



Patient-Focused  
Drug Development



**U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION**

# Externally-led Patient-Focused Drug Development Meetings

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**CDER and You: Keys to  
Effective Engagement**

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Patient-focused drug development (PFDD) is a systematic approach to help ensure that patients' experiences, perspectives, needs, and priorities are captured and meaningfully incorporated into drug development and evaluation.



PATIENT-FOCUSED  
DRUG DEVELOPMENT

# Externally-led PFDD: The Opportunity



- Patient organizations identify and organize **patient-focused collaborations** to generate public input on specific disease areas
- PFDD meetings provide an important opportunity to **hear directly from patients**, patient advocates, and caregivers about the symptoms that matter most to them, the impact the disease has on patients' daily lives, and patients' experiences with currently available treatments.
- While FDA will be open to participating in a well-designed and well-conducted meeting, an externally-led PFDD meeting and any resulting products (e.g., surveys or reports) will **not be considered FDA-sponsored or FDA-endorsed**.

# Planning a PFDD meeting

## KEY PARTICIPANTS:

Patients, patient representatives,  
patient advocates

## TARGET AUDIENCE (LISTENING MODE):

Regulatory/other federal  
agencies, medical product  
developers, researchers,  
healthcare professionals

## DO NOT HAVE TO BE STANDALONE MEETINGS:

Consider incorporating PFDD-style  
sessions in annual conferences,  
scientific workshops, etc.

## FDA-led meetings can serve as a model:

- Target disease areas where there is an identified need for patient input on topics related to drug development
- Main discussion topics: (1) Symptoms and daily impacts that matter most to patients and (2) current approaches to treatment
- Facilitator-led large group discussion, interactive webcast, discussion aids (e.g., polling tools)
- Meeting deliverables: Web recording, transcript, summary report

# Key Considerations



Submit a letter of intent to CDER's Office of Strategic Programs. Our team is here to **serve as a helpful resource** to you.



While we truly understand the effort it takes to plan a PFDD meeting, it can be done **without being resource intensive!**



The key to an insightful, robust, and informative PFDD meeting is **active community outreach** to ensure a representative group of patient perspectives in the room.



We must be **respectful of the time of patients** and their caregivers.

# Meetings Strengthen Understanding of Disease and Treatment Burden

## Patient input from meetings can support FDA staff:

- In conducting benefit-risk assessments for products under review, by informing the therapeutic context
- Advising drug sponsors on their development programs

## It might also support drug development more broadly:

- Identify areas of unmet need in the patient population
- Identify or develop tools that assess benefit of potential therapies
- Raise awareness and channel engagement within the patient community

## Meeting summary reports capturing patient experience data may be shared on FDA's website:

- FDA's [External Resources or Information Related to Patients' Experience](#) webpage provides links to certain publicly available external reports and resources.






# External Resources or Information Related to Patients' Experience

This webpage is intended to facilitate public discussion of patient-focused drug development and evaluation. This webpage provides links to certain publicly available external reports and resources relating to patient experience data. The patient community, patient advocates, researchers, drug developers, and federal agencies may find these materials useful.

**Please note that although FDA reviews the materials at these links before posting them to ensure that the materials are within the scope of the webpage, FDA does not assess their scientific merit or compliance with regulatory requirements. Our decision to post links to these materials does not reflect an endorsement of their authors, sponsors, or content.**

For more information regarding what types of resources may be included on this webpage, how to submit a publicly available website link to FDA, and other general questions, please review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). We request that links include a [cover page](#) or similar opening statement as part of their report or resource to provide information about the authors, funding, and related information. For specific questions related to a report or resource, FDA recommends reaching out to the point of contact listed on this cover page.

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## Externally-led PFDD Meeting Reports or Other Stakeholder Meeting Reports

To help expand the benefits of FDA's [Patient-Focused Drug Development \(PFDD\) initiative](#), FDA [welcomes patient organizations](#) to identify and organize patient-focused collaborations to generate public input on other disease areas. Submitted links to summary meeting reports from these [externally-led PFDD](#) meetings may be found here. FDA also welcomes submission of links to meeting reports from other stakeholder meetings collecting patient perspectives on disease burden and treatment burden.

- [Amyloidosis](#)  
In November 2015, the Amyloidosis Research Consortium hosted an externally-led Patient-Focused Drug Development meeting to hear directly from individuals living with systemic amyloidosis and their loved ones on the impact of amyloidosis on their daily lives, and their perspectives on approaches to treating amyloidosis.
- [Friedreich's Ataxia](#)  
In June 2017, the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance hosted an externally-led Patient-Focused Drug Development meeting to hear directly from individuals living with Friedreich's Ataxia and their loved ones on the impact of Friedreich's Ataxia on their daily lives, and their perspectives on approaches to treating Friedreich's Ataxia.
- [Tuberous Sclerosis Complex](#)  
In June 2017, the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance hosted an externally-led Patient-Focused Drug Development meeting to hear directly from individuals living with tuberous sclerosis complex and their loved ones on the impact of tuberous sclerosis complex on their daily lives, and their perspectives on approaches to treating tuberous sclerosis complex.

## Externally-led PFDD Meeting Reports or Other Stakeholder Meeting Reports

### Proposed Draft Guidance Relating to Patient Experience Data

### Natural History Studies or other Disease-specific Background on Condition and Discussion of Unmet Medical Need



## CDER's [Patient-Focused Drug Development Homepage](#)

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