"A Comprehensive Review on the Role of Regulatory Affairs in Drug Development and Compliance"

Saurav S. Jadhao[1], Wasim D. Shaikh [1], Shivam R. Lavhale [1], Shrikrushna S. Ringe[1], Shubham R. Rathod [1], Shivshankar M. Nagrik [2], Manisha R. Jawale [3], Prakash Kendre[4], Somnath Vibhute [4], Shirish Jain [5].

[1]B. Pharm, Rajarshi Shahu College of Pharmacy ,Buldhana, Maharashtra, India.

[2] M. Pharm, Department of Pharmaceutics , Rajarshi Shahu College of Pharmacy ,Buldhana, Maharashtra, India.

[3] Assoc Prof. M. Pharm, Department of Pharmacology , Rajarshi Shahu College of Pharmacy ,Buldhana, Maharashtra, India.

[4]Assoc Prof. M.Pharm, Ph.D. Department of Pharmaceutics , Rajarshi Shahu College of Pharmacy ,Buldhana, Maharashtra, India.

[5] Principal, M. Pharm, Ph.D. Department of Pharmacology , Rajarshi Shahu College of Pharmacy ,Buldhana, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract

Regulatory Affairs (RA) plays a pivotal role in the pharmaceutical industry by ensuring that drugs are developed, approved, and marketed in compliance with national and international regulatory standards. This review presents a comprehensive overview of the historical evolution, significance, and current landscape of regulatory affairs in the context of drug development and compliance. The emergence of regulatory frameworks across the globe was largely driven by historical pharmaceutical tragedies, such as the sulfanilamide and thalidomide incidents, which emphasized the need for stringent safety protocols. The paper explores how different countries, including the USA, UK, India, and members of the European Union, have developed their regulatory agencies such as the FDA, EMA, CDSCO, and TGA to enforce standards in drug safety, efficacy, and quality. It further highlights the structure, functions, and objectives of key global regulatory bodies and outlines the multi-step drug development process from discovery to post-market surveillance. Special attention is given to the International Council for Harmonisation (ICH) guidelines, the Common Technical Document (CTD), and the evolving role of RA professionals throughout the product lifecycle. The review also discusses the growing demand for regulatory professionals in the pharmaceutical sector and the challenges they face in aligning scientific innovation with compliance. Ultimately, this study emphasizes the strategic importance of RA in minimizing product development time, ensuring public health safety, and enabling efficient global marketing of healthcare products.

Keywords: Regulatory Affairs, Drug Development, Common Technical Document, Pharmaceutical Compliance, Clinical Trials, Post-Market Surveillance, Regulatory Agencies.

Introduction

Regulatory Affairs (RA) plays a pivotal role in the pharmaceutical industry, ensuring that new products receive market approval and that this approval remains in place for as long as the company wants to sell the product. RA provides critical support and strategic guidance to help organizations meet legal requirements, which in turn accelerates the development and delivery of safe, effective healthcare products for individuals worldwide. It serves as the link between the project team and regulatory bodies, ensuring that the project plan aligns with the expectations and requirements of regulatory authorities before product approval[1].

Today's pharmaceutical companies are highly organized, methodical, and compliant with global regulatory standards for manufacturing chemical and biological tablets for both human and veterinary use, as well as scientific devices, traditional herbal products, and cosmetics. Strict Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are followed for blood and its derivatives, as well as for the regulated production of herbal medicines, cosmetics, food, and dietary supplements—areas that were once far less controlled a century ago. Various regulatory systems have evolved through specific historical events, resulting in today's well-established and structured regulatory frameworks. These frameworks have paved the way for the efficient manufacturing and marketing of safe, effective, and high-quality pharmaceuticals. As the industry has expanded, the growing complexity of regional regulations has created an increased demand for specialized regulatory experts[2].

What is regulatory affairs?

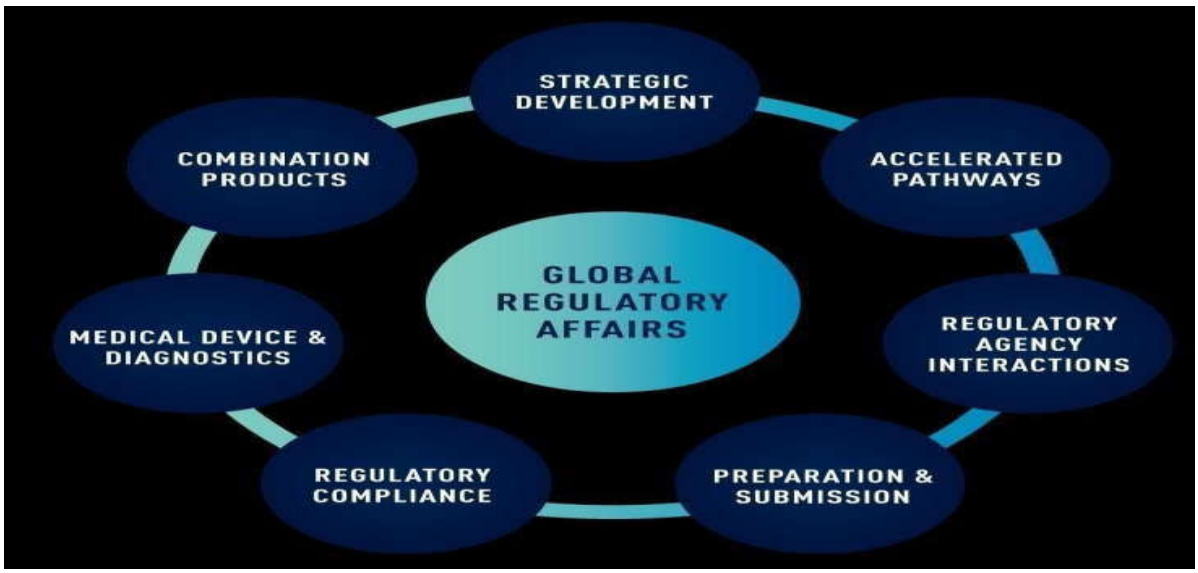


Fig1: What is regulatory affairs (3)

Regulatory Affairs is a relatively recent profession that emerged from the need for governments to safeguard public health by overseeing the safety and effectiveness of products in various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicines, medical devices, pesticides, agrochemicals, cosmetics, and complementary medicines. In the pharmaceutical industry, Regulatory Affairs can be defined as "the interface between the pharmaceutical company and regulatory agencies worldwide." This role ensures that pharmaceutical products comply with the regulations and standards set by regulatory authorities in different regions, facilitating their approval and continuous compliance for safe and effective use[3].

History / Origin Of Regulatory Affairs

In the 1950s, a series of catastrophic events, including the sulfanilamide elixir disaster, the vaccine tragedy, and the thalidomide tragedy, led to significant reforms in drug safety, efficacy, and quality control. These events highlighted the critical need for more robust regulatory oversight, resulting in stricter regulations for drug approval, marketing authorization (MA), and adherence to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). These changes played a pivotal role in shaping the modern regulatory landscape for the pharmaceutical industry.

To understand the evolution of pharmaceutical regulations, we can examine the historical development of regulatory frameworks in key regions like the United States, Europe, and India. Let’s take a closer look at how regulation unfolded in these areas.

USA

The tragic events of the 1950s prompted the U.S. to enact major legislation aimed at ensuring drug safety and efficacy. The sulfanilamide elixir disaster, which led to the death of over 100 people due to the toxic effects of diethylene glycol in the formulation, was a key catalyst for the 1938 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA). This act was expanded after the thalidomide tragedy in the early 1960s, which resulted in thousands of birth defects in Europe. The thalidomide incident led to the 1962 Kefauver-Harris Amendments to the FDCA, which required more rigorous testing for drug safety and efficacy, as well as the need for informed consent and adverse drug reaction reporting.

The establishment of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) as the regulatory authority ensured that all pharmaceutical products in the U.S. met stringent safety and efficacy standards before reaching the market. Over time, the FDA has evolved into a world leader in pharmaceutical regulation, continually updating its guidelines to ensure public safety[4].

Europe

In Europe, the pharmaceutical industry faced significant challenges after World War II, as a result of rapid industrialization and the increasing demand for new drugs. The thalidomide tragedy in the 1960s, which had a profound impact on thousands of families, was a major turning point that led to the establishment of a comprehensive regulatory framework across European countries.

In response, European nations worked together to establish the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in 1995. The EMA was designed to harmonize drug approval processes and ensure that drugs marketed in Europe met consistent safety and efficacy standards. Prior to the EMA, individual countries like the UK, France, and Germany had their own regulatory agencies, which created inconsistencies in drug approval processes. The creation of the EMA helped to streamline and standardize regulations across the European Union (EU), ensuring more robust and consistent oversight for drug approval and marketing[5].

India

India's pharmaceutical industry, which has become one of the largest in the world, also underwent significant regulatory developments in the wake of global tragedies. While India had a system of drug regulation in place by the mid-20th century, it was only after the 1960s that the country began to introduce more stringent regulations, following international best practices.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 laid the foundation for drug regulation in India. However, it was in the 1990s, with the rise of the global pharmaceutical market, that India began to adopt more comprehensive regulatory standards. The establishment of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in 2008 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare helped ensure that India’s pharmaceutical sector met international quality standards.

The 2005 implementation of the Goods Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulations in India ensured that pharmaceutical companies adhered to stringent standards of manufacturing[6].

MILESTONE LEGISLATION & / OR YEAR	OBJECTIVE
1820	United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) Creation as Compendium for Recommended Drug Listing
Import Drugs Act Of 1848	To Control Import of Adulterated Medicine
Biologics Control Act Of 1902	To Ensure Safety & Purity of Biological product I.E., Vaccine, Serum & Well-Defined Labelling of Such Product with Licence No.
Food And Drug Act Of 1906 or Wiley Act	Ensure Sandatary Labelling of Content & Ingredients on Food & Medicines.
1907	First Certified Colour Regulations-Listed Seven Colours for Use in Food
Sherley Amendment, 1912	Prohibit False Therapeutic Label Claim
Food And Drugs Cosmetic Act Of 1938	Scientific Proof for Safety of Medicine Prior Marketing Factory Inspections & Expanded for Cosmetic & Medical Device
Durham-Humphrey Amendment Act Of 1951 (Prescription Amendment Act	Categorized Over the Counter & Prescription Only (Rx) Drugs
Kefauver- Harris Drug Amendment Act 1962	Mandate To Prove Efficacy & Better Safety of Medicine
Orphan Drug Act 1983	Enable For Research & Marketing of Rare Diseases Drugs
Drug Price Competition & Patent Term Restoration Act 1984	Application Approval of Less Costly Drug by Giving Waiver for Repeat Safety & Efficacy Study Known as Generic Drugs. Drug Innovator Company Can Apply for Up to 5 Years Additional Patent Term, The Time Consumed for FDA Approval Process
Med Watch System	Creation Of Volunteer Reporting for Adverse Reaction For Medicinal Products
Uruguay Round Agreement Acts 1994	Extends Patent Term of US Drug From 17-20 Years
Paediatric Rule 1998	Suggest Safety & Efficacy of Drug & Biologics In Children

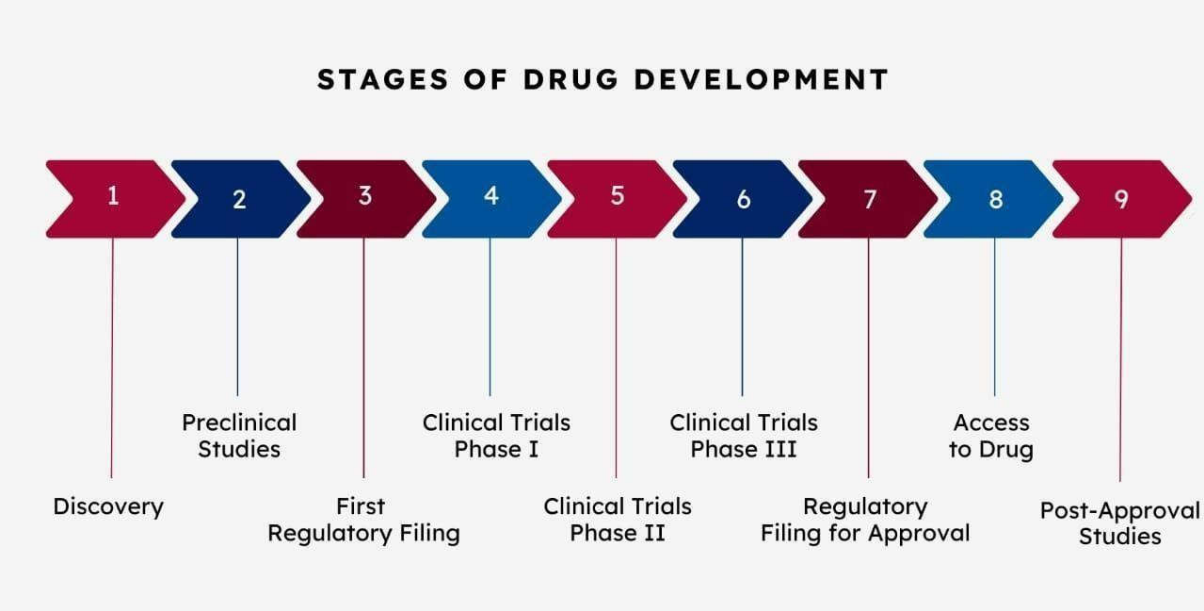


Fig2: Drug Development Process.

Drug Development Process.

Various Steps of Drug Development Process

Step 1: **Discovery and Development Discovery**

Typically, researchers discover new drugs through:

- New insights into a disease process that allow researchers to design a product to stop or reverse the effects of the disease.
- Many tests of molecular compounds to find possible beneficial effects against any of a large number of diseases.
- Existing treatments that have unanticipated effects.
- New technologies, such as those that provide new ways to target medical products to specific sites within the body or to manipulate genetic material

At this stage in the process, thousands of compounds may be potential candidates for development as a medical treatment. After early testing, however, only a small number of compounds look promising and call for further study

Development

Once researchers identify a promising compound for development, they conduct experiments to gather information on

- How it is absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and excreted.
- Its potential benefits and mechanisms of action.
- The best dosage.
- The best wayto give the drug (such as by mouth or injection).
- Side effects or adverse events that can often be referred to as toxicity.
- How it affects different groups of people (such as by gender, race, or ethnicity) differently.
- How it interacts with other drugs and treatments.
- Its effectiveness as compared with similar drugs[7].

Step 2: Preclinical Research

Before testing a drug in people, researchers must find out whether it has the potential to cause serious harm, also called toxicity. The two types of preclinical research are

- In Vitro
- In Vivo

FDA requires researchers to use good laboratory practices (GLP), defined in medical product development regulations, for preclinical laboratory studies. The GLP regulations are found in 21 CFR Part 58.1: Good Laboratory Practice for Nonclinical Laboratory Studies. These regulations set the minimum basic requirements for

- study conduct
- personnel
- facilities
- equipment

Clinical Research

While preclinical research answers basic questions about a drug's safety, it is not a substitute for studies of ways the drug will interact with the human body. "Clinical research" refers to studies, or trials, that are done in people. As the developers design the clinical study, they will consider what they want to accomplish for each of the different Clinical Research Phases and begin the Investigational New Drug Process (IND), a process they must go through before clinical research begins.

On this page you will find information on:

- Designing Clinical Trials
- Clinical Research Phase Studies
- The Investigational New Drug Process
- Asking for FDA Assistance
- FDA IND Review Team
- Approval

Designing Clinical Trials

Researchers design clinical trials to answer specific research questions related to a medical product. These trials follow a specific study plan, called a protocol, that is developed by the researcher or manufacturer. Before a clinical trial begins, researchers review prior information about the drug to develop research questions and objectives. Then, they decide:

- Who qualifies to participate (selection criteria)
- How many people will be part of the study
- How long the study will last
- Whether there will be a control group and other ways to limit research bias
- How the drug will be given to patients and at what dosage
- What assessments will be conducted, when, and what data will be collected
- How the data will be reviewed and analyzed

Clinical trials follow a typical series from early, small-scale, Phase 1 studies to late-stage, large scale, Phase 3 studies.

The Investigational New Drug Process

Drug developers, or sponsors, must submit an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to FDA before beginning clinical research.

In the IND application, developers must include

- Animal study data and toxicity (side effects that cause great harm) data
- Manufacturing information
- Clinical protocols (study plans) for studies to be conducted
- Data from any prior human research
- Information about the investigator[9].

Step 4: FDA Drug Review

If a drug developer has evidence from its early tests and preclinical and clinical research that a drug is safe and effective for its intended use, the company can file an application to market the drug. The FDA review team thoroughly examines all submitted data on the drug and makes a decision to approve or not to approve it.

Find out how the FDA is Speeding Up the Approval Process.

New Drug Application

A New Drug Application (NDA) tells the full story of a drug. Its purpose is to demonstrate that a drug is safe and effective for its intended use in the population studied.

A drug developer must include everything about a drug—from preclinical data to Phase 3 trial data—in an NDA. Developers must include reports on all studies, data, and analyses. Along with clinical results, developers must include:

- Proposed labeling
- Safety updates
- Drug abuse information
- Patent information
- Any data from studies that may have been conducted outside the United States
- Institutional review board compliance information

FDA Review

Once FDA receives an NDA, the review team decides if it is complete. If it is not complete, the review team can refuse to file the NDA. If it is complete, the review team has 6 to 10 months to make a decision on whether to approve the drug. The process includes the following

- Each member of the review team conducts a full review of his or her section of the application. For example, the medical officer and the statistician review clinical data, while a pharmacologist reviews the data from animal studies. Within each technical discipline represented on the team, there is also a supervisory review.
- FDA inspectors travel to clinical study sites to conduct a routine inspection. The Agency looks for evidence of fabrication, manipulation, or withholding of data.
- The project manager assembles all individual reviews and other documents, such as the inspection report, into an "action package." This document becomes the record for FDA review. The review team issues a recommendation, and a senior FDA official makes a decision[12].

FDA Approval

In cases where FDA determines that a drug has been shown to be safe and effective for its intended use, it is then necessary to work with the applicant to develop and refine prescribing information. This is referred to as "labeling." Labeling accurately and objectively describes the basis for approval and how best to use the drug.

Often, though, remaining issues need to be resolved before the drug can be approved for marketing. Sometimes FDA requires the developer to address questions based on existing data. In other cases, FDA requires additional studies. At this point, the developer can decide whether or not to continue further development. If a developer disagrees with an FDA decision, there are mechanisms for formal appeal[13].

FDA Advisory Committees

Often, the NDA contains sufficient data for FDA to determine the safety and effectiveness of a drug. Sometimes, though, questions arise that require additional consideration. In these cases, FDA may organize a meeting of one of its Advisory Committees to get independent, expert

advice and to permit the public to make comments. These Advisory Committees include a Patient Representative that provides input from the patient perspective. Learn more about FDA Advisory Committees (10).

Step 5: FDA Post-Market Drug Safety Monitoring

Even though clinical trials provide important information on a drug's efficacy and safety, it is impossible to have complete information about the safety of a drug at the time of approval. Despite the rigorous steps in the process of drug development, limitations exist. Therefore, the true picture of a product's safety actually evolves over the months and even years that make up a product's lifetime in the marketplace. FDA reviews reports of problems with prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and can decide to add cautions to the dosage or usage information, as well as other measures for more serious issues.

On this page you will find information on:

- Supplemental Applications
- INDs for Marketed Drugs
- Manufacturer Inspections
- Drug Advertising
- Generic Drugs
- Reporting Problems
- Active Surveillance

Supplemental Applications

Developers must file a supplemental application if they wish to make any significant changes from the original NDA. Generally, any changes in formulation, labeling, or dosage strength must be approved by FDA before they can be made[14].

INDs for Marketed Drugs

If sponsors want to further develop an approved drug for a new use, dosage strength, new form, or different form (such as an injectable or oral liquid, as opposed to tablet form), or if they want to conduct other clinical research or a post-market safety study, they would do so under an IND.

Manufacturer Inspections

FDA officials conduct routine inspections of drug manufacturing facilities across the United States, and abroad if approved products are manufactured overseas. Manufacturers may be informed of inspections in advance, or the inspections may be unannounced. Inspections may be routine or caused by a particular problem or concern. The purpose of these inspections is to make sure that developers are following good manufacturer practice. FDA can shut down a facility if minimum standards are not met[15]

Drug Advertizing

FDA regulates prescription drug advertisements and promotional labeling. By law, a developer is prohibited from advertising unapproved uses of their product.

All advertisements, such as product claims or reminder ads, cannot be false or misleading. They must contain truthful information about a drug's effectiveness, side effects, and prescribing information. These advertisements can be found in medical journals, newspapers, and magazines, and on the Internet, television, or radio. Promotional labeling differs from drug advertisements in the way it is distributed. Pharmaceutical companies give out brochures or other promotional materials to physicians or consumers. The drug's prescribing information must accompany promotional labeling.

Generic Drugs

New drugs are patent protected when they are approved for marketing. This means that only the sponsor has the right to market the drug exclusively. Once the patent expires, other drug manufacturers can develop the drug, which will be known as a generic version of the drug. Generic drugs are comparable to brand name drugs and must have the same:

- Dosage form
- Strength
- Safety
- Quality
- Performance characteristics
- Intended use

Because generic drugs are comparable to drugs already on the market, generic drug manufacturers do not have to conduct clinical trials to demonstrate that their product is safe and effective. Instead, they conduct bio- equivalence studies and file an Abbreviated New NDA[16].

Reporting Problems

FDA has several programs that allow manufacturers, health professionals, and consumers to report problems associated with approved drugs.

- MedWatch is a gateway for reporting problems with medical products (drugs and devices) and learning about new safety information.
- Medical Product Safety Network (MedSun) monitors the safety and effectiveness of medical devices. FDA recruits 350 healthcare providers throughout the United States to report any medical device
- problems that result in serious injury or death. Each month, FDA publishes the MedSun newsletter. The newsletter gives consumers important information about medical device safety.

Active Surveillance

Under the Sentinel Initiative, FDA is developing a new national system to more quickly spot possible safety issues. The system will use very large existing electronic health databases—like electronic health records systems, administrative and insurance claims databases, and registries—to keep an eye on the safety of approved medical products in real time. This tool will add to, but not replace, FDA's existing postmarket safety assessment tools (10)

Evolution of regulatory affairs

In 1950’s generation, many tragedies came about due to the misinterpretation of the employees during manufacture & some purposive addition of contaminated substances into the pharmaceutical product which has move forward to the execution of the patients. After so many occurrences, the regulatory bodies launched the new laws and guidelines which are going to ameliorate the quality, safety and efficacy of the products. This is again developed into severe standards for Marketing Authorization (MA) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs). That is the tragedies of SULPHANILAMIDE ELIXIR, VACCINE TRAGEDY & THALIDOMIDETRAGEDY.

Fig3: THALIDOMIDE AND SULFANILAMIDE TRAGRDY

FDA launched in 1906 as Bureau of chemistry, served simply to police claims made about food and drugs ingredients. At that time no formal government approval required to market new drugs. The disasters provoked a public outcry that led to the passage of the 1983 Food Drug & Cosmetics Act, which gave the FDA power to monitor the safety of new drug.

Regulatory Bodies in The World

Every country has its own regulatory authority, which is responsible to enforce the rules and regulations and issue guidelines for drug development, licensing, registration, manufacturing, marketing and labeling of pharmaceutical products.[17,18]

Sr. no.	Country	Regulatory Body
1	USA	Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
2	UK	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
3	Australia	Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
4	India	Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)
5	Canada	Health Canada
6	Europe	European Medicines Agency (EMEA)
7	Japan	Ministryof Health, Labour & Welfare (MHLW)
8	Italy	Italian Pharmaceutical Agency
9	Thailand	Ministryof Public Health

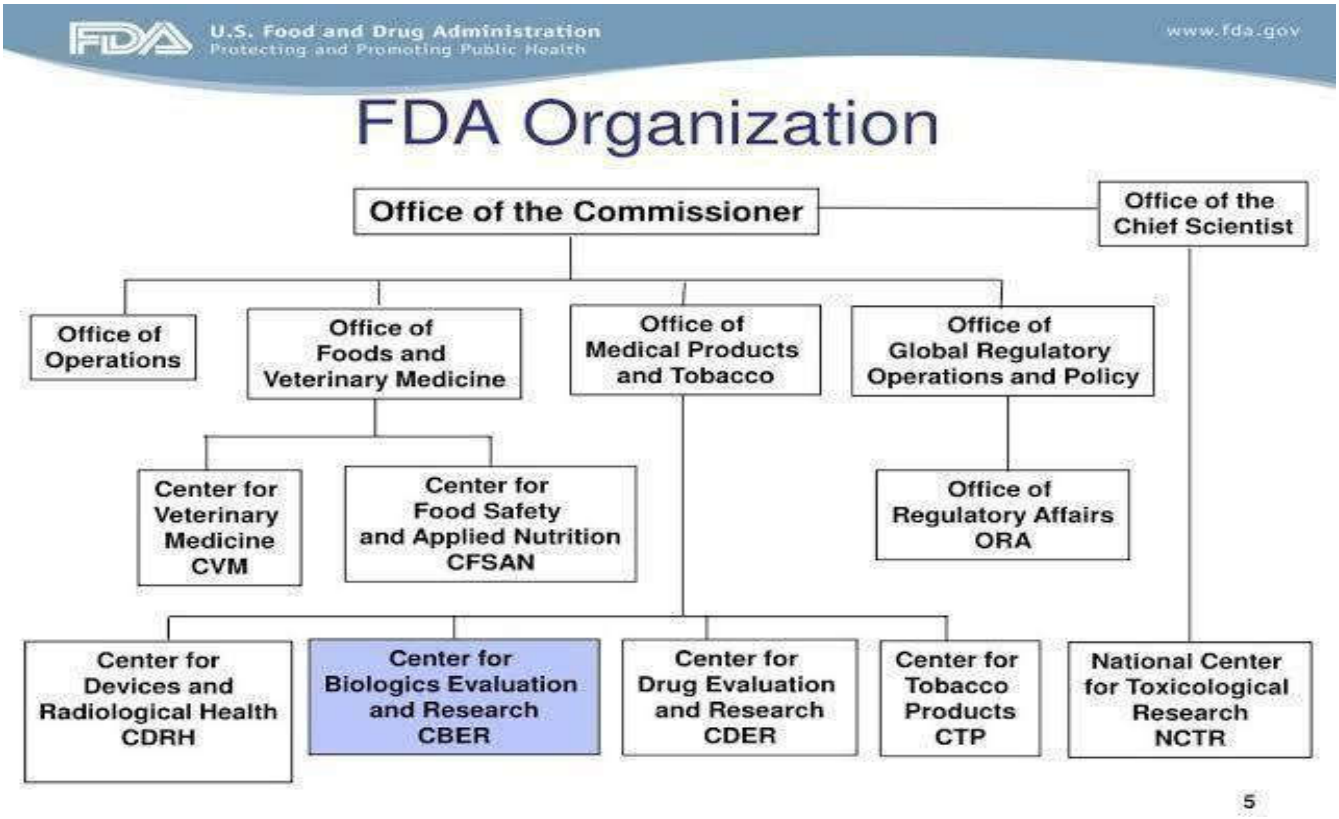
Table 1: Different regulatory bodies of countries

World Health Organization (WHO)
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (7)

A Brief Introduction About Regulatoy Agencies

Food and Drug Administraion



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices safe, and effective.

The mission of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) is to perform an essential public health task by making sure that safe and effective drugs are available to improve the 2 health of people in the United States. CDER regulates over the counter and prescription drugs, including biological therapeutics and generic drugs.

The mission of the Office of Compliance (OC) is to shield the public from poor-quality, unsafe, and ineffective drugs through proactive compliance strategies and risk-based enforcement actions. CDER Compliance strives to be a model of efficiency, innovation, and organizational excellence. CDER Compliance makes strategic and risk-based decisions that are guided by law and science to communicate clearly with stakeholders, foster global collaboration, promote voluntary compliance, and take decisive action[19].

Functions

- Direct regulation of FDA
- FDA is direct control on those things which possess foremost role in health care system which include

1. **biological products:** maintain biological product quality by such way

- Product and manufacturing establishment licencing
- Monitoring safety of blood supply
- Research to establish product standard
- Enhancing research methods

2. **drug and drug product**

- Control on drug product approval
- Establishing of manufacturing standard
- Proper labelling

3. **cosmetics**

- Ensuring safety
- Labelling as per desire standard

4. **medical device: -**

- Premarketing approval of drug
- Manufacturing and performance standard

5. food

- Safety of food products
- Labelling

6. veterinary product

- Livestock food
- Pet foods
- Drug and devices[20].

Central Drug Standard Control Organisation

The CDSCO is central drug authority for discharging function assigned for central government under D&C act 1940. It is national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceutical and medical devices under director general of health services, ministry of health and welfare government of India. It has headquarter located at FDA bhavan, new Delhi

The D&C act 1940 and rules 1945 have institutionalized various responsibility to central and India implementation of provision of the act and rule for ensuring

safety, rights, as well being is citizen by regulating the drug and cosmetic. The CDSCO is constantly working being out constantly working to bring transparency, accountability, and uniformity in its services in order to ensure the safety efficacy and quality of the medical product manufactured, imported, and distributes in India.(12)

- **Vision**: to protect and promote public health in India.

Mission: to safe guard and enhance the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy and quality of drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.(2)

- **Objective**

i. To upgrade knowledge of regulators and to increase consumer awareness

ii. To interact and cooperate with the stare, central government, union territories & non-governmental voluntaryorganization with a view to improve the quality of healthcare facilities.

iii. professional excellence, to improve their effectiveness enabling them to serve & safeguard the interest of consumer

iv. To offer better services to the public

v. To inculcate a sense of dedication amongst the regulator assess them to improve their To construct science based predictable & consistent regulatory framework to support & promote research & development in country

vi. To develop highest standards for pharmaceuticals & medical devices.

The main aim of CDSCO is to bring out transparency, accountability and uniformity in its services in order to ensure safety, efficacy and quality of the medical product manufacture, imported and distributed in the country[21].

- **Application of CDSCO**

Drug licence should be obtained by those who are engaged to import, manufacture, & distribute the drug in India under the D&C Act, 1940. There are five types of licence

1. Manufacturing drug licence

2. Sale drug licence

a. Retail drug licence

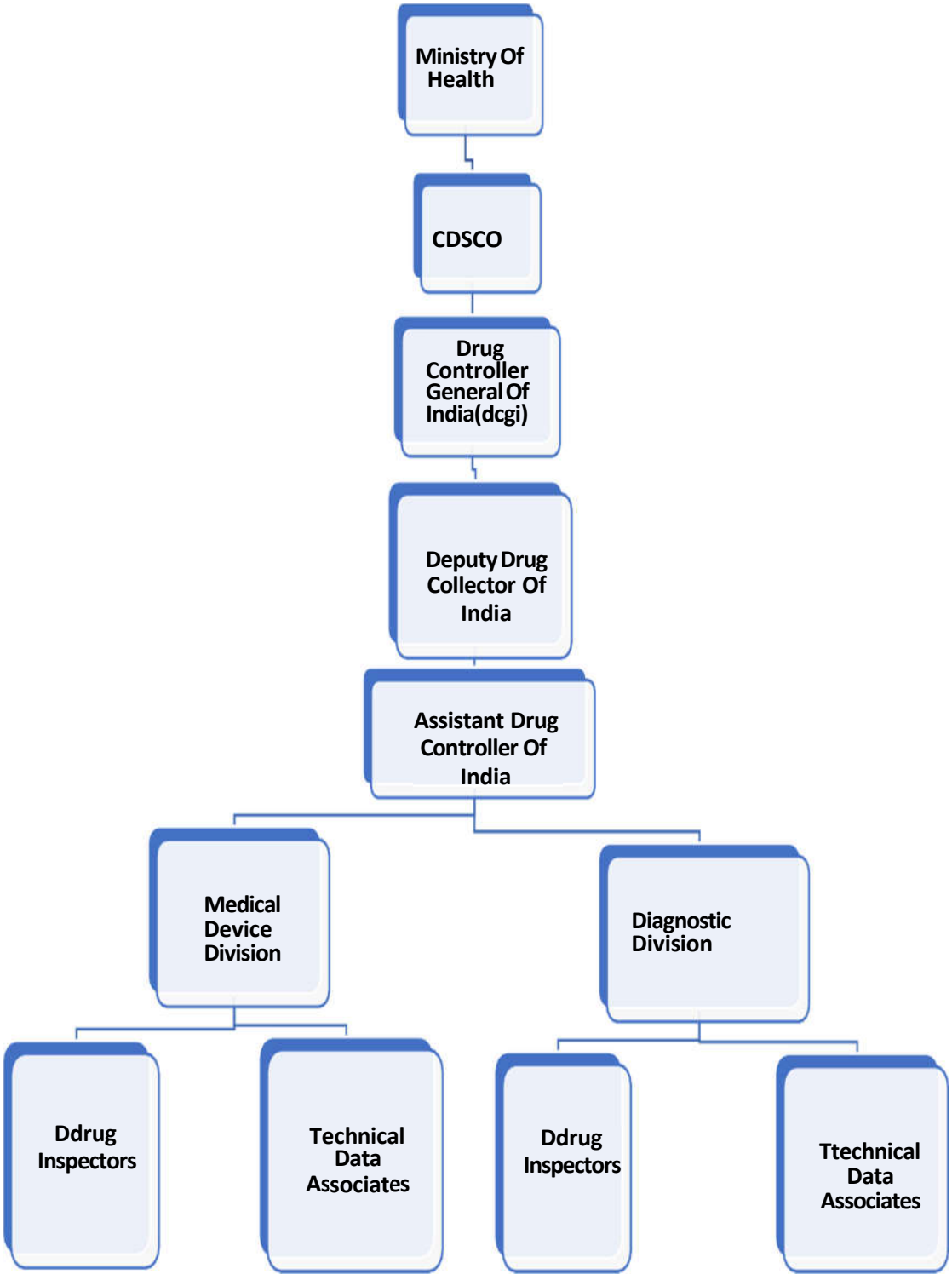
b. Wholesale drug licence

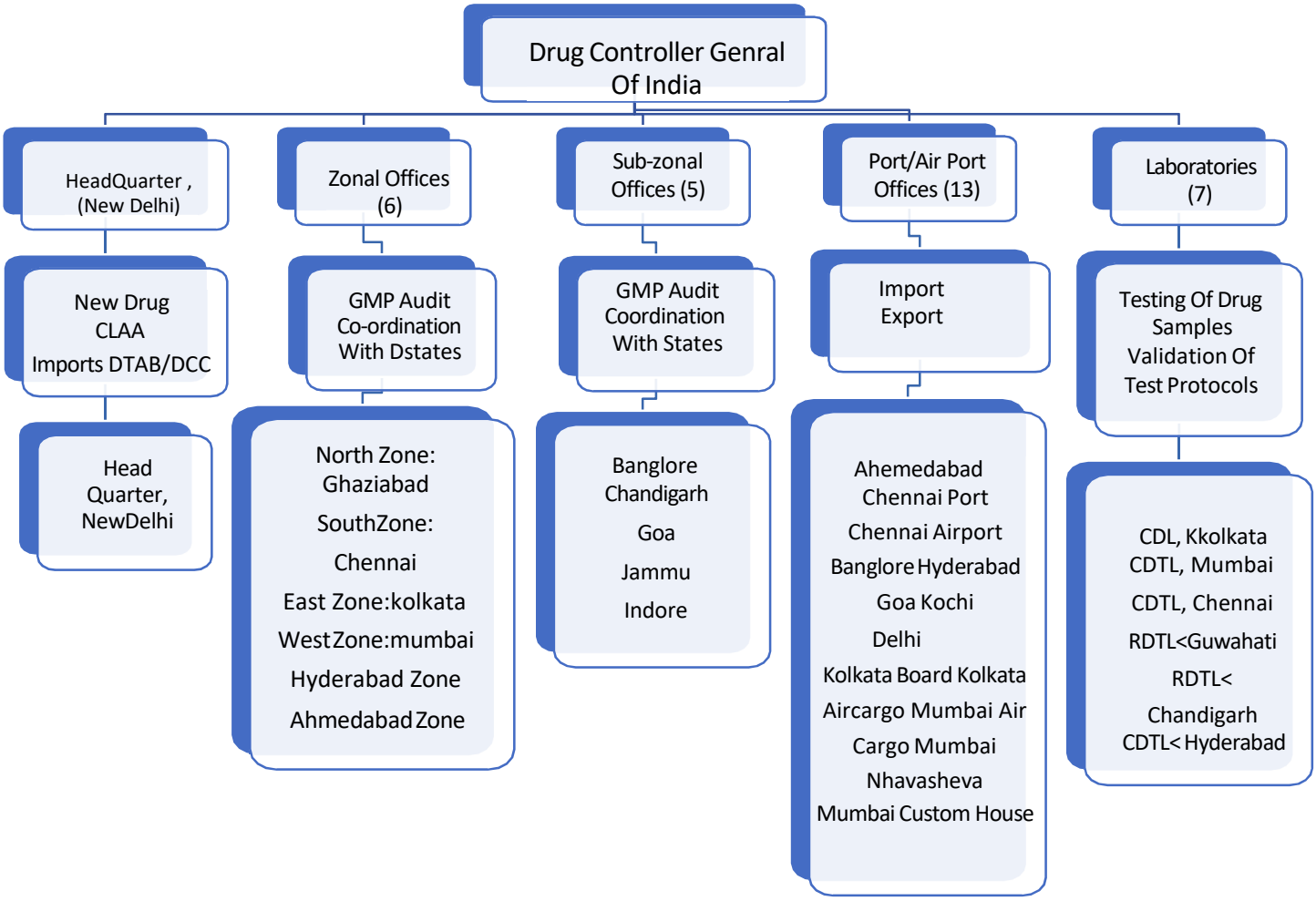
c. Restricted drug licence

3. Import drug licence

4. Loan drug licence

The Organization Of CDSCO[23].





Functions undertaken by the state authorities can be summarized as

i. Licensing of drug manufacturing and sales establishments

i. Licensing of drug testing laboratories.

i. Approval of drug formulations for manufacture.

iv. Monitoring of quality of Drugs & Cosmetics, manufactured byrespective state units and those marketed in the state.

v. Investigation and prosecution in respect of contravention of legal provisions.

vi Administrative actions.

vi Pre- and post- licensing inspection

v **i**. Recall of sub-standard drugs[22].

2. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

The **Therapeutic Goods Administration** (**TGA**) is the medicine and therapeutic regulatory agency of the Australian Government. As part of the Department of Health and Aged Care, the TGA regulates the quality, supply and advertising of medicines, pathology devices, medical devices, blood products and most other therapeutics. Any items that claim to have a therapeutic effect, are involved in the administration of medication, or are otherwise covered by the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, the Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990, or a ministerial order, must be approved by the TGA and registered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (13).

3. Health Canada

Health Canada (**HC**; French: *Santé Canada, SC*) is the department of the Government of Canada responsible for national health policy. The department itself is also responsible for numerous federal health-related agencies, including the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), among others. These organizations help to ensure compliance with federal law in a variety of healthcare, agricultural, and pharmaceutical activities. This responsibility also involves extensive collaboration with various other federal- and provincial-level organizations in order to ensure the safety of food, health, and pharmaceutical products—including the regulation of health research and pharmaceutical manufacturing/testing facilities.

The department is responsible to Parliament through the minister of health—presently Mark Holland—as part of the federal health portfolio. The minister is assisted by the associate minister of health, and minister of mental health and addictions—presently Ya'ara Saks. The deputy minister of health, the senior most civil servant within the department, is responsible for the day-to-day leadership and operations of the department and reports directly to the minister[24].

4. Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care in the United Kingdom which is responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices work and are acceptably safe[24].

ICH Guidelines

The ICH topics are divided into the four categories below and ICH topic codes are assigned according to these categories

Quality Guidelines

Harmonisation achievements in the Quality area include pivotal milestones such as the conduct of stability studies, defining relevant thresholds for impurities testing and a more flexible approach to pharmaceutical quality based on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) risk management.

Safety Guidelines

ICH has produced a comprehensive set of safety Guidelines to uncover potential risks like carcinogenicity, genotoxicity and reprotoxicity. A recent breakthrough has been a non-clinical testing strategy for assessing the QT interval prolongation liability: the single most important cause of drug withdrawals in recent years.

Efficacy Guidelines

The work carried out by ICH under the Efficacy heading is concerned with the design, conduct, safety and and the use of pharmacogenetics/genomics techniques to produce better targeted medicines.

Multidisciplinary Guidelines

Those are the cross-cutting topics which do not fit uniquely into one of the Quality, Safety and Efficacy categories. It includes the ICH medical terminology (MedDRA), the Common Technical Document (CTD) and the development of Electronic Standards for the Transfer of Regulatory Information (ESTRI) [25].

CTD TRIANGLE

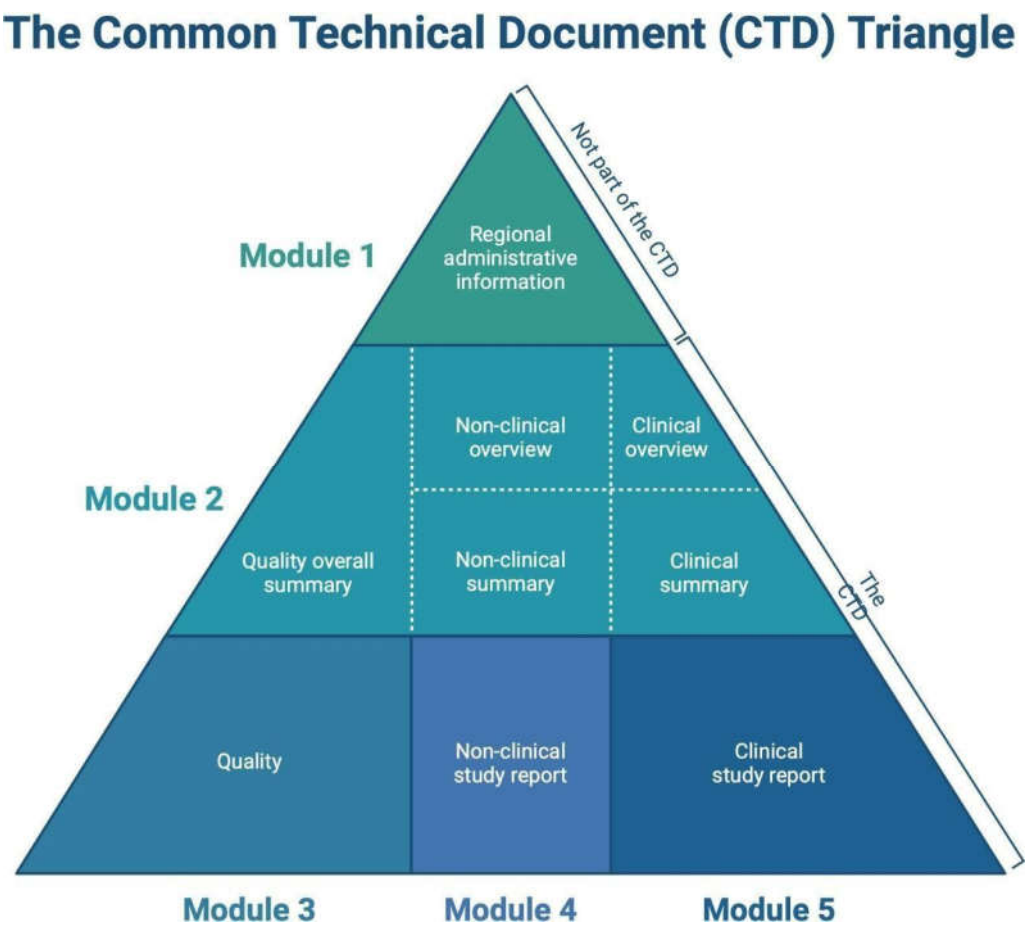


Fig 4:CTD TRIANGLE[26]

- Module 1: Administrative information and prescribing information for Australia

Module 2: Common technical document summaries

- Module 3: Quality
- Module 4: Safety(nonclinical studyreports)
- Module 5: Efficacy(clinical studyreports)[26].

Regulatory Affairs In Research & Development

The regulatory affairs personnel work hand in hand with marketing and R&D to develop, innovative products that take advantage of new technological and regulatory developments to accelerate time to market. With new products expected to add significant revenues to the

bottom lines, small decreases in time to market equate to large material gains in revenue and profit. Employing adaptive clinical trial strategies, obtaining quick approval from regulatory authorities and avoiding pitfalls in processes can accelerate development of new products and help to reduce costly errors and time lags. (6)

Regulatory Affairs In Clinical Trials

The RA professional is the primary link between the company and worldwide regulatory agencies such as US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA & Center for Devices and Radiological Health) Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, United Kingdom (UKMCA), Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia European Medicines Agency, Organization of Economic Collaboration and Development (OECD) and Health Canada. He also communicates and interprets the seemingly endless mace of laws, regulations and guidelines to the other departments of the company. The RA personnel develops strategies to overcome delays and presents finding of clinical trials to the regulatory bodies so as to get quick clearance thus reducing the time for approval of new molecules. At its core, the RA professional facilitates the collection, analysis and communication about the risks and benefits of health products to the regulatory agencies, medical and health systems and the public. Operationally RA is responsible for assuring that government obligation, market driven demands and evolving scientific[27].

Regulatory Affair Profession

It takes many years for bringing a new drug to the market; it is therefore essential that the process should be managed effectively from beginning to end in order to meet the regulatory requirements and permit a favorable evaluation of Quality, efficacy and safety in the shortest possible time.[6] The drug regulatory affairs (DRA) professional plays an important role in each phase of this process, from developing effective regulatory strategies following the discovery of a new molecule up to the planning post-marketing activities.

The main role of the DRA professional within a pharmaceutical Industry is to secure approval of drug submissions from Health Therapeutic Products Program and to ensure regulatory compliance of marketed and investigational drugs with the Food and Drug Act and Regulations and Guidelines/Policies.

For this position, the DRA professional must possess a proficient scientific background and have a thorough knowledge of Domestic regulations as well as international regulations. Because the regulatory environment is evolving rapidly toward global harmonization (several ICH guidelines have now been adopted by TPP) and mutual recognition between different health authorities across the world, it is a major challenge for the DRA professional to keep abreast of policy changes and determine how these changes affect the approval process. Consequently, the importance of DRA in the development and approval of new drugs has increased significantly over the last decade.

Challenges to regulatory affairs profession

Regulatoryaffairs include complete dynamics

- Multi –dimensional
- Knowledge in science and technology
- Prolific communication skill
- Dealwith people with diverse background, skills, culture, and personalities

Deal with conflicting loyalties, motivations, social and ethicals, responsibilities Case in point submission of a dossier During submission of a dossier a regulatory affair would be

- Guided by various regulatoryguidance

Receiving input from various department within the firm about process capabilities and product attribute specification

- Receiving advice frompeers about easywayto get approvals
- Receiving motivation from the management through incentives for achieving speedy approvals[28].

IMPORTANCE OF REGULATORY AFFAIR

In today's competitive environment the reduction of the time taken to reach the market is critical to a product's and hence the company's success. The proper conduct of its Regulatory Affairs activities is therefore of considerable economic importance for the company. A new drug may have cost many millions of Euros or dollars, pounds, to develop and even a three-month delay in bringing it to the market has considerable financial considerations. Even worse, failures to fully report all the available data or the release product bearing incorrect labeling, may easily result in the need for a product recall. Either occurrence may lead to the loss of several millions of units of sales, not to mention the resulting reduction in confidence of the investors, health professionals and patients. The Regulatory Affairs department is very often the first point of contact between the government authorities and the company.

Objectives of The Regulatory Affairs

The present study describes a brief review of various regulatory bodies of major developed and developing countries around the world and the scope and challenges of such pharmaceutical regulatory organizations in delivery of safe and effective healthcare products. The main objective of regulatory affairs is to provide the basis for the assurance of high quality of food products which can increase consumer's interest for ensuring the efficacy, quality, and safety.

1. Roles of Regulatory Affairs Professional in Health Authorities as well as Pharmaceutical Industry.
2. Pharmaceutical Legislations.
3. Clinical Trials.
4. Roles of Regulatory Affairs Professional in Health Authorities as well as Pharmaceutical Industry.

5. Regulatory Affairs Network in Pharmaceutical Industry.
6. Indian Pharmaceutical Industry& Drug Regulations development in different Era.
7. Major Rules and Act of India.
8. Drug Regulatory Affairs and Global, Regional and National Regulatory Network.

Scope of Regulatory Affairs professional in industries

Regulatory affairs professionals are employed in industry, government regulatory authorities and academics. The wide range of regulatory professionals includes in these areas

- Pharmaceuticals
- Medical devices
- In-vitro diagnostics
- Biologics and biotechnology
- Nutritional Products
- Cosmetics
- Veterinary Products[28].

Recent developments

Beginning of the 1980 the European Union erupted to systematized the regulation of healthcare products in the member states. The postulation of regulating medicines was genuine in most member countries besides indistinguishable rules to the US model, but many countries did not have at all notable medical device regulation. Co existently the EU had been evolving the notion of New Approach Directives where at most extensive notion were registered into the law and the large amplitude ofthe technological allocate authorized to abidance with acceptable standards (which are more easily upgradable).

Future developments

In the Regulatory Affairs Profession count on the make overtures to regulation will ultimately be acquired for all healthcare products as it constitutes the best model for delivering new healthcare proceeds to market in a appropriate time with justifiable safety. Regulatory Affairs

departments are enlarging within the bounds companies. Due to the changing assets it is essential to attain the regulatory necessities, some companies also go for to redistribute or out task regulatory affairs to exterior amenity supplier. Regulatory Affairs department is persistently extending and enlarging and is the one which is slightly influenced during the investment and alliance, and besides throughout downturn. Global harmonization in excellence has led to reconcilable solicits in regulatory capitulation and hence its review.

Responsibilities

- The responsibilities of RA staff in extensive can be encapsulated into three
- Certify that their companies outline accompanied all of the regulations and legislations related to their business,
- Working with confederate, state and provincial regulatory agencies and staff on particular problems influencing their business.
- Counsel companies on the regulatory features and region that would influence their suggested activities.

Role Of Regulatory Affairs In Pharmaceutical Industries

Regulatory Affairs professionals provides tactical and practical guidance to R&D, Production, QC department etc. Just aid the drawn of the progress of a product, making main benefaction both together economically and scientifically to the triumph of a evolution scheme and company as a entirely. It takes time of about up to 15 years to evaluate and to put a new pharmaceutical product and many issues may stand up in the process of scientific progress and because of an altering regulatory habitat. Regulatory professionals help out the company to keep out of issues originated by immaterial documentation, unsuitable scientific reasoning or impoverished presentation of records. The roles of regulatory affairs professional is to act as cooperation with regulatory agencies

1. To audit on constantly changing constitution.
2. Adapted documents to regulatoryagencies.
3. To give tactical and practical advice to R&D, Production, QC Department.

4. Preparation of well ordered and Ensure fidelity and complaisance with all the applicable CGMP, ICH, GCP, GLP guidelines regulations and laws.

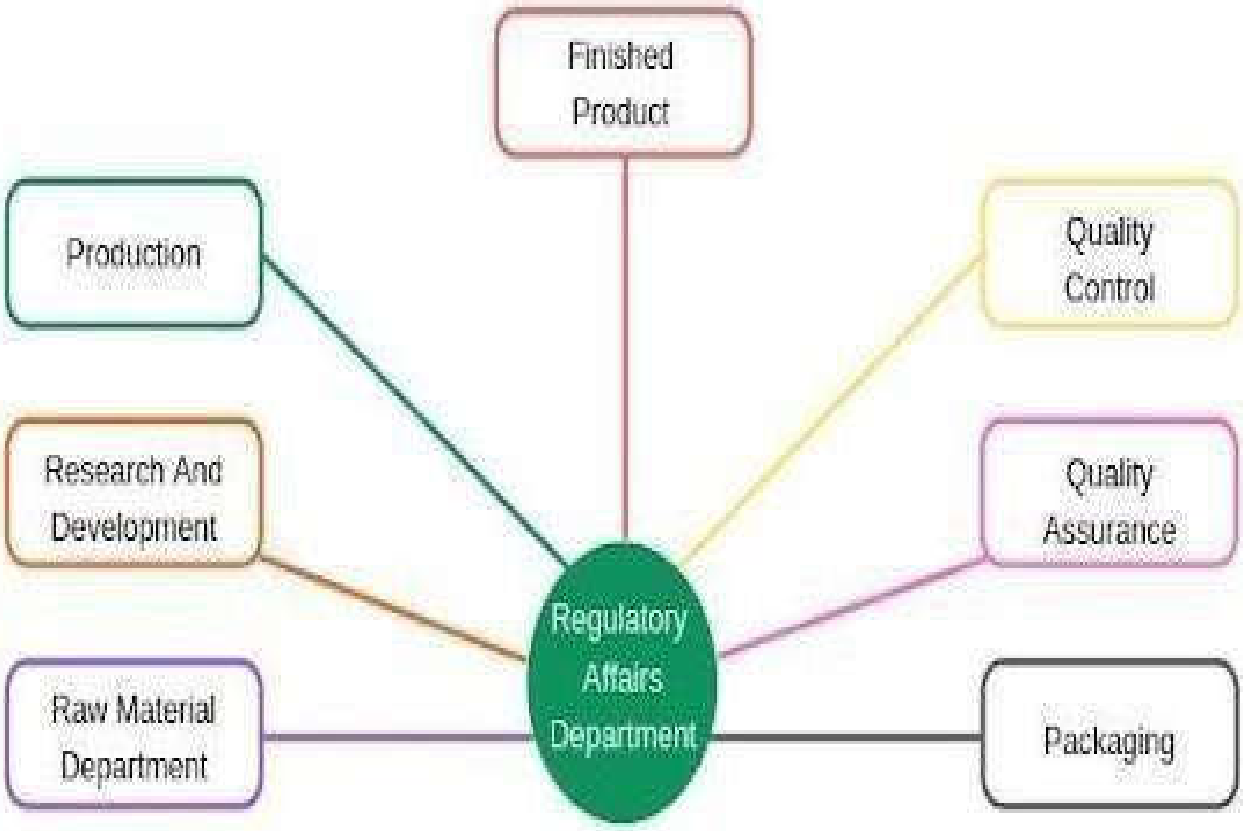
This department is responsible for knowing the regulatory requirements for getting new products approved. They know what commitments the company has made to the regulatory agencies where the product has been approved. They also submit annual reports and supplements to the agencies. Regulatory Affairs typically communicates with one of the Centers (e.g., Center for Drug Evaluation and Research) at the FDA headquarters, rather than the FDA local district offices. Gimps do not directly apply to Regulatory Affairs; however, they must understand and evaluate changes to drug manufacturing and testing activities to determine if and when the FDA must be notified. Regulatory Affairs is a comparatively new profession which has developed from the desire of governments to protect public health, by controlling the safety and efficacy of

products in areas including pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicines, medical devices, pesticides, agrochemicals, cosmetics and complementary medicine. The companies responsible for the discovery, testing, manufacture

and marketing of these products also want to ensure that they supply products that are safe and make a worthwhile contribution to public health and welfare. Regulatory Affairs professionals,

with their detailed knowledge of the regulations and guidelines, are frequently called in to advice on such matters[29].

Fig 5: Role of Regulatory Affairs in Pharmaceuticals[29]



Roles Of Regulatory Affairs In Product Management

The key role of RA professional is broader than registration of products, they advise companies both strategically and technically at the highest level. Their role begins right from development of a product to making, marketing and post marketing strategies. Their advice at all stages both in terms of legal and technical requirements help companies save a lot of time and money in developing the product and marketing the same. For countries that do not have their own regulations the World Health Organization guidelines on Istalth matters and World Trade Organization on trade regulations between nations.

The drug products are highly regulated channels compared to the others. These regulations are generally maintained and handled bythe regulatory bodies, these bodies generally give advice

on the product development based on the IND/NDA guidelines once after the approval process completes these bodies generally focus on the drug post market properties and also on the Pharmacovigilance[30] .

Product life cycle[30].

Careers in Regulatory Affairs

There is a wide variety of careers in the regulatory affairs field. Regulatory professionals carrytitles such as

- Regulatory affairs specialist
- Regulatoryaffairs manager
- Regulatory affairs director
- Compliance specialist
- Food safety inspector
- Clinical research associate
- Director of quality assurance

These regulatory professionals play a critical role in the development and distribution of medical technological advancements and disease-free food, improving people's health and welfare around the world[31].

Conclusion

Regulatory Affairs branch is usually evolving and developing and is the one that is least impacted in the course of the acquisition and merger, and also during the recession. Regulatory Affairs departments are developing inside organizations. due to the changing assets important to fulfil the regulatory requirements, a few organizations additionally select to outsource or out assignment regulatory affairs to external carrier providers. In nowadays aggressive surroundings, the reduction of the time taken to reach the market is essential to a product and as a result the enterprise's success. The right implementation of regulatory pointers and laws will enhance the economic increase of the organization and also improves the protection of the humans. RA is a dynamic, profitable subject that consists of each clinical and prison components of drug development. DRA experts are devoted folks who take satisfaction in their contribution to improving the fitness and pleasant of life of peoples. RA as career is broader than registration of merchandise, they advise organizations each strategically and technically at the highest level. Their function begins proper from improvement of a product to creating, advertising and marketing and submit marketing. Regulatory Affairs experts assist the agency avoid issues due to badly saved information, beside the point clinical questioning or many more. Many in the Regulatory Affairs profession trust the new technique to regulation will finally be followed for all healthcare products as it represents the great version for turning in new healthcare advances to marketplace in an inexpensive time with suitable protect.

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