or because of the urgency of its implications regarding the safety of animals or man.

Expedited submission to RAs in other VICH regions/observer countries will occur when:

- an AER is an expedited submission in the country where the AER occurs and
- the same VMP is approved in other VICH regions/observer countries and
- the species of animal involved in the AER is a species approved in the other VICH regions/observer countries or
- there are serious implications regarding human safety

The time clock for the expedited submission to RAs in other VICH regions/observer countries will begin when the AER becomes the knowledge of the MAH within the other region. A follow up submission will occur when the investigation of the AER is completed by the MAH in the country where the AER occurred.

If the RA decides on a regulatory action based on these expedited submissions the MAH will immediately inform all VICH regions/observer country RAs where the same VMP is approved about this action.

In addition, when the MAH determines that it is likely that actions will be implemented based on the AERs it has received, the MAH will contact all VICH regions/observer RAs where the same VMP is approved to inform them of the MAH concerns and its likely actions.

## **IV.6 Periodic AER Submissions**

At regular intervals, the MAH should submit all AERs not previously submitted.

## **IV.7 Reporting Source**

Although reporting via the attending veterinarian is encouraged, an AER may be initiated by anyone directly involved with the purported adverse event. Preferably, an

AER is communicated by the reporter directly to the MAH, but the AER may also have been routed through an agent or the RA. A communication through an intermediate agent is considered an AER only if the agent has been authorized by the reporter and provides sufficient information to allow direct contact between the reporter and the MAH.