



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2019-D-5572]

Inclusion of Older Adults in Cancer Clinical Trials; Guidance for Industry; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a final guidance for industry entitled “Inclusion of Older Adults in Cancer Clinical Trials.” This guidance provides recommendations regarding the inclusion of older adult patients in clinical trials of drugs for the treatment of cancer. For the purpose of this final guidance, older adults are those age 65 years and older. The final guidance emphasizes the particular importance of including adults over age 75 years in cancer clinical trials. Specifically, this final guidance includes recommendations for including an adequate representation of older adults in cancer clinical trials to better enable evaluation of the benefit-risk profile of cancer drugs in this population. This guidance finalizes the draft guidance of the same title issued on March 6, 2020.

DATES: The announcement of the guidance is published in the *Federal Register* on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: You may submit either electronic or written comments on Agency guidances at any time as follows:

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment

does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions): Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2019-D-5572 for "Inclusion of Older Adults in Cancer Clinical Trials." Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable at <https://www.regulations.gov> or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240-402-7500.

- Confidential Submissions--To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT

CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.” The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as “confidential.” Any information marked as “confidential” will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA’s posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the “Search” box and follow the prompts and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240-402-7500.

You may submit comments on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)).

Submit written requests for single copies of this guidance to the Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10001 New Hampshire Ave., Hillandale Building, 4th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for electronic access to the guidance document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bindu Kanapuru, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 22, Rm. 2119, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 240 402-1279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a final guidance for industry entitled “Inclusion of Older Adults in Cancer Clinical Trials.” This final guidance provides recommendations for stakeholders, including sponsors and institutional review boards, responsible for the development and oversight of clinical trials regarding the inclusion of older adult patients (i.e., age 65 years and older) in clinical trials of drugs for the treatment of cancer. The final guidance emphasizes the particular importance of including adults over age 75 years in cancer clinical trials.

Enrolling an adequate representation of the range of patients in a clinical trial that may be exposed to a drug after approval can maximize the generalizability of the trial results. It provides the ability to understand the drug’s benefit-risk profile across the patient population likely to use the drug in clinical practice. Including information in the labeling describing use in older adults helps to promote the safe and effective use of these products and better informs treatment decisions in clinical practice.

Older adults are underrepresented in cancer clinical trials despite representing a growing segment of the population of cancer patients. Therefore, more information is needed to better inform treatment decisions for older adults with cancer. The issue persists in oncology despite FDA’s efforts to increase the inclusion of older adults in clinical trials.

The guidance recommends that sponsors of cancer trials consider the age demographics of their target population early in development and that a strategy for inclusion of older adults be informed by any known information for older adults. The final guidance includes recommendations for inclusion of older adults related to early clinical development; clinical trials, including considerations for trial design, recruitment, and developing and reporting discrete age subgroups; and the postmarket setting.

This guidance finalizes the draft guidance entitled “Inclusion of Older Adults in Cancer Clinical Trials” issued on March 6, 2020 (85 FR 13167). FDA considered comments received

on the draft guidance as the guidance was finalized. Changes from the draft to the final guidance include capture of comorbidity information, clarification that this guidance applies to both small and large studies, added guidance on decentralization and recruitment efforts for community oncologists, an improved definition of adequate representation in a study trial, clarification of trial design stratification, and added references to other guidances.

This guidance is being issued consistent with FDA’s good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The guidance represents the current thinking of FDA on “Inclusion of Older Adults in Cancer Clinical Trials.” It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

II. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

While this guidance contains no collection of information, it does refer to previously approved FDA collections of information. Therefore, clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521) is not required for this guidance. The previously approved collections of information are subject to review by OMB under the PRA. The collections of information in 21 CFR part 312 have been approved under OMB control number 0910-0014; the collections of information in 21 CFR part 314 have been approved under OMB control number 0910-0001; the collections of information in 21 CFR part 601 have been approved under 0910-0338; and the collections of information in 21 CFR 201.56 and 201.57 have been approved under OMB control number 0910-0572.

III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the internet may obtain the guidance at <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/guidance-compliance-regulatory-information/guidances-drugs>, <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents>, or <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: February 24, 2022.

Lauren K. Roth,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2022-04399 Filed: 3/1/2022 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/2/2022]