



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

# FY 2020

**PERFORMANCE REPORT  
TO  
CONGRESS**

*for the*

***Generic Drug User Fee  
Amendments***

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## ***Commissioner's Report***

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I am pleased to present to Congress the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's or the Agency's) fiscal year (FY) 2020 performance report on the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments (GDUFA) program. This report details FDA's preliminary accomplishments in FY 2020 (October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020) and updates FDA's performance results for the previous fiscal year of GDUFA. This report covers the third year of the GDUFA reauthorization of 2017, also referred to as "GDUFA II."

With the reauthorization of the GDUFA program in 2017, FDA acquired additional performance goals and higher expectations for program enhancements and approvals. Subsequently, the Agency has implemented quality systems to improve the efficiency of the review process. FDA continues to employ innovative processes to ensure the approval of safe and effective generic products.

We are confident that the new processes introduced through GDUFA II and activities taken under [FDA's Drug Competition Action Plan](#)<sup>1</sup> will continue to help reduce review cycles, to improve approval times, and to boost competition, helping to ensure that safe, effective, high-quality generic drug products are available to the American public.

I am excited about FDA's significant progress in meeting the challenges and responsibilities of the generic drug program, especially with the unforeseen challenges and obstacles due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges of transitioning to a remote work environment, and with an increased workload due to the expedited development and review of generic drug products to help address the public health emergency, FDA rose to the challenge and maintained its high level of performance in meeting GDUFA's goals and initiatives.

I look forward to continued engagement with the generic drug industry, Congress, and other stakeholders.

Janet Woodcock, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs

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<sup>1</sup>[www.fda.gov/drugs/guidance-compliance-regulatory-information/fda-drug-competition-action-plan](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/guidance-compliance-regulatory-information/fda-drug-competition-action-plan)

## ***Acronyms***

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**ANDA** – Abbreviated New Drug Application  
**API** – Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient  
**BE** – Bioequivalence  
**CBER** – Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research  
**CDER** – Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
**CGMP** – Current Good Manufacturing Practice  
**CGT** – Competitive Generic Therapy  
**CR** – Complete Response  
**CRL** – Complete Response Letter  
**DMF** – Drug Master File  
**DRL** – Discipline Review Letter  
**eCTD** – Electronic Common Technical Document  
**EU** – European Union  
**FDA** – Food and Drug Administration  
**FD&C Act** – Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act  
**FDARA** – FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017  
**FDASIA** – Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act  
**FDF** – Finished Dosage Form  
**FTE** – Full-Time Equivalent  
**FY** – Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30)  
**GDUFA** – Generic Drug User Fee Amendments  
**GDUFA I** – Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012  
**GDUFA II** – Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2017  
**IA** – Import Alert  
**IR** – Information Request  
**IT** – Information Technology  
**MAPP** – Manual of Policies and Procedures  
**MDI** – Metered Dose Inhaler  
**MRA** – Mutual Recognition Agreement  
**NAI** – No Action Indicated  
**OAI** – Official Action Indicated

**OC** – Office of the Commissioner  
**OGD** – Office of Generic Drugs  
**ORA** – Office of Regulatory Affairs  
**PAI** – Pre-Approval Inspection  
**PAS** – Prior Approval Supplement  
**PBPK** – Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic  
**PD** – Pharmacodynamic  
**PFC** – Pre-Submission Facility Correspondence  
**PK** – Pharmacokinetic  
**PSG** – Product-Specific Guidance  
**RLD** – Reference Listed Drug  
**RPM** – Regulatory Project Manager  
**RTR** – Refuse to Receive  
**SBIA** – Small Business & Industry Assistance  
**TA** – Tentative Approval  
**USP** – United States Pharmacopeia  
**UL** – Untitled Letter  
**VAI** – Voluntary Action Indicated  
**WL** – Warning Letter

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## ***Executive Summary***

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On July 9, 2012, the President signed into law the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA),<sup>2</sup> which included the authorization of the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 (GDUFA I). GDUFA I authorized the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) to collect user fees for human generic drug activities and enabled FDA to advance a safer, more efficient, and more affordable human generic drug review program.

On August 18, 2017, the President signed into law the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (FDARA),<sup>3</sup> which included the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2017 (GDUFA II). FDA worked closely with the generic drug industry during the development of GDUFA II to enhance the success started under GDUFA I with two main areas of focus: (1) reducing the number of review cycles to approval and (2) increasing the number of approvals of safe, effective, high-quality, and lower-cost generic drugs.

This collaborative work included identifying opportunities for earlier and enhanced communications to support the efficient and effective pre-market review of generic drugs. This communication has been critical for FDA to meet the new, shorter review goals negotiated under GDUFA II for generic drug submissions that are public health priorities. These communication enhancements and shorter review goals are supported by an overall user fee structure that is consistent with FDA's anticipated workload and public health priorities.

Another key feature new in GDUFA II is the pre-abbreviated new drug application (pre-ANDA) program, which has strengthened and diversified the pipeline of generic drug applications with a robust development pathway that includes support to developers of complex generic drug products. The pre-ANDA program features Product Development, Pre-Submission, and Mid-Review Cycle meetings that provide clarity around regulatory expectations for prospective applicants early in the generic product development cycle and assist with the development of more complete application submissions, with the ultimate goal of reducing a generic product's time in the pipeline from concept, to development, to market.

As described in this report, these and many other elements of the GDUFA II program have produced success for the generic drug program but, more importantly, the American patient. This annual report presents preliminary data on FDA's success in meeting fiscal year (FY) 2020 review goals and commitments for GDUFA II and updates the data for FY 2019.

### **Highlighted Achievements – FY 2020**

In FY 2020, FDA experienced the unexpected onset of a public health emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a shift to 100 percent virtual work for the majority of Agency staff. The

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<sup>2</sup> [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ144/pdf/PLAW-112publ144.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ144/pdf/PLAW-112publ144.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> [www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ52/PLAW-115publ52.pdf](http://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ52/PLAW-115publ52.pdf).

Agency appropriately shifted resources to prioritize work focused on addressing the pandemic. Despite this, FDA managed to meet the FY 2020 review performance goals. Highlights of these activities are provided below.

*Generic Drug Assessment and Approval Activity Highlights:*

In FY 2020, FDA approved 737 abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs)<sup>4</sup> and tentatively approved 172 ANDAs.

A critically important subset of these generic drug approvals is the category of *first generics*.

First generics provide access to needed therapies that treat a wide range of medical conditions and for which little or no competition has previously existed. First generic approvals are particularly important to public health, and FDA prioritizes the review of first generic submissions.

Significant first generic approvals for FY 2020 include fingolimod capsules (reference listed drug (RLD)<sup>5</sup> is Gilenya), apixaban tablets (RLD is Eliquis), and an albuterol sulfate inhalation aerosol (RLD is Proventil HFA). A list of all first-time generic approvals for each calendar year is posted on [FDA's first generic drug approvals website](#).<sup>6</sup>

FDA also is increasing the number of approvals of products for which there is insufficient generic drug competition under the competitive generic therapy (CGT) process established in FDARA. In this process, FDA designates and expedites the development and review of ANDAs for drug products that meet the *CGT* definition. In March 2020, FDA finalized the guidance for industry *Competitive Generic Therapies*,<sup>7</sup> which details both the process an applicant can follow to request CGT designation and the Agency's criteria for designating a drug as a CGT, as well as other information about the important CGT pathway to generic drug approval. In January 2020, to provide transparency on these designations, FDA created a [web page listing all CGT approvals](#),<sup>8</sup> including exclusivity eligibility, and the corresponding dates of marketing and/or forfeiture of exclusivity.

In FY 2020, 24 generic drug products (in 20 ANDAs) were approved with CGT exclusivity, with an average time to market after approval of 6 days. The successful implementation of the CGT pathway demonstrates that it is efficient and effective at promoting competition from new generic drug products.

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<sup>4</sup> The definition of an *ANDA* can be found in Appendix A of the report.

<sup>5</sup> The definition of an *RLD* can be found in Appendix A of the report.

<sup>6</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-and-biologic-approval-and-ind-activity-reports/first-generic-drug-approvals](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-and-biologic-approval-and-ind-activity-reports/first-generic-drug-approvals).

<sup>7</sup> [www.fda.gov/media/136063/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/136063/download).

<sup>8</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/generic-drugs/competitive-generic-therapy-approvals](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/generic-drugs/competitive-generic-therapy-approvals).



Further, in FY 2020, despite the challenges of prioritizing COVID-19-related work, FDA managed to meet key performance goals, and by the end of November 2020, approved more than 40 original ANDAs and more than 600 supplements for products related to COVID-19.

#### *Pre-ANDA Program Highlights:*

GDUFA II's pre-ANDA program is showing strong signs of success. For example, during FY 2020, FDA facilitated 79 pre-ANDA meetings for prospective applicants, published 124 product-specific guidances (PSGs) for complex products, and addressed 1,399 controlled correspondence (CC) for complex products. Pre-ANDA program information is posted on [FDA's pre-ANDA program and complex generic products website](#).<sup>9</sup> Additional details on this important program are provided below in this report.

#### *Review Efficiency Highlights:*

Under GDUFA II, FDA committed to review and act on 90 percent of several submission types:

- FDA agreed to review and act on standard original ANDAs within 10 months of the date of ANDA submission (i.e., a 10-month goal date). As of September 30, 2020, FDA has met 98 percent of the FY 2020 goals for these applications.
- FDA agreed to review and act on priority original ANDA submissions with an 8-month goal date if the applicant submits a Pre-Submission Facility Correspondence (PFC) 2 months prior to the date of ANDA submission and the PFC is found to be complete and accurate and remains unchanged. As of September 30, 2020, FDA has met 93 percent of the FY 2020 goals for these applications.
- FDA agreed to review and act on standard prior approval supplements (PASs) within 6 months of the date of submission if no inspection is needed (i.e., a 6-month goal date). As of September 30, 2020, FDA has met 99 percent of the FY 2020 goals for these applications.

In addition, to improve the predictability, transparency, and efficiency of the review process, as well as to minimize the number of review cycles leading to approval, FDA agreed in GDUFA II to issue communications related to preliminary thoughts on possible ANDA deficiencies (i.e., discipline review letters (DRLs)) and requests for further information or clarifications during the course of the review of original ANDAs. FDA continues to embrace these mechanisms and communicate extensively with industry. As of September 30, 2020, FDA issued 4,277 Information Requests (IRs) and 2,568 DRLs. These requests and letters detail important issues that need to be addressed by applicants before FDA can act on an application. These and other important

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<sup>9</sup> [www.fda.gov/industry/generic-drug-user-fee-amendments/pre-anda-program-complex-generic-products](http://www.fda.gov/industry/generic-drug-user-fee-amendments/pre-anda-program-complex-generic-products).

activities are posted on FDA's Generic Drugs Program Activities Report (FY 2020) Monthly Performance website.<sup>10</sup>

*ANDA Development and Review Support Activities Highlights:*

FDA's commitments under GDUFA II were not limited to direct ANDA assessment activities. For example, under GDUFA II, FDA committed to review and respond to 90 percent of all standard CC within 60 days of the date of submission and 90 percent of all complex CC within 120 days of the date of submission. FDA received 3,596 CCs during FY 2020, a number that has more than tripled since the beginning of GDUFA. Even with the substantial increase, as of September 30, 2020, FDA continues to exceed the GDUFA II goals with a 98 percent timely response rate for all standard CC and a 100 percent timely response rate for all complex CC.

FDA's efforts to increase review efficiency and thereby improve patient access to generic drugs also have been greatly enhanced by the Agency's publication of guidances for industry on important topics related to generic drug development and assessment. FDA publishes guidances to share the Agency's current thinking and recommendations to industry on specific topics, including generic drug development, pharmaceutical quality, regulatory review, and ANDA approval processes.

Timely recommendations from the Agency allow generic drug applicants to build those recommendations into their research and development programs, which helps them submit higher quality ANDAs. There are a variety of ways FDA makes its regulatory and scientific policies available to applicants and the general public, including:

- Regulatory guidances - These are available through [FDA's Guidance Documents database website](#).<sup>11</sup>
- Manuals of Policies and Procedures (MAPPs) – These describe internal Agency policies and procedures and are accessible to the public to help make the Agency's operations more transparent. MAPPs are available on [FDA's MAPP website](#).<sup>12</sup>

In FY 2020, FDA issued various policy documents, including several guidances for industry (not including PSGs), *Federal Register* notices, and MAPPs. In addition to these general guidances and other policy-related resources, FDA provided important scientific guidance and recommendations to give generic drug applicants better opportunities to efficiently develop generic drug products and to prepare more complete ANDAs. FDA developed these recommendations based on public health priorities, requests from industry, then-current and anticipated patient and industry needs, and scientific research.

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<sup>10</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/abbreviated-new-drug-application-anda/activities-report-generic-drugs-program-fy-2020-monthly-performance](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/abbreviated-new-drug-application-anda/activities-report-generic-drugs-program-fy-2020-monthly-performance).

<sup>11</sup> [www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents](http://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents).

<sup>12</sup> [www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder/cder-manual-policies-procedures-mapp](http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder/cder-manual-policies-procedures-mapp).

These recommendations are often described in PSGs.<sup>13</sup> In FY 2020, FDA issued 258 PSGs (124 for complex products). As of September 30, 2020, FDA had published approximately 1,900 PSGs on FDA's [Product-Specific Guidances for Generic Drug Development website](#).<sup>14</sup>

#### *GDUFA Science and Research Program Highlights:*

The GDUFA Science and Research Program is an integral part of the Agency's GDUFA commitments. The program helps advance the science of generic drugs by investigating scientific issues that are encountered during the review of regulatory submissions.

FDA consults with and solicits input from the public, industry, and academia to develop an annual list of the GDUFA regulatory science initiatives specific to research on generic drugs. In FY 2020, FDA awarded 11 new research contracts and 6 new grants<sup>15</sup> for innovative research projects on generic drugs. FDA also utilized its laboratories, personnel, and computer systems to conduct more than 52 GDUFA Science and Research projects. These projects are detailed in [FDA's FY 2019 GDUFA Science and Research Report website](#).<sup>16</sup> The report provides detailed results for 13 areas of focus, including research activities and comprehensive lists of grants and contracts that the GDUFA Science and Research Program awarded in FY 2019.

Ongoing [scientific research under GDUFA](#)<sup>17</sup> enables FDA to make recommendations that support appropriate science-based methodologies and evidence for the development of many generic drugs, including complex generics. FDA-supported GDUFA Science and Research generated more than 70 peer-reviewed scholarly articles, more than 100 external talks, and more than 60 posters that were exhibited at national and international scientific and medical conferences related to generic drugs. See the discussion of "Significant FY 2020 GDUFA Science and Research Accomplishments" in Appendix B of the report for examples of publications related to research.

#### *Regulatory and Scientific Outreach Activities Highlights:*

[FDA's FY 2019 GDUFA Science and Research Report web page](#)<sup>18</sup> lists all research outcomes for the previous fiscal year in one easily accessible place. It provides greater public transparency regarding the important work the generic drug program engages in to advance the science of generic drugs. This information is provided to generic drug developers, applicants,

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<sup>13</sup> PSGs provide the Agency's current thinking and expectations on how to develop generic drugs that are therapeutically equivalent to specific brand-name RLDs. PSGs are intended to help make industry's research and development decisions more efficient and cost effective by identifying the most appropriate methodology and evidence needed to support a specific generic drug's approval. PSGs also help applicants submit ANDAs with fewer deficiencies, which can lead to more first-cycle approvals.

<sup>14</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/guidances-drugs/product-specific-guidances-generic-drug-development](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/guidances-drugs/product-specific-guidances-generic-drug-development).

<sup>15</sup> See [www.fda.gov/media/143581/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/143581/download).

<sup>16</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/generic-drugs/fy2019-gdufa-science-and-research-report](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/generic-drugs/fy2019-gdufa-science-and-research-report).

<sup>17</sup> [www.fda.gov/media/132370/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/132370/download).

<sup>18</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/fy-2019-gdufa-science-and-research-outcomes](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/fy-2019-gdufa-science-and-research-outcomes).

and assessors, along with essential tools and information to help expedite the availability of safe, effective, and high-quality generic drugs. The web page provides information on GDUFA research supporting the following:

1. the development of generic drug products,
2. the generation of evidence needed to support the efficient review and timely approval of ANDAs, and
3. the evaluation of generic drug equivalence throughout a given fiscal year.

The FY 2021 generic drug regulatory science priority initiatives identified are grouped into the following topic areas:

- Topic A: Complex active ingredients, formulations, or dosage forms
- Topic B: Complex routes of delivery
- Topic C: Complex drug-device combinations
- Topic D: Tools and methodologies for bioequivalence and therapeutic equivalence evaluation

FDA engaged in significant outreach efforts to educate and inform industry participants and other stakeholders about GDUFA II and the generic drugs program. In FY 2020, FDA hosted several meetings and public workshops, including the following:

- The [Pharmaceutical Quality Symposium](#) (October 2019),<sup>19</sup> sponsored by the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality and the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research's (CDER's) Small Business and Industry Assistance (SBIA), covered the latest developments in pharmaceutical quality and provided case studies that illustrated the most effective ways to address quality issues and interact with the Agency. Over 2,000 attendees joined the symposium.
- The public meeting [Understanding How the Public Perceives and Values Pharmaceutical Quality](#) (February 2020)<sup>20</sup> was convened under a cooperative agreement between the Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy at Duke University and FDA. This meeting provided an opportunity to explore and better understand how stakeholders perceive and value the quality of pharmaceutical products, including generic drugs. Key FDA leadership and staff provided the Agency's current thinking and engaged with attendees.

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<sup>19</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/cder-small-business-industry-assistance-sbia/regulatory-education-industry-redirect-pharmaceutical-quality-symposium-oct-16-17-2019](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/cder-small-business-industry-assistance-sbia/regulatory-education-industry-redirect-pharmaceutical-quality-symposium-oct-16-17-2019).

<sup>20</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/understanding-how-public-perceives-and-values-pharmaceutical-quality-02032020-02032020](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/understanding-how-public-perceives-and-values-pharmaceutical-quality-02032020-02032020).

- The [2020 Generic Drug Forum](#) (April 2020),<sup>21</sup> sponsored by CDER's SBIA, was the 2020 annual meeting intended to provide information to help applicants achieve success and minimize common deficiencies in the development of generic drug applications. The virtual event, which featured presentations from FDA's Office of Generic Drugs and the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, had more than 2,600 attendees representing 77 countries.
- The [GDUFA Generic Drug Regulatory Science Initiatives Public Workshop](#) (May 2020)<sup>22</sup> solicited input from the public, industry, and academia to develop an annual list of science and research priorities for generic drugs that support PSG development, ANDA submission review, and the pre-ANDA program. This virtual workshop included new features such as the Industry Leaders' Roundtable and four consecutive breakout sessions on topics of interest, such as post-market surveillance of generic drugs and drug-device combination products. More than 500 attendees joined the workshop.
- The extended webinar [Pharmaceutical Quality for Global Stakeholders](#) (July 2020)<sup>23</sup> was sponsored by the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, SBIA, and FDA's India and China offices. In this era of globalization, engaging international stakeholders is essential to furthering the overall commitment to pharmaceutical quality. FDA hosted this first-of-its-kind, nighttime, online, interactive event to fall within the working day for international stakeholders in India and China. Nearly 800 attendees participated in this workshop from 31 countries, the majority from India and China, the location of many generic drug applicants.
- The [Advancing Innovative Science in Generic Drug Development Workshop](#) (September 2020)<sup>24</sup> – formerly known as the Complex Generic Drug Development Workshop – was a two-day, science-focused workshop intended to help the generic industry, scientists, researchers, and regulatory affairs professionals pave a clear scientific pathway for generic drug development by linking GDUFA science and research on complex products and complex scientific issues to PSG development, by discussing pre-ANDA meetings and assessment, by examining various areas of the science behind generic drug development, and by focusing on common scientific issues and deficiencies seen in ANDAs. This virtual workshop had more than 1,800 attendees from more than 90 countries.

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<sup>21</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/regulatory-education-industry-redi-generic-drugs-forum-april-15-16-2020-04152020-04162020](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/regulatory-education-industry-redi-generic-drugs-forum-april-15-16-2020-04152020-04162020).

<sup>22</sup> [www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-meetings-conferences-and-workshops/fy-2020-generic-drug-regulatory-science-initiatives-public-workshop-05042020-05042020](http://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-meetings-conferences-and-workshops/fy-2020-generic-drug-regulatory-science-initiatives-public-workshop-05042020-05042020).

<sup>23</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/pharmaceutical-quality-webinar-global-stakeholders-07232020-07232020](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/news-events-human-drugs/pharmaceutical-quality-webinar-global-stakeholders-07232020-07232020).

<sup>24</sup> [www.fda.gov/drugs/regulatory-education-industry-advancing-innovative-science-generic-drug-development-workshop](http://www.fda.gov/drugs/regulatory-education-industry-advancing-innovative-science-generic-drug-development-workshop).

These and the many additional activities described in this report demonstrate that the generic drug program under GDUFA II is as strong as it has ever been and that FDA is fully committed to maximizing its success to help ensure that safe, effective, high-quality generic drug products are available to the American public.

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## Introduction

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Millions of Americans use generic drugs to treat a wide variety of medical conditions.<sup>25</sup> FDA helps ensure that human generic drug products are thoroughly tested and shown to meet the statutory standards for approval, generally with evidence that these products contain the same active ingredients, route of administration, labeling, strength, and dosage form; are bioequivalent, e.g., deliver the same amount of active ingredients to the site of action; and maintain the same strict adherence to good manufacturing practice regulations as their brand-name counterparts.<sup>26</sup>

The Generic Drug User Fee Amendments (GDUFA) authorize FDA to collect user fees to support human generic drug activities.

Since the implementation of GDUFA in FY 2012 (GDUFA I), FDA has met or exceeded a majority of its goals while maintaining its high standards for generic drug products regarding safety, efficacy, and quality. GDUFA has provided the mechanism necessary to secure the resources needed to gain efficiencies, promote innovation, and enhance the overall generic drug review process.

On August 18, 2017, the President signed the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (FDARA) (Public Law 115-52)<sup>27</sup> into law, which included the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2017 (GDUFA II). Under GDUFA II, FDA is continuing to modernize the generic drug program by improving its efficiency, quality, and predictability. GDUFA II provides an opportunity for generic drug applications that are public health priorities to receive a shorter review goal date. For example, FDA may grant requests for priority review for applications for drug products that are not blocked by patents or market exclusivities if there are not more than three FDA-approved applications for such drug products. This policy supports competition for drug products with limited competition.

GDUFA II also includes increased communications and collaborations between FDA and industry to help improve the quality of submissions and identify, earlier in the process, potential issues that could impact approval of an application. For example, under GDUFA II, FDA issues information requests (IRs) or discipline review letters (DRLs) during the review of an original abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) (1) when further information or clarification is needed or would be helpful to allow completion of a discipline review or (2) to convey preliminary thoughts on possible deficiencies, respectively. These tools allow applicants to address some issues within the original

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<sup>25</sup> According to a report compiled by the Association for Accessible Medicines that was primarily based on data from IQVIA, generic drugs saved the American health care system almost \$2.2 trillion over the 10-year period from 2010 through 2020—with over \$313 billion saved in 2019 alone. The report is available at [accessiblemeds.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/AAM-2020-Generics-Biosimilars-Access-Savings-Report-US-Web.pdf](https://www.accessiblemeds.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/AAM-2020-Generics-Biosimilars-Access-Savings-Report-US-Web.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> Some generic drugs are permitted, after the grant of a suitability petition, to deviate in minor ways from the innovator they copy. See section 505(j)(2)(C) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

<sup>27</sup> [www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ52/PLAW-115publ52.pdf](https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ52/PLAW-115publ52.pdf).

review cycle so that approval or tentative approval (TA) within the first cycle will be more achievable.

GDUFA II also introduced a pre-ANDA program designed to support the development of complex generic drug products, which features Product Development, Pre-Submission, and Mid-Review Cycle Meetings to help clarify regulatory expectations early in product development and during application review.

Under GDUFA II, FDA is also taking steps to foster the earlier development of guidance, including product-specific guidances (PSGs), which are intended to share the Agency's thoughts on key aspects that should be addressed in related ANDA submissions. Providing timely guidance to generic drug developers allows the applicants to build the Agency's recommendations into their research and development programs and helps them submit higher quality ANDAs. This results in fewer deficiencies in applications submitted to FDA, which should lead to more first cycle approvals.

## **Performance Presented in This Report**

GDUFA commitments cover a wide range of improvements, including enhancing communications between FDA and industry throughout the review process, enhancing communications regarding inspections of facilities and sites, improving predictability and transparency, promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of the review process, enhancing drug master file (DMF) reviews, enhancing accountability and reporting, and advancing regulatory science initiatives. This report details FDA's preliminary performance results in the third year of GDUFA II and presents the Agency's progress in accomplishing the FY 2019 program goals and enhancements of GDUFA II. Unless otherwise noted, all preliminary data for FY 2020 are as of September 30, 2020.

The information below provides some key terms and concepts used in this report.

- FDA will annually report GDUFA performance data for each fiscal year receipt cohort (defined as submissions received from October 1 to September 30). Some submissions received in FY 2019 may have associated goals in the subsequent fiscal year. In these cases, FDA's performance will be reported in the subsequent fiscal year.
- As part of GDUFA II, FDA committed to "continue to work through the goal date if, in FDA's judgment, continued work would likely result in an imminent TA that could prevent forfeiture of 180-day exclusivity or in an imminent approval" (section II(B)(6) of the GDUFA Reauthorization Performance Goals and Program Enhancements Fiscal Years 2018-2022 (GDUFA II Commitment Letter)).<sup>28</sup> There have been numerous instances in which the Agency worked past a goal date rather than issuing a complete response letter (CRL) by the goal date to resolve outstanding issues with the ANDA and issued an approval or TA. As a result of these efforts under this program enhancement commitment, FDA has

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<sup>28</sup> [www.fda.gov/media/101052/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/101052/download).

- reduced the number of review cycles necessary for approval of these applications and facilitated more timely access to generic drug products.
- For a review goal to be met, FDA must review the specified percentage of submissions within the review goal. For example, in FY 2020, to meet the goal for standard original ANDAs, FDA must review and act on 90 percent of them within 10 months.
- To “act on an application” means that FDA will issue a CRL, an approval letter, a TA letter, or a refuse to receive (RTR) letter.
- Submission types with shorter review goals (e.g., standard and priority minor ANDA amendments with 3-month goal dates) tend to have a larger percentage of reviews completed by the end of the fiscal year, and their preliminary performance is a more reliable indicator of their final performance. However, submission types (e.g., standard original ANDA submissions) with longer review goals (e.g., a 10-month goal date in FY 2020) tend to have a smaller percentage of reviews completed by the end of the fiscal year, and their preliminary performance is a less reliable indicator of their final performance.

Definitions of key terms used throughout this report can be found in [Appendix A](#) of this report.

## ***GDUFA II Workload***

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The table below summarizes the GDUFA II workload for FYs 2018 and 2019 and presents preliminary workload data for FY 2020.

<b>GDUFA II Workload</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019*</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
<b>Original ANDAs</b>			
Total Original ANDAs Submitted	1,044	911	865
ANDAs Submitted After RTR for Failure to Pay User Fees	16	14	10
ANDAs Submitted After RTR for Technical Reasons	81	51	36
<b>ANDA Solicited Amendments</b>			
Total Solicited ANDA Amendments Submitted	2,330	2,275	2,028
<b>Prior Approval Supplements (PASs)</b>			
Total PAS Submissions	1,103	890	1,133
<b>PAS Solicited Amendments</b>			
Total Solicited PAS Amendments Submitted	160	199	268
<b>DMFs<sup>†</sup></b>			
Total DMFs Submitted	358	308	191
<b>Controlled Correspondence (CC)</b>			
Total CC Submitted	2,933	3,206	3,596

\* Numbers were revised to reflect updates to the data presented in the FY 2019 GDUFA Performance Report.

† DMF submissions include only DMFs for which the holder has paid fees. Thus, the number of DMF submissions in a fiscal year will keep increasing as fees get paid.

## ***GDUFA II Review Goals***

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Under GDUFA I, different cohorts and tiers of submissions had different goals. GDUFA II changed the review goal structure. In GDUFA II, most goal dates are measured against a 90 percent metric, and there are different review times for standard and priority ANDA submissions. This scheme not only streamlines the process but promotes more predictable timelines for actions.

### **FY 2020 Preliminary Performance**

The table below reflects the GDUFA II ANDA review goals for FYs 2018 to 2022.

<b>GDUFA II Review Goals by Submission Type</b>	<b>Review and Act on % Within</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>
<b>Original ANDA Review*</b>						
Standard Original ANDA Submissions	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Original ANDA Submissions (if applicant meets the requirements of a Pre-Submission Facility Correspondence (PFC))	8 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Original ANDA Submissions (if applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>Amendment Review</b>						
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection (PAI) is not required)	8 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is not required)	6 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Standard and Priority Minor ANDA Amendments	3 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>PAS Review Time†</b>						
Standard PAS (if PAI is not required)	6 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Standard PAS (if PAI is required)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority PAS (if PAI is not required)	4 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority PAS (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority PAS (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>PAS Amendments</b>						
Standard Major PAS Amendment (if PAI is not required)	6 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Standard Major PAS Amendment (if PAI is required)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Major PAS Amendment (if PAI is not required)	4 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Major PAS Amendment (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Priority Major PAS Amendment (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Standard and Priority Minor PAS Amendments	3 months	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>Unsolicited ANDA and PAS Amendments‡</b>						
Unsolicited ANDA and PAS Amendments§	Review and act on unsolicited ANDA amendments and PAS amendments by the later of the goal date for the original submission/solicited amendment or the goal date specifically assigned to the unsolicited amendment. An unsolicited amendment goal date is assigned in the same manner as the corresponding solicited amendment goal date.					

\* Section I(1) of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter.

† Section I(B) of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter.

‡ Section I(C) of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter.

§ The GDUFA II Commitment Letter specifies reporting unsolicited amendments submitted during the review cycle and unsolicited amendments submitted between review cycles separately. For efficient treatment of these amendments, they are combined in this report.



GDUFA II provides review goals for certain DMF commitments and CC. The table below reflects these review goals for FYs 2018 to 2022.

GDUFA II Goals by Commitment Type	Review-Time Goal	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>DMF</b>						
Complete the initial completeness assessment review of Type II Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) DMFs	Within 60 calendar days of the later of the date of DMF submission or DMF Fee payment	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>CC<sup>#</sup></b>						
Standard CC	Within 60 calendar days of submission date	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Complex CC	Within 120 calendar days of submission date	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Submitter requests to clarify ambiguities in the CC	Within 14 calendar days of request receipt	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%

<sup>#</sup> For CC that raises an issue that relates to one or more pending citizen petitions, the 60- or 120-day time frame starts on the date FDA responds to the petition (if there is only one petition) or last pending petition.

The following tables represent FDA’s FY 2019 updated performance data and FY 2020 preliminary performance data. FDA continues to meet or exceed most of the review goals for the FY 2019 and 2020 cohorts. The “percent on time” column in the preliminary performance table for FY 2020 shows the percentage of submissions reviewed on time as of September 30, 2020, excluding action pending within the GDUFA review goal, and the “potential range” column shows the potential for meeting the FY 2020 GDUFA review goal.

Both tables also include two columns to reflect review metrics when FDA applied the GDUFA II Commitment Letter’s imminent approval program enhancement to qualifying ANDAs. In accordance with the GDUFA II Commitment Letter, FDA may continue to work through the goal date if, in FDA’s judgment, continued work would likely result in an imminent TA that could prevent forfeiture of 180-day exclusivity or in an imminent approval. These imminent approval performance numbers reflect FDA’s decision to achieve an approval or TA within 60 days of the goal date rather than to act on the goal date, e.g., issue a CRL.

<b>GDUFA FY 2019 Updated Review Goals by Submission Type</b>	<b>Review and Act on 90 % Within</b>	<b>Actions Complete<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>Percent on Time<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>Potential Range<sup>‡</sup></b>	<b>On Time Imminent Approval</b>	<b>Imminent Approval Potential Range</b>
<b>Original ANDA Review</b>						
Standard Original ANDA Submissions	10 months	598 of 609	97%	95% to 97%	99%	97% to 99%
Priority Original ANDA Submissions (if applicant meets requirements of a PFC)	8 months	40 of 40	98%	98% to 98%	98%	98% to 98%
Priority Original ANDA Submissions (if applicant does not meet requirements of a PFC)	10 months	255 of 260	98%	96% to 98%	98%	96% to 98%
<b>Amendment Review</b>						
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is not required)	8 months	837 of 842	97%	97% to 97%	99%	99% to 99%
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required)	10 months	44 of 45	100%	98% to 100%	100%	98% to 100%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is not required)	6 months	290 of 294	93%	93% to 93%	96%	96% to 96%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	---	---	---	---	---
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	14 of 14	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
Standard and Priority Minor ANDA Amendments	3 months	1084 of 1086	92%	92% to 92%	98%	98% to 98%
Unsolicited ANDA Amendments	Varies	697 of 703	94%	93% to 94%	---	---
<b>PAS Review Time</b>						
Standard PAS (if PAI is not required)	6 months	781 of 781	98%	98% to 98%	99%	99% to 99%
Standard PAS (if PAI is required)	10 months	34 of 34	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
Priority PAS (if PAI is not required)	4 months	68 of 68	99%	99% to 99%	99%	99% to 99%
Priority PAS (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	1 of 1	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
Priority PAS (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	6 of 6	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
<b>PAS Amendments</b>						
Standard Major PAS (if PAI is not required)	6 months	60 of 60	97%	97% to 97%	97%	97% to 97%
Standard Major PAS (if PAI is required)	10 months	2 of 2	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
Priority Major PAS (if PAI is not required)	4 months	15 of 15	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
Priority Major PASs (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	---	---	---	---	---
Priority Major PASs (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	1 of 1	100%	100% to 100%	100%	100% to 100%
Standard and Priority Minor PAS Amendments	3 months	119 of 119	96%	96% to 96%	97%	97% to 97%
Unsolicited PAS Amendments	Varies	14 of 14	100%	100% to 100%	---	---
<b>DMF</b>						
Complete the initial completeness assessment review of Type II API DMF	60 calendar days	454 of 454	93%	93% to 93%	---	---

GDUFA FY 2019 Updated Review Goals by Submission Type	Review and Act on 90 % Within	Actions Complete*	Percent on Time†	Potential Range‡	On Time Imminent Approval	Imminent Approval Potential Range
<b>CC</b>						
Standard CC	60 calendar days	2978 of 2994	99%	99% to 99%	---	---
Complex CC	120 calendar days	212 of 212	99%	99% to 99%	---	---
Clarification of Ambiguities in CC Response	14 calendar days	47 of 47	96%	96% to 96%	---	---

\* Actions completed include any action taken regardless of whether it met the review-time goal. Even though no new submissions have come in (in the cohort year), the size of the cohort increases as the goal type is assigned.

† "Percent on time" represents the current percentage of actions FDA completed within the review-time goal.

‡ "Range" represents the minimum (all pending become late) and maximum (all pending reviewed on time) performance.

<b>GDUFA FY 2020 Preliminary Review Goals by Submission Type</b>	<b>Review Time Goal</b>	<b>Actions Complete *</b>	<b>Percent on Time †</b>	<b>Potential Range ‡</b>	<b>On Time Imminent Approval</b>	<b>Imminent Approval Potential Range</b>
<b>Original ANDA Review</b>						
Standard Original ANDA Submissions	10 months	127 of 608	98%	21% to 100%	100%	21% to 100%
Priority Original ANDA Submissions (if applicant meets requirements of a PFC)	8 months	14 of 32	93%	41% to 97%	93%	41% to 97%
Priority Original ANDA Submissions (if applicant does not meet requirements of a PFC)	10 months	20 of 106	100%	19% to 100%	100%	19% to 100%
<b>Amendment Review</b>						
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is not required)	8 months	304 of 976	95%	30% to 98%	99%	31% to 100%
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required)	10 months	4 of 27	100%	15% to 100%	100%	15% to 100%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is not required)	6 months	79 of 160	93%	48% to 96%	98%	49% to 99%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	0 of 1	---	0% to 100%	---	0% to 100%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	2 of 7	100%	29% to 100%	100%	29% to 100%
Standard and Priority Minor ANDA Amendments	3 months	643 of 850	93%	71% to 95%	99%	75% to 100%
Unsolicited ANDA Amendments	Varies	360 of 546	91%	62% to 94%	---	---
<b>PAS Review Time</b>						
Standard PAS (if PAI is not required)	6 months	569 of 948	99%	60% to 100%	100%	60% to 100%
Standard PAS (if PAI is required)	10 months	14 of 54	78%	26% to 93%	100%	26% to 100%
Priority PAS (if PAI is not required)	4 months	81 of 101	100%	80% to 100%	100%	80% to 100%
Priority PAS (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	---	---	---	---	---
Priority PAS (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	3 of 8	100%	38% to 100%	100%	38% to 100%
<b>PAS Amendments</b>						
Standard Major PAS (if PAI is not required)	6 months	54 of 98	94%	52% to 97%	98%	54% to 99%
Standard Major PAS (if PAI is required)	10 months	2 of 5	100%	40% to 100%	100%	40% to 100%
Priority Major PAS (if PAI is not required)	4 months	7 of 9	100%	78% to 100%	100%	78% to 100%
Priority Major PASs (if PAI is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	---	---	---	---	---
Priority Major PASs (if PAI is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	0 of 1	---	0% to 100%	---	0% to 100%
Standard and Priority Minor PAS Amendments	3 months	129 of 154	98%	82% to 98%	99%	83% to 99%

<b>GDUFA FY 2020 Preliminary Review Goals by Submission Type</b>	<b>Review Time Goal</b>	<b>Actions Complete *</b>	<b>Percent on Time†</b>	<b>Potential Range‡</b>	<b>On Time Imminent Approval</b>	<b>Imminent Approval Potential Range</b>
Unsolicited PAS Amendments	Varies	9 of 11	100%	82% to 100%	---	---
<b>DMF</b>						
Complete the Initial Completeness Assessment Review of Type II API DMF	60 calendar days	303 of 303	99%	99% to 99%	---	---
<b>CC</b>						
Standard CC	60 calendar days	2999 of 3466	98%	86% to 99%	---	---
Complex CC	120 calendar days	118 of 174	100%	68% to 100%	---	---
Clarification of Ambiguities in CC Response	14 calendar days	50 of 52	100%	96% to 100%	---	---

\* Actions completed include any action taken regardless of whether it met the review-time goal. Even though no new submissions have come in (in the cohort year), the size of the cohort increases as the goal type is assigned.

† "Percent on time" represents the current percentage of actions FDA completed within the review-time goal.

‡ "Range" represents the minimum (all pending become late) and maximum (all pending reviewed on time) performance.

## **GDUFA II ANDA Review Program Enhancement Goals**

Under GDUFA II, FDA committed to several program enhancement goals to improve predictability and transparency, promote efficiency and effectiveness of the review process, minimize the number of review cycles necessary for approval, increase the overall rate of approval, and facilitate greater access to generic drug products. The table below reflects these program enhancement goals for FYs 2018 to 2022.

	Goal	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
<b>Dispute Resolution</b>						
FDA will respond to appeals above the Division level	Within 30 calendar days of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research's (CDER's) receipt of the written appeal pursuant to the applicable goal	70%	80%	90%	90%	90%
<b>Product Development Meetings</b>						
FDA will grant or deny Product Development Meeting Requests	Within 30 calendar days from receipt of request	90%	90%	—	—	—
	Within 14 calendar days from receipt of request	—	—	90%	90%	90%
FDA will conduct Product Development Meetings granted	Within 120 calendar days of granting them	60%	70%	80%	90%	90%
Unless FDA is providing a written response to satisfy the meeting goal, FDA will aspire to provide preliminary written comments before each Product Development Meeting	5 calendar days before the meeting	-	-	-	-	-
FDA will provide meeting minutes	Within 30 calendar days following the meeting	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Pre-Submission Meetings</b>						
FDA will grant or deny Pre-Submission Meeting Requests	Within 30 calendar days from receipt of request	90%	90%	-	-	-
	Within 14 calendar days from receipt of request	-	-	90%	90%	90%
FDA will conduct Pre-Submission Meetings granted	Within 120 calendar days of granting them	60%	70%	80%	90%	90%
If appropriate to the purpose of the meeting, FDA will provide preliminary written comments	5 calendar days before each meeting	-	-	-	-	-
FDA will provide meeting minutes	Within 30 calendar days of the meeting	-	-	-	-	-
<b>DMF First Cycle Review Deficiency</b>						
FDA will strive to grant DMF first cycle review deficiency teleconferences	Within 30 calendar days	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Review Classification Changes During Review Cycle</b>						
FDA will notify the applicant if the review classification of the ANDA or PAS changes from standard to priority during a review cycle of an ANDA or PAS	Within 14 calendar days of the date of the change	-	-	-	-	-
FDA will notify the applicant if a previous ANDA or ANDA amendment was subject to priority review but a subsequent ANDA amendment is subject to a standard review	Within 14 calendar days of the date of receipt of the solicited amendment	-	-	-	-	-

	Goal	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
FDA will decide whether to reclassify a major amendment or standard review status	Within 30 calendar days of date of FDA's receipt of the request for a reclassification	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>Post-CRL</b>						
FDA will provide a scheduled date for a requested Post-CRL teleconference	Within 10 calendar days of the request for a teleconference	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
FDA will conduct requested Post-CRL teleconferences on the FDA-proposed date	Within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the written request	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
<b>Safety Determination Letters</b>						
FDA will issue safety determination letters	Within 60 calendar days of the date of submission of disclosure authorization	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%



## **Preliminary Performance – FY 2020**

The following tables represent FDA's FY 2019 updated and FY 2020 preliminary performance results on the GDUFA II program enhancement goals. Program enhancement goals differ from review goals in that "review goals" directly pertain to the review of a generic drug submission, whereas "program enhancement goals" are goals for activities that support generic drug review and approval in general. For example, one of FDA's review goals under GDUFA II is to review and act on 90 percent of standard original ANDAs within 10 months of the date of ANDA submission. The goals for Pre-Submission Meetings below are examples of program enhancement goals. Pre-Submission Meetings are not directly related to the review of a generic drug submission; however, it is important that FDA meet its Pre-Submission Meeting goals and other program enhancement goals to support efficient reviews and more generic drug approvals.

GDUFA II FY 2019 Updated Performance*	Review Goal	Goal	Actions Completed <sup>f</sup>	Percent on Time <sup>‡</sup>	Potential Range <sup>§</sup>
<b>Dispute Resolution</b>					
FDA will respond to appeals above the Division level	Within 30 calendar days of CDER's receipt of the written appeal pursuant to the applicable goal	80%	10 of 10	100%	100% to 100%
<b>Product Development Meetings</b>					
FDA will grant or deny Product Development Meeting Requests	Within 30 calendar days from receipt of request	90%	102 of 102	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will conduct Product Development Meetings granted	Within 120 calendar days of granting them	70%	71 of 71	99%	99% to 99%
Unless FDA is providing a written response to satisfy the meeting goal, FDA will aspire to provide preliminary written comments before each Product Development Meeting	5 calendar days before the meeting	-	48 of 48	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will provide meeting minutes	Within 30 calendar days following the meeting	-	34 of 34	100%	100% to 100%
<b>Pre-Submission Meetings</b>					
FDA will grant or deny Pre-Submission Meeting Requests	Within 30 calendar days from receipt of request	90%	10 of 10	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will conduct Pre-Submission Meetings granted	Within 120 days of granting them	70%	5 of 5	100%	100% to 100%
If appropriate to the purpose of the meeting, FDA will provide preliminary written comments	5 calendar days before each meeting	-	5 of 5	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will provide meeting minutes	Within 30 calendar days of the meeting	-	3 of 3	100%	100% to 100%
<b>DMF First Cycle Review Deficiency</b>					
FDA will strive to grant DMF first cycle review deficiency teleconferences	Within 30 calendar days	-	6 of 6	83%	83% to 83%
<b>Review Classification Changes During Review Cycle</b>					
FDA will notify the applicant if the review classification of the ANDA or PAS changes from standard to priority during a review cycle of an ANDA or PAS	Within 14 calendar days of the date of the change	-	35 of 35	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will notify the applicant if a previous ANDA or ANDA amendment was subject to priority review but a subsequent ANDA amendment is subject to a standard review	Within 14 calendar days of the date of receipt of the solicited amendment	-	214 of 214	93%	93% to 93%

<b>GDUFA II FY 2019 Updated Performance*</b>	<b>Review Goal</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions Completed<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Percent on Time<sup>‡</sup></b>	<b>Potential Range<sup>§</sup></b>
FDA will decide whether to reclassify a major amendment or standard review status	Within 30 calendar days of date of FDA's receipt of the request for a reclassification	90%	164 of 164	96%	96% to 96%
<b>Post-CRL</b>					
FDA will provide a scheduled date for a requested Post-CRL teleconference	Within 10 calendar days of the request for a teleconference	90%	67 of 67	81%	81% to 81%
FDA will conduct requested Post-CRL teleconferences on the FDA-proposed date	Within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the written request	90%	67 of 67	97%	97% to 97%
<b>Safety Determination Letters</b>					
FDA will issue safety determination letters	Within 60 calendar days of the date of submission of disclosure authorization	90%	3 of 3	67%	67% to 67%

\* Numbers were changed to reflect updates to data presented in the FY 2019 GDUFA Performance Report.

† Actions completed include any action taken regardless of whether it met the review-time goal.

‡ "Percent on time" represents the current percentage of actions FDA completed within the review-time goal.

§ "Range" represents the minimum (all pending become late) and maximum (all pending reviewed on time) performance.

<b>GDUFA II FY 2020 Preliminary Performance</b>	<b>Review Goal</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions* Completed</b>	<b>Percent on Time<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Potential Range<sup>‡</sup></b>
<b>Dispute Resolution</b>					
FDA will respond to appeals above the Division level	Within 30 calendar days of CDER's receipt of the written appeal pursuant to the applicable goal	90%	5 of 5	100%	100% to 100%
<b>Product Development Meetings</b>					
FDA will grant or deny Product Development Meeting Requests	Within 30 calendar days from receipt of request	-	99 of 99	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will conduct Product Development Meetings granted	Within 120 calendar days of granting them	90%	64 of 74	100%	86% to 100%
Unless FDA is providing a written response to satisfy the meeting goal, FDA will aspire to provide preliminary written comments before each Product Development Meeting	5 calendar days before the meeting	80%	35 of 48	100%	73% to 100%
FDA will provide meeting minutes	Within 30 calendar days following the meeting	-	13 of 22	92%	55% to 95%
<b>Pre-Submission Meetings</b>					
FDA will grant or deny Pre-Submission Meeting Requests	Within 14 calendar days from receipt of request	90%	2 of 2	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will conduct Pre-Submission Meetings granted	Within 120 days of granting them	80%	1 of 1	100%	100% to 100%
If appropriate to the purpose of the meeting, FDA will provide preliminary written comments	5 calendar days before each meeting	-	1 of 1	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will provide meeting minutes	Within 30 calendar days of the meeting	-	-	-	-
<b>DMF First Cycle Review Deficiency</b>					
FDA will strive to grant DMF first cycle review deficiency teleconferences	Within 30 calendar days	-	4 of 4	100%	100% to 100%
<b>Review Classification Changes During Review Cycle</b>					
FDA will notify the applicant if the review classification of the ANDA or PAS changes from standard to priority during a review cycle of an ANDA or PAS	Within 14 calendar days of the date of the change	-	118 of 118	100%	100% to 100%
FDA will notify the applicant if a previous ANDA or ANDA amendment was subject to priority review but a subsequent ANDA amendment is subject to a standard review	Within 14 calendar days of the date of receipt of the solicited amendment	-	184 of 184	97%	97% to 97%
FDA will decide whether to reclassify a major amendment or standard review status	Within 30 calendar days of date of FDA's receipt of the request for a reclassification	90%	91 of 95	100%	96% to 100%
<b>Post-CRL</b>					
FDA will provide a scheduled date for a requested Post-CRL teleconference	Within 10 calendar days of the request for a teleconference	90%	55 of 55	93%	93% to 93%
FDA will conduct requested Post-CRL teleconferences on the FDA-proposed date	Within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the written request	90%	52 of 55	94%	89% to 95%

GDUFA II FY 2020 Preliminary Performance	Review Goal	Goal	Actions* Completed	Percent on Time†	Potential Range‡
<b>Safety Determination Letters</b>					
FDA will issue safety determination letter	Within 60 calendar days of the date of submission of disclosure authorization	90%	3 of 3	100%	100% to 100%

\* Actions completed include any action taken regardless of whether it met the review-time goal.

† "Percent on time" represents the current percentage of actions FDA completed within the review-time goal.

‡ "Range" represents the minimum (all pending become late) and maximum (all pending reviewed on time) performance.

## ***Additional Activities to Promote Transparency and Enhance Communications***

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Under GDUFA, FDA committed to increasing transparency and communication between FDA and generic drug developers. In addition to the GDUFA II commitments outlined above, in FY 2020, FDA published many guidances for industry<sup>29</sup> and MAPPs<sup>30</sup> that provide important information for generic drug developers. These efforts support high-quality applications, streamlined application assessments, and ultimately can help facilitate faster generic drug approvals. In FY 2020, FDA published the following guidances for industry and MAPPs:

- Final guidance for industry: Competitive Generic Therapies, March 2020
- Final guidance for industry: Compliance Policy for the Quantity of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence Samples Retained Under 21 CFR 320.38(c), August 2020
- Final guidance for industry: Marketing Status Notifications Under Section 506l of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, August 2020
- Final guidance for industry: Amendments and Requests for Final Approval to Tentatively Approved ANDAs, September 2020
- Final guidance for industry: Control of Nitrosamine Impurities in Human Drugs, September 2020
- Draft guidance for industry: Assessing User Fees Under the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2017, October 2019
- Draft guidance for industry: Drug Master Files, October 2019
- Draft guidance for industry: Transdermal and Topical Delivery Systems - Product Development and Quality Considerations, November 2019
- Draft guidance for industry: Orange Book Questions and Answers, May 2020
- Draft guidance for industry: Failure to Respond to an ANDA Complete Response Letter Within the Regulatory Timeframe, September 2020
- MAPP 5240.3 Rev 5: Prioritization of the Review of Original ANDAs, Amendments, and Supplements, January 2020
- MAPP 5200.7 Rev 1: ANDA Amendments and Supplements Reviewed by the Division of Filing Review, April 2020
- MAPP 5220.2: Conversion of ANDA Approval to Tentative Approval Because of Court Order, June 2020
- MAPP 5241.2 Rev 1: Consolidation of ANDAs by the Office of Generic Drugs, August 2020
- MAPP 5242.1: Transfer of Ownership, August 2020

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<sup>29</sup> FDA guidances may be accessed at [www.fda.gov/regulatoryinformation/guidances/](http://www.fda.gov/regulatoryinformation/guidances/).

<sup>30</sup> These MAPPs may be accessed at [www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research/cder-manual-policies-procedures-mapp](http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research/cder-manual-policies-procedures-mapp).

## **Pre-ANDA Program Goals – FY 2020 Preliminary Performance**

Under GDUFA, FDA committed to advance scientific efforts to develop new human generic drug products and novel dosage forms. Through its regulatory science initiatives, FDA continues to work on developing tools, standards, and approaches to assess the safety, efficacy, and quality of these products and to facilitate the path of these products to market approval.

One example of FDA's commitment to this program has been its PSGs and recommendations for regulatory submissions (e.g., ANDAs, pre-ANDA meeting requests, CCs). FDA developed and published 258 new and revised PSGs in FY 2020 (48 percent were for complex products).<sup>31</sup> The table below shows the FY 2020 PSG breakdown for complex and non-complex drug products.

	Complex Drug Products	Non-Complex Drug Products
<b>Number of new PSGs</b>	30	78
<b>Number of revised PSGs</b>	94	56
<b>TOTAL</b>	124	134

These PSGs have provided industry with draft or final recommendations on the design of bioequivalence (BE) studies and scientific advice pertaining to finished dosage forms (FDFs) and APIs that can be used in the development of generic complex and non-complex drugs.

Since FY 2013, FDA has awarded 172 research contracts and grants. A complete list of FY 2018 through FY 2020 awards can be found at [www.fda.gov/GDUFARegScience](http://www.fda.gov/GDUFARegScience). The number of new and ongoing grants and contracts by fiscal year is provided in the table below.

Fiscal Year	Number of External Research Contracts and Grants Awarded Using GDUFA Funds	
	New Contracts and Grants	Ongoing Contracts and Grants Receiving Funding
2020	17	18
2019	20	25
2018	24	16

## **FY 2020 GDUFA Science and Research Accomplishments**

In addition to serving as the scientific basis for the development of PSGs and specific pre-ANDA communications, research outcomes from intramural and extramural research are published in peer-reviewed scientific literature and are presented and discussed at major medical and scientific meetings to facilitate the path toward generic drug product development and to contribute to

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<sup>31</sup> The definition of a *complex product* can be found in [Appendix A](#) of this report.

general guidance development. FY 2020 GDUFA science and research includes the following 13 research programs:

- Ophthalmic Products
- Complex Mixtures and Peptide Products
- Long-Acting Injectable and Implant Products
- Complex Injectables, Formulations, and Nanomaterials
- Inhalation and Nasal Products
- Topical Dermatological Products
- Locally-Acting Physiologically-Based Pharmacokinetic Modeling
- Quantitative Clinical Pharmacology
- Oral Absorption Models and Bioequivalence
- Patient Substitution of Generic Drugs
- Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Products
- Data Analytics
- Drug-Device Combination Products

Key FY 2020 outcomes of each research program are highlighted in [Appendix B](#) of this report.

## **FY 2021 GDUFA Regulatory Science Priority Initiatives**

Similar to GDUFA I, FDA agreed in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter to consult with industry and the public to create an annual list of regulatory science initiatives specific to research on generic drugs.

On May 4, 2020, FDA held the FY 2020 Generic Drug Regulatory Science Initiatives Public Workshop, which provided an overview of the status of the generic drug regulatory science program and an opportunity for public input in developing the FY 2021 research priorities. Information obtained during the public workshop and other inputs, e.g., comments to the public docket, were considered in developing the FY 2021 Regulatory Science Plan.<sup>32</sup>

Following the public workshop, feedback and comments received at the workshop and through the docket resulted in the revision of several priority areas for FY 2021 as well as new priorities that reflect the current landscape of regulatory science needs. FDA will continue to track and report on these priority initiatives during the next 2 years of GDUFA II. In each year of GDUFA II, FDA may revise the list and indicate when the priority initiatives are complete.

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<sup>32</sup> The list of the FY 2021 research initiatives can be found at [www.fda.gov/media/144140/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/144140/download).



The lists of research initiatives for earlier fiscal years are also available on FDA's website.<sup>33,34,35,36</sup>

The FY 2021 GDUFA Regulatory Science Priority Initiatives identified were grouped into the following four topic areas:

- Topic A: Complex active ingredients, formulations, or dosage forms
- Topic B: Complex routes of delivery
- Topic C: Complex drug-device combinations
- Topic D: Tools and methodologies for BE and therapeutic equivalence evaluation

A description of these topic areas and priorities is provided in [Appendix C](#) of this report.

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<sup>33</sup> The list of the FY 2017 research initiatives can be found at [www.fda.gov/downloads/ForIndustry/UserFees/GenericDrugUserFees/UCM526900.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForIndustry/UserFees/GenericDrugUserFees/UCM526900.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> The list of the FY 2018 research initiatives can be found at [www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/GenericDrugs/UCM582777.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/GenericDrugs/UCM582777.pdf).

<sup>35</sup> The list of the FY 2019 research initiatives can be found at [www.fda.gov/media/119040/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/119040/download).

<sup>36</sup> The list of the FY 2020 research initiatives can be found at [www.fda.gov/media/132370/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/132370/download).

## ***Drug Safety and Inspections Performance***

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FDA is committed to ensuring consistency and transparency regarding inspections.

This section satisfies the annual reporting requirement created by the GDUFA II Commitment Letter for FY 2020 to communicate final facility inspection activities for human generic drugs.

### **GDUFA II Commitments**

In the GDUFA II Commitment Letter, FDA committed to include the following metrics annually as part of the GDUFA Performance Report (identified by the corresponding section of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter):

- (g) Number of inspections conducted by domestic or foreign establishment location and inspection type (PAI, current good manufacturing practice (CGMP), BE clinical and BE analytical) and facility type (FDF, API)
- (h) Median time from beginning of inspection to Form FDA 483 (483) issuance,
- (i) Median time from 483 issuance to Warning Letter (WL), Import Alert (IA), and Regulatory Meeting for inspections with final classification of Official Action Indicated (OAI) or equivalent, and
- (j) Median time from the date of the WL, IA, and Regulatory Meeting to the resolution of OAI status or equivalent.

FDA interprets the GDUFA II Commitment Letter as follows:

- It is limited to “GDUFA facilities,” which are defined as facilities associated with an ANDA that:
  - Is approved, pending, or has a TA
  - Was withdrawn and/or received a complete response (CR) during the given fiscal year, unless the withdrawn or CR date precedes the inspection start date
- If multiple applications were covered under one unique PAI, this report counts them as one inspection.
- Form FDA 483,<sup>37</sup> *Inspectional Observations*, is the list of observations of objectionable conditions issued by FDA investigators to the inspected facility’s management at the conclusion of an inspection. Inspections not resulting in issuance of a Form FDA 483 are excluded from paragraphs “h,” “i,” and “j” of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter (section VI(C)(3)). Further, most facilities receiving a 483 are classified as Voluntary Action Indicated (VAI), and no compliance action (WL, IA, or Regulatory Meeting) is taken.

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<sup>37</sup> More information about 483s can be found at [www.fda.gov/ICECI/Inspections/ucm256377.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/Inspections/ucm256377.htm).

- PAIs of ANDA applications only are counted in this report. If there was a PAI of a new drug application or a biologics license application in a facility that is also identified as a GDUFA facility, that PAI is not counted in this report. A PAI is not always performed at facilities named in pending applications. When performed, the PAI evaluates one or more applications pending approval with FDA. (Note that FDA may inspect facilities (1) associated with an application that are not required to self-identify under GDUFA and (2) that may not be required to register under 21 CFR part 207. Inspections of such facilities are included in the data and analysis provided below because such inspections may impact application decisions.)
- FDA conducts other types of inspections of facilities in which a conclusion of non-compliance may result in a delay or denial of application approval. Inspections other than PAIs that can also impact an application’s approvability include surveillance and for-cause inspections. The result of a PAI may be a decision that an application is not approvable. Issuance of a WL, an addition to an IA, or the holding of a Regulatory Meeting, could follow other types of inspections, though not typically as a result of a PAI alone. For that reason, FDA interprets paragraphs “i” and “j” of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter (section VI(C)(3)) to apply to inspections other than PAIs.
- FDA understands paragraphs “i” and “j” of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter (section VI(C)(3)) to apply, consistent with its terms, to inspections resulting in a WL, an addition to an IA, or the holding of a Regulatory Meeting. FDA notes that there are situations in which a surveillance inspection would lead directly to a more serious enforcement action, such as a seizure, injunction, or prosecution, without a WL, IA, or Regulatory Meeting. Such rare circumstances, if they occur, would not be included.
- BE inspections have Untitled Letters (UL) issued only after an OAI inspection. A UL is not equivalent to a WL and is not included in this report.

This report reflects progress on commitments made in connection with GDUFA II started in 2018. Thus, this report does not include information about events that occurred before FY 2018 except as described below. Accordingly:

- For subparagraphs “g” and “h” of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter (section VI(C)(3)), this report includes an inspection for which the inspection ended in the reporting fiscal year, even if the inspection started before the reporting fiscal year. Multiple products/applications can be covered in one inspection assignment; these are counted as one inspection.
- For subparagraph “i” of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter (section VI(C)(3)), this report counts WLs, IAs, and Regulatory Meetings that were issued or held in the reporting fiscal year, even if they are based on an inspection for which the 483 was issued before the reporting fiscal year, provided it was issued during the period covered by the GDUFA II Commitment Letter.

- For subparagraph “j” of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter (section VI(C)(3)), this report counts resolutions of WLs, IAs, and Regulatory Meetings when the resolutions occurred in the reporting fiscal year, even if the WLs, IAs, or Regulatory Meetings were issued or held prior to the reporting fiscal year, provided they were issued or held in or after FY 2018, the effective starting year for GDUFA II reporting.

The table below reflects the number of FY 2020 inspections<sup>38</sup> conducted by domestic or foreign establishment locations, the inspection type (PAI, CGMP, BE clinical, and BE analytical), and facility type (FDF, API, other) associated with a generic application as well as the number of 483s issued with the inspections.

Inspection Type	Location		Total*	Number of 483s Issued
	Domestic	Foreign		
PAI (API)**	1	36	37	24
PAI (API/FDF)**	3	7	10	7
PAI (FDF)**	30	42	72	51
PAI (Other)**	7	2	9	4
CGMP (API)	13	72	85	51
CGMP (API/FDF)	6	16	22	18
CGMP (FDF)	59	48	107	72
CGMP (Other)	46	19	65	32
BE Clinical**	27	41	68	7
BE Analytical**	5	24	29	6

\* This table may overrepresent the number of unique inspections as some inspection assignments cover both PAI and CGMP inspections.

\*\* Other inspections include facilities such as contract testing laboratories and repackagers.

The following table shows the median time (in calendar days) between the start of inspections and the issuance of a 483 in FY 2020.

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<sup>38</sup> FDA does not include inspection classification decisions associated with inspections performed by other regulatory inspectorates, such as the European Union (EU) member state inspections that FDA may review in implementing the US-EU Mutual Recognition Agreement. Such inspections are generally surveillance-only type inspections, and the inspections may have been performed and completed well before FDA requested a copy of the inspection report, which would complicate the assessment of median days to review and classification.

### Median Time from Beginning of Inspection to 483 Issuance in FY 2020

User Fee Program	FY 2020 Median Time (Calendar Days)
GDUFA	5

The following table shows the median time (in calendar days) in FY 2020 between the issuance of a 483 and the issuance of a WL, IA, and date of a Regulatory Meeting. This includes WLs, IAs, and Regulatory Meetings that were issued or held in the reporting fiscal year, even if they were based on an inspection for which the 483 was issued before the reporting fiscal year. The same facility may receive multiple compliance actions, for example a WL and an IA, following issuance of a 483. Most facilities receiving a 483 are classified as VAI, and no WL, IA, or Regulatory Meeting is issued or held.

### Median Time from 483 Issuance to WL, IA, and Regulatory Meeting for Inspections with Final Classification of OAI (or Equivalent) (Calendar Days)

User Fee Program	FY 2020 Median Time FDA 483 to WL	FY 2020 Median Time FDA 483 to IA	FY 2020 Median Time 483 to Reg. Meeting
GDUFA	191	145	181

The following table shows the median time (in calendar days) between the issuance or holding of a WL, IA, and Regulatory Meeting and OAI resolution in FY 2020. "OAI resolution" includes the time to remediate CGMP issues at a site classified as OAI and the time for FDA to re-inspect the facility to confirm whether adequate remediation has taken place. The compliance action is considered resolved when the firm has sufficiently addressed the violations or deviations to allow the site to be reclassified by FDA as VAI or No Action Indicated (NAI), and, in the case of an IA or a WL, the Agency has also removed the facility from the IA or closed the WL. This includes OAI resolution of WLs, IAs, and Regulatory Meetings that were issued or held in the reporting fiscal year. The same facility may receive more than one compliance action, for example a WL and an IA, following issuance of a 483. The OAI finalized date is when the facility was classified as OAI and is different from the date of issuance of a WL, IA, or Regulatory Meeting.

### Median Time from Date of WLs, IAs, and Regulatory Meetings to Resolution of OAI Status

User Fee Program	FY 2020 Median Time OAI Finalized to Resolution	FY 2020 Median Time WL to OAI Resolution	FY 2020 Median Time IA to OAI Resolution	FY 2020 Median Time Reg. Meeting to OAI Resolution
GDUFA	417.5	572.5	N/A	284

During FY 2020, there were six facilities that either were issued a WL or an IA or had a Regulatory Meeting with an OAI resolution occurring in or after FY 2018, the beginning of the GDUFA II reporting period. Two of these facilities were issued WLs, and four had a Regulatory Meeting. Resolution includes the firm addressing the CGMP violations or deviations that resulted in the OAI outcome, as well as a reinspection and classification of the site as VAI or NAI, when appropriate.

Significant remediation efforts by the firm to resolve the CGMP issues at a site classified as OAI and subsequent reinspection by FDA to determine if the CGMP issues have been resolved are usually required before reclassification. It is unlikely that a regulatory action (i.e., WL, IA, or Regulatory Meeting) is taken, the firm's remediation efforts are completed, and the facility is reinspected and reclassified within a single fiscal year. In some instances, firms either chose not to remediate or never adequately remediate, and violations observed at their facilities and compliance actions indefinitely remain open.

## **Inspection Efficiency Enhancements**

The Agency has implemented various changes and continues to improve how it conducts inspections to verify pharmaceutical quality; the Agency also has improved transparency and timeliness in determining regulatory outcomes from inspections.<sup>39</sup>

In 2012, with the passage of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act,<sup>40</sup> Congress gave FDA the authority to enter into arrangements with a foreign government or an Agency of a foreign government to recognize foreign inspections after a determination that the foreign government has the capability to conduct inspections in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (section 809). FDA is currently implementing a mutual recognition agreement (MRA) with the European Union (EU), which allows both parties to rely on our respective surveillance inspections in lieu of performing repetitive inspections of the same facilities. FDA and the EU are now fully implementing the MRA related to drug quality surveillance inspections. FDA accomplished the agreed goal of making a capability determination for all 28 EU member state inspectorates of human drugs, including biologicals, by July 15, 2019. As a result of that accomplishment and as provided for in the MRA, the EU has stopped sampling and testing U.S.-produced drug batches distributed in the EU.

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<sup>39</sup> [www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm619435.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm619435.htm).

<sup>40</sup> [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ144/pdf/PLAW-112publ144.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ144/pdf/PLAW-112publ144.pdf).

## **Outreach and Facility Assessment**

FDA has completed several commitments under the GDUFA II program to provide greater transparency regarding prioritization and scheduling of inspections, as well as to communicate information following inspections. These efforts include updating FDA's publicly available inspection classifications database, communicating with foreign regulatory authorities regarding the compliance status of establishments, providing information on the Agency's Risk-Based Site Selection Model, and communicating information from inspections that may impact approvability to applicants and facility owners.

As part of this commitment, upon receipt of a request by an establishment physically located in the United States that has been included as part of a marketing application submitted to a foreign regulator, FDA will issue, within 30 days of receipt of the request, a declaration to an identified foreign regulator conveying the current CGMP compliance status for the establishment.

FDA met this goal in FY 2020 by responding within 30 days of receipt to three requests for CGMP declarations. (Seven total requests were received, and four requests did not fit the criteria for issuance.) In addition to CGMP declarations, there are other ways that FDA is enhancing communication and transparency with foreign regulatory authorities regarding the compliance status of establishments in the United States. For example, foreign regulators can also find the CGMP status of an establishment by checking the inspection classifications database for the most recent inspection classification that is publicly available.

The inspection classifications database provides the most recent classifications based on FDA's final assessments following an inspection of manufacturing facilities for routine surveillance purposes or sites conducting BE/bioavailability studies. FDA updates the database every 30 days. Previously, the Agency updated the database every 180 days and did not include inspection classifications of sites conducting clinical BE/bioavailability studies. The Agency also updated the database to build on its progress implementing the MRA with the EU, and the database now supports inclusion of facility status information based on the classification of inspection reports from foreign regulatory authorities.

## **GDUFA II - Enhanced Accountability and Reporting**

GDUFA II includes several commitments and requirements that are critical to enabling progress toward performance goals for the human generic drug program. These include developing a resource management plan, implementing a modernized time reporting and resource management system, and publishing monthly and quarterly metrics on FDA's website. This section details the status of these activities.

### **Resource Management Planning and Modernized Time Reporting**

FDA committed to conducting activities necessary to fulfill the resource management objectives. FDA has worked diligently to ensure compliance with this undertaking. The following table describes FDA's FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2020 commitments and progress in this area.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Due Date/Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
FDA will develop and publish a resource management planning and modernized time reporting implementation plan.	No later than the fourth quarter of FY 2018	FDA published the implementation plan ( <a href="https://www.fda.gov/media/112562/download">https://www.fda.gov/media/112562/download</a> ) on March 30, 2018
FDA will implement methodologies for assessing resource needs of the program and for tracking resource utilization across the program elements.	Following the report review and comments	In progress

### **Financial Transparency and Efficiency**

FDA also agreed to conduct activities to evaluate the financial administration of the GDUFA program to help identify areas to enhance operational and fiscal efficiency.



Activity	Due Date/Deadline	Status
FDA will contract with an independent third party to obtain an evaluation of how the GDUFA program is resourced and how those resources are utilized and to recommend improvements to the process.		FDA published an "Independent Evaluation of the GDUFA Resource Capacity Planning Adjustment Methodology" ( <a href="http://www.fda.gov/media/140656/download">www.fda.gov/media/140656/download</a> ) in July 2020
FDA will use the results of the evaluation to create an ongoing financial reporting mechanism to enhance the transparency of GDUFA program resource utilization.		In progress
FDA will publish updates to the GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan.	No later than the second quarter of each subsequent fiscal year	FDA published the FY 2020 GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan update ( <a href="http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/user-fee-reports/user-fee-five-year-financial-plans">www.fda.gov/about-fda/user-fee-reports/user-fee-five-year-financial-plans</a> ) in March 2020.
FDA will convene a public meeting to discuss the GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan, along with the Agency's progress in implementing modernized time reporting and resource management planning.	No later than the third quarter of each fiscal year starting in FY 2019.	FDA held a public meeting on Financial Transparency and Efficiency of GDUFA in June 2020.

## Performance Reporting

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In the GDUFA II Commitment Letter, FDA committed to publish monthly and quarterly performance metrics on its website. These metrics can be found at [www.fda.gov/industry/generic-drug-user-fee-amendments/enhanced-accountability-reporting](http://www.fda.gov/industry/generic-drug-user-fee-amendments/enhanced-accountability-reporting).

FDA also committed to publishing more performance metrics in the annual GDUFA Performance Report. These further performance metrics either have already been captured in this report or are captured in the tables below.

The following table summarizes FDA's GDUFA II commitment to promote accountability and transparency by providing the mean and median approval times for generic drug reviews for the FYs 2018, 2019, and 2020 receipt cohorts. These metrics include only applications approved or tentatively approved at the time this report was prepared. In future reports to Congress, these metrics will be revised to include applications that are approved or tentatively approved in subsequent fiscal years. Thus, the current numbers are a measure of both the earliest and fastest submissions reaching approval. The approval times and numbers of cycles will increase with each re-analysis of the cohort. These re-analyses will be presented in future reports to Congress.

GDUFA II	FY 2018*	FY 2019*	FY 2020
<b>Receipt Cohort</b>			
Mean Approval Time (Calendar Days)	484	407	248
Median Approval Time (Calendar Days)	442	397	286
Mean Tentative Approval Time (Calendar Days)	580	465	---
Median Tentative Approval Time (Calendar Days)	579	431	---
Mean Number of ANDA Review Cycles to Approval	2	2	1
Median Number of ANDA Review Cycles to Approval	2	2	1
Mean Number of ANDA Review Cycles to Tentative Approval	2	2	---
Median Number of ANDA Review Cycles to Tentative Approval	2	2	---

\* Numbers were changed to reflect updates to the data presented in the FY 2018 and FY 2019 GDUFA Performance Report.

FDA also committed to annual reporting on the following information about the workload managed by the generic drug program.

GDUFA II	FY 2018	FY 2019*	FY 2020
<b>Application Receipt</b>			
Number of applications received	960	858	707
Number of applications refused to receive	89	49	37
Average time to receipt decision (i.e., number of calendar days)	49	44	43
<b>ANDA Review</b>			
Number of ANDA applications received by FDA for standard review	555	569	578
Number of ANDA applications received by FDA for priority review	405	289	129
Percentage of ANDA proprietary name requests reviewed within 180 days of receipt	97%	89%	95%
<b>Petitions</b>			
Number of suitability petitions pending a substantive response for more than 270 days from the date of receipt	136	161	172
Number of petitions to determine whether a listed drug has been voluntarily withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness pending a substantive response for more than 270 days from the date of receipt	0	0	2
<b>DMF</b>			
Number of DMF First Adequate Letters issued status (or equivalent)	189	198	213
<b>Email Exchanges</b>			
Number of initial (first cycle) email exchanges requested and conducted in lieu of teleconferences to clarify deficiencies in DMF deficiency letters	56	64	78
Number of follow-up email exchanges requested and conducted in lieu of teleconferences to clarify deficiencies in follow-up cycle DMF deficiency letters	10	2	15

\* Numbers were changed to reflect updates to the data presented in the FY 2019 GDUFA Performance Report.

Management Initiative	Performance Area	FY 2018	FY 2019*	FY 2020
When requested by the ANDA applicant within 10 calendar days of FDA issuing a CRL, FDA will schedule a teleconference to provide clarification concerning deficiencies identified in the CRL. <sup>41</sup>	Teleconferences Requested	72	91	65
	Teleconferences Granted	56	67	55
	Teleconferences Denied	16	24	10
	Teleconferences Conducted	56	67	52
When requested by the ANDA applicant, FDA will schedule a teleconference to clarify issues and answer questions on reclassifying a major amendment or standard review status.	Teleconferences Requested	30	14	11
	Teleconferences Granted	24	11	7
	Teleconferences Denied	0	0	0
	Teleconferences Conducted	24	11	7
FDA will offer to hold a Mid-Review Cycle teleconference with an applicant if a Product Development or Pre-Submission Meeting has been held. <sup>42</sup>	Total Teleconferences	1	5	16
	Teleconferences Scheduled	1	5	16
	Teleconferences Conducted	1	5	8
FDA will strive to grant DMF first cycle review deficiency teleconferences	Teleconferences Requested	--	6	6
	Teleconferences Granted		6	3
	Teleconferences Denied		0	1
	Teleconferences Conducted		0	1

\* Numbers were changed to reflect updates to the data presented in the FY 2019 GDUFA Performance Report.

<sup>41</sup> FDA may close out a request for a first cycle CR teleconference by (1) holding the teleconference or (2) responding, in writing, to questions in the applicant's teleconference request in lieu of holding the teleconference.

<sup>42</sup> The GDUFA II Commitment Letter specifies that FDA will publish metrics on the number of "GDUFA related teleconferences requested, granted, denied and conducted," but these terms do not neatly apply to Mid-Review Cycle Meetings. The more applicable terms "offered," "scheduled," and "conducted" are used instead.

## ***Additional Reporting Requirements***

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### **Rationale for GDUFA Program Changes**

FDARA amended the FD&C Act to require the reporting of certain information relating to GDUFA program changes in the annual performance report starting with FY 2020.

### **Requirements from Section 903 of FDARA**

Specifically, section 903(c) of FDARA added section 744C(a)(3) of the FD&C Act, which requires that the annual GDUFA performance report include the following:

(A) data, analysis, and discussion of the changes in the number of full-time equivalents hired as agreed upon in the letters described in section 301(b) of the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2017 and the number of full-time equivalents funded by budget authority at the Food and Drug Administration by each division within CDER, the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), and the Office of the Commissioner (OC);

(B) data, analysis, and discussion of the changes in the fee revenue amounts and costs for human generic drug activities, including identifying drivers of such changes; and

(C) for each of the CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC, the number of employees for whom time reporting is required and the number of employees for whom time reporting is not required.

The information below fulfills these reporting requirements.

***A. Changes in the Number of FTEs Hired As Agreed in the GDUFA Commitment Letter and the Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority by Division Within CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC***

This section addresses the requirement to provide data, an analysis, and a discussion of the changes in the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs) hired as agreed upon in the letters described in section 301(b) of the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2017 (GDUFA II) and the number of FTEs funded by budget authority at FDA by each division within CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC.



### Changes in the Number of FTEs Hired

The GDUFA II Commitment Letter does not specify concrete hiring goals in terms of FTEs. However, in response to this reporting requirement, the Agency is providing the number of FTEs hired to meet the GDUFA II commitments, as indicated in the table below.

**Number of FTEs Hired to Meet GDUFA II Commitments**

Center	Number Hired in FY 2019	Number Hired in FY 2020	Change in Number Hired
CDER	51	40	-11
CBER	0	0	0
OC	27	42	15
ORA	0	0	0
Total	78	82	4

In prior reports, CDER had been reporting on the status of GDUFA II Loan FTEs. These temporary positions are sunsetting and are being absorbed into the overall CDER Talent Acquisition Plan that was developed for FY 2021. The Talent Acquisition Plan can help the Agency to continue meeting the goals outlined in the commitment letter.

FDA is focused on building staff capacity to manage the increasing program workload, meet performance goals, and deliver on new commitments funded in GDUFA II. The agency continues to hire as needed to maintain staffing for the GDUFA program given attrition and the resources available to the program.

### Changes in the Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority by Division with CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC

The data in the table below show the change from FY 2019 to FY 2020 in the number of FTEs funded by budget authority at FDA by each division within CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC. This table reflects the number of FTEs funded by budget authority for the GDUFA II program. For purposes of this table, “budget authority” refers to FDA's non-user fee annual appropriations. To address the requirement that information on the number of FTEs funded by budget authority be presented “by each division,” the information in this table is broken down to the office level for the Centers, ORA, and OC. FDA uses a 2080-hour workload to equate to one FTE, and this calculation is reflected in the table below. Data for FY 2020 and the previous year, FY 2019, are presented and compared to show the change in the number of FTEs over the last 2 fiscal years to directly support the GDUFA II program. The number of FTEs funded by budget authority for FY 2019 are those FTEs as of September 30, 2019. The number of FTEs funded by budget authority for FY 2020 are those FTEs as of September 30, 2020.

FDA reported a decrease in overall FTEs funded by budget authority in FY 2020 compared to FY 2019. The decrease in reported FTEs was attributable to re-baselining of payroll distribution percentages between annual appropriations and GDUFA fees.





### Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority

Center	Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority FY 2019	Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority FY 2020	Change in the Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority
CDER			
Office of Communications	6.8	0.0	-6.8
Office of Compliance	47	16.9	-30.1
Office of the Center Director	4.2	1.1	-3.1
Office of Executive Programs	2.4	1.2	-1.2
Office of Generic Drugs	37.7	16.1	-21.6
Office of Medical Policy	0.4	1.3	0.9
Office of Management	23.6	9.2	-14.4
Office of New Drugs	2.9	1.5	-1.4
Office of Pharmaceutical Quality	100.1	52.1	-48
Office of Regulatory Policy	15.2	8.2	-7
Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology	12.6	32.7	20.1
Office of Strategic Planning	26.3	21.6	-4.7
Office of Information Management and Technology	1.2	1.3	0.1
Office of Translational Sciences	17	9.6	-7.4
Other Offices	2	1.5	-0.5
WCF	25.9	24.1	-1.8
CBER			
Office of Biostatistics and Epidemiology	0.1	0	-0.1
Office of Blood Research and Review	0.6	0.6	0
Office of Compliance and Biologics Quality	0.3	0.2	-0.1
Office of Communication Outreach and Development	0.1	0.1	0
Office of the Center Director	0.2	0.4	0.2
Office of Management	0.1	0.2	0.1
WCF	0.1	0.1	0
ORA			
Office of Pharmaceutical Quality Operations	10.4	8.0	-2.4
WCF	14	16.3	2.3
OC			
OC Immediate Office	2.3	0.1	-2.2
Office of the Chief Counsel	9.8	0.8	-9
Office of the Chief Scientist	0.1	0	-0.1

Center	Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority FY 2019	Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority FY 2020	Change in the Number of FTEs Funded by Budget Authority
OC Continued			
Office of Clinical Policy and Programs	5.5	0.5	-5
Office of External Affairs	0.9	0.1	-0.8
Office of Global Policy and Strategy	0.4	0.6	0.2
Office of Health Informatics	0.1	0	-0.1
Office of International Programs	9.5	0	0
Office of Operations	4.5	0.7	-3.8
Office of Policy Legislation and International Affairs	4.5	0.5	-4
Office of Special Medical Programs	0.4	0	-0.4
WCF	7.4	7.5	0.1

\*This table includes GDUFA program FTE calculated through working capital fund (WCF) assessments for certain centrally administered services provided to CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC. Because many employees under OC and WCF do not report time, an average cost per OC and WCF FTE was applied to derive the number of GDUFA program FTEs funded by budget authority.

### *B. Changes in the Fee Revenue Amounts and Costs for the Review Process*

Section 744C(a)(3) of the FD&C Act, as added by FDARA section 903(c), also requires that FDA provide data, analysis, and discussion of the changes in the fee revenue amounts and costs for human generic drug activities, including identifying drivers of such changes. Accordingly, the table below provides data for the GDUFA fee revenue amounts and process costs for FY 2019 and FY 2020, and the changes in these amounts from FY 2019 to FY 2020.

In FY 2020, FDA had net collections of \$483 million in human generic drug user fees, spent \$541 million in user fees for human generic drug activities, and carried a cumulative balance of \$157 million forward for future fiscal years.

For FY 2018 through FY 2022, the base revenue amounts used in calculating the total GDUFA fee revenues are established by GDUFA II. For FY 2020, the base revenue amount is the FY 2019 inflation adjusted fee revenue amount of \$501,721,201. The FY 2020 base revenue amount is then adjusted by inflation yielding a total adjusted fee revenue amount of \$513,223,160. Actual collections were less than estimated collections in FY 2020.

In FY20, GDUFA costs increased approximately \$51 million from FY19. The increase in GDUFA costs was attributed to growth in payroll and operating costs. Costs increase primarily driven by increased hiring for the program and lower than projected attrition rates.

**Changes in the Fee Revenue Amounts and Review Process Costs**

Fiscal Year	FY 2019	FY 2020	Change from FY 2019 to FY 2020
Fee Revenue Amounts (Net Collections)	\$496,503,494	\$483,285,782	-3%
Review Process Cost	\$647,313,391	\$698,085,185	8%

*C. Number of Employees for Whom Time Reporting Is Required*

Section 744C(a)(3) of the FD&C Act, as added by FDARA section 903(c), also requires that FDA provide for each of the CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC, the number of employees for whom time reporting is required and the number of employees for whom time reporting is not required. Accordingly, the table below provides the number of employees within CDER, CBER, ORA, and OC who are required to report their time and those who are not required to report their time as of September 30, 2020.

These data reflect time reporting across all employees in each entity, rather than only those engaged in GDUFA program activities.

**Time Reporting Requirement for FY 2020**

Center	FTEs for Whom Time Reporting Is Required	FTEs for Whom Time Reporting Is Not Required
CDER	5,256	15
CBER	1,119	8
ORA	3,106	1,682
OC	483	1,479
Total	9,964	3,184



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# Appendices

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## Appendix A: Definitions of Key Terms

- A. **Act on an Application** means that FDA will issue a CRL, an approval letter, a TA letter, or an RTR action.
- B. **Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API)** means:
- (i) a substance, or a mixture when the substance is unstable or cannot be transported on its own, intended to be used as a component of a drug and intended to furnish pharmacological activity or other direct effect in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or to affect the structure or any function of the human body; or
  - (ii) a substance intended for final crystallization, purification, or salt formation, or any combination of those activities, to become the final active pharmaceutical ingredient as defined in paragraph (i).
- C. **Amendments to an ANDA** – The GDUFA II Commitment Letter reflects significant changes in the classification of review goals for amendments to ANDAs and PASs from the GDUFA I Commitment Letter. Under GDUFA I, amendments were classified into a complex Tier system based on the following factors: whether the amendment was solicited or unsolicited, whether the amendment was major or minor, the number of amendments submitted to the ANDA or PAS, and whether an inspection was necessary to support the information contained in the amendment. GDUFA II simplified the amendment review goals and no longer subjects them into a Tier system; however, GDUFA II review goals are still dependent on whether the amendment is designated as a standard or priority, whether the amendment is classified as major or minor, and whether or not a pre-approval inspection is needed.
- Descriptions of major and minor amendments were considered during the GDUFA II negotiations and incorporated in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter. FDA’s guidance for industry *ANDA Submissions — Amendments to Abbreviated New Drug Applications Under GDUFA* (July 2018) supersedes FDA’s guidance for industry *Major, Minor, and Telephone Amendments to Abbreviated New Drug Applications* (December 2001) and, as agreed to during negotiations, incorporates excerpted text describing major and minor amendment types that are contained in Appendix B of the July 2018 guidance. See [www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm).
- D. **Abbreviated new drug application (ANDA)** is defined as “the application described under [21 CFR] 314.94, including all amendments and supplements to the application.” See 21 CFR 314.3(b).
- E. **Bioequivalence (BE)** is the absence of a significant difference in the rate and extent to which the active ingredient or active moiety in pharmaceutical equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives becomes available at the site of drug action when administered at the same molar dose under similar conditions in an appropriately designed study.





- F. **Complete response letter (CRL)** refers to a written communication to an applicant or DMF holder from FDA usually describing all the deficiencies that the Agency has identified in an ANDA (including pending amendments) or a DMF that must be satisfactorily addressed before the ANDA can be approved. CRLs will reflect a complete review, which includes an application-related facilities assessment and will require a complete response from industry to trigger another review cycle with an attendant goal date. Refer to 21 CFR 314.110 for additional details. When a citizen petition may impact the approvability of the ANDA, FDA will strive to identify, where possible, valid issues raised in a relevant citizen petition in the CRL. If a citizen petition raises an issue that would delay only part of a CR, a response that addresses all other issues will be considered a CR.
- G. **Complete review** refers to a full division-level review from all relevant review disciplines, including inspections, and includes other matters relating to the ANDAs and associated DMFs, as well as consults with other Agency components.
- H. **Complex controlled correspondence (CC)** means:
1. CC involving evaluation of clinical content,
  2. BE protocols for reference listed drugs (RLDs) with Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies Elements to Assure Safe Use, or
  3. Requested evaluations of alternative bioequivalence approaches within the same study type (e.g., pharmacokinetic, in vitro, clinical).
- I. **Complex product** generally includes:
1. Products with complex active ingredients (e.g., peptides, polymeric compounds, complex mixtures of APIs, naturally sourced ingredients); complex formulations (e.g., liposomes, colloids); complex routes of delivery (e.g., locally acting drugs such as dermatological products and complex ophthalmological products and otic dosage forms that are formulated as suspensions, emulsions or gels) or complex dosage forms (e.g., transdermals, metered dose inhalers, extended release injectables);
  2. Complex drug-device combination products (e.g., auto injectors, metered dose inhalers); and
  3. Other products where complexity or uncertainty concerning the approval pathway or possible alternative approach would benefit from early scientific engagement.
- J. **Controlled Correspondence (CC)** is correspondence submitted to the Agency, by or on behalf of a generic drug manufacturer or related industry, requesting information on a specific element of generic drug product development. See CDER's December 2020 guidance for industry *Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development*.<sup>43</sup> CC does not include citizen petitions, petitions for reconsideration, or requests for stay.
- K. **Discipline review letter (DRL)** means a letter used to convey preliminary thoughts on possible deficiencies found by a discipline reviewer and/or review team for its portion of the pending application.

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<sup>43</sup> [www.fda.gov/media/109232/download](http://www.fda.gov/media/109232/download)

- L. **Facility** is described as a business or other entity under one management, either direct or indirect, and at one geographic location or address, engaged in manufacturing or processing an API or an FDF, but does not include a business or other entity whose only manufacturing or processing activities are one or more of the following: repackaging, relabeling, or testing.
- M. **Finished Dosage Form (FDF)** means:
- (i) a drug product in the form in which it will be administered to a patient, such as a tablet, capsule, solution, or topical application;
  - (ii) a drug product in a form in which reconstitution is necessary prior to administration to a patient, such as oral suspensions or lyophilized powders; or
  - (iii) any combination of an API with another component of a drug product for purposes of production of such a drug product.
- N. **GDUFA** – GDUFA I and GDUFA II
- O. **GDUFA I** – Generic Drug User Fee Amendments for Fiscal Years 2013 to 2017
- P. **GDUFA II** – Generic Drug User Fee Amendments for Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022
- Q. **Information Request (IR)** – means a letter that is sent to an applicant during a review to request further information or clarification that is needed or would be helpful to allow completion of the discipline review.
- R. **Mid-Review Cycle Meeting** – A teleconference meeting with the applicant to discuss current concerns with the application and next steps. CDER schedules this teleconference after the last key discipline has issued its IR and/or DR for ANDAs that were the subject of prior Product Development Meetings or Pre-Submission Meetings.
- S. **Original ANDA** – The initial submission to FDA's CDER Office of Generic Drugs or Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) of an ANDA.
- T. **Pre-Submission Meeting** means a meeting in which an applicant has an opportunity to discuss and explain the format and content of an ANDA to be submitted. Although the proposed content of the ANDA will be discussed, Pre-Submission Meetings will not include substantive review of summary data or full study reports.
- U. **Prior Approval Supplement (PAS)** means a request to the Secretary to approve a change in the drug substance, drug product, production process, quality controls, equipment, or facilities covered by an approved ANDA when that change has a substantial potential to have an adverse effect on the identity, strength, quality, purity, or potency of the drug product as these factors may relate to the safety or effectiveness of the drug product.<sup>44</sup>
- V. **Priority** means submissions affirmatively identified as eligible for a priority review per section 505(j)(11)(A) of the FD&C Act or CDER's MAPP 5240.3, *Prioritization of the Review of Original ANDAs, Amendments and Supplements*, as revised.

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<sup>44</sup> See section 744A(11) of the FD&C Act.

- W. **Product Development Meeting** – means a meeting involving a scientific exchange to discuss specific issues (e.g., a proposed study design, alternative approach or additional study expectations) or questions, in which FDA will provide targeted advice regarding an ongoing ANDA development program.
- X. **Reference Listed Drug (RLD)** - means the listed drug identified by FDA as the drug product upon which an applicant relies in seeking approval of its ANDA.
- Y. **Refuse to Receive (RTR)** means refusal to receive an ANDA for review. See 21 CFR 314.101 and the guidance for industry *ANDA Submissions – Refuse-to-Receive Standards* (December 2016). See [www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm).
- Z. **Review Status Update** – means a response from the regulatory project manager (RPM) to the Authorized Representative to update the Authorized Representative concerning, at a minimum, the categorical status of relevant review disciplines with respect to the submission at that time. A review status update is preliminary only based on the RPM's interpretation of the submission and subject to change at any time.
- AA. **Standard controlled correspondence (CC)** – means controlled correspondence:
1. As described in CDER's September 2015 guidance for industry *Controlled Correspondence Related to Generic Drug Development* or
  2. Concerning post-approval submission requirements that are not covered by CDER's post-approval changes guidance and are not specific to an ANDA.
- BB. **Submission** refers to an ANDA, an amendment to an ANDA, a PAS to an ANDA, or an amendment to a PAS.
- CC. **Submission date** means the date that a generic drug submission or Type II DMF is deemed to be "submitted" pursuant to Section 744B(a)(6) of the FD&C Act, which states that a generic drug submission or Type II DMF is deemed to be "submitted" if it is submitted via an FDA electronic gateway, on the day when transmission to that electronic gateway is completed, except that, when the submission or DMF arrives on a weekend, Federal holiday, or day when the FDA office that will review that submission is not otherwise open for business, the submission shall be deemed to be submitted on the next day when that office is open for business. In section 745A(a) of the FD&C Act, Congress granted explicit authorization to FDA to implement the statutory electronic submission requirements in guidance. Refer to the guidance for industry *Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format – Certain Human Pharmaceutical Product Applications and Related Submissions Using the eCTD Specifications* (February 2020). See [www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm).
- DD. **Tentative Approval (TA) Letter** - If a generic drug product is ready for approval but cannot be approved because of a patent or exclusivity related to the RLD product, FDA issues a TA letter to the applicant, and the TA letter details the basis for the TA. FDA will



not issue final approval of the generic drug product until all patent or exclusivity issues have been resolved or, in some cases, until a 30-month stay associated with patent litigation has expired. A TA does not allow the applicant to market the generic drug product.

**EE. Type II API Drug Master File (DMF)** - A submission of information to FDA concerning the manufacture of a pharmaceutical active ingredient by a person that intends to authorize FDA to reference the information to support approval of a generic drug submission without the submitter having to disclose the information to the generic drug submission applicant.



## Appendix B: Significant FY 2020 GDUFA Science and Research Accomplishments

Significant FY 2020 GDUFA science and research accomplishments are highlighted below with a key FY 2020 outcome for each of the 13 research programs:

- Ophthalmic Drug Products

A key outcome from the FY 2020 research on ophthalmic drug products related to developing a new analytical method to investigate the process of drug transfer and the mechanism of drug release from emulsions. With the new method, the diffusion rate constants for both the oil-to-aqueous and aqueous-to-oil were determined. Specifically, three formulation variables and five release environment factors were studied. The changes in diffusion rate constants by both formulation and release environment changes provided valuable insight into the drug distribution and transfer in ophthalmic emulsions. The outcomes of this research were published in two articles: Dong, Y. et al., *Journal of Controlled Release* (2019),<sup>45</sup> and Dong, Y. et al., *Journal of Controlled Release* (2020).<sup>46</sup>

- Complex Mixtures and Peptide Products

To support assessments of active ingredient sameness between reference and generic products, FDA developed advanced analytical methods and statistical analysis for the characterization and comparison of complex active ingredients. For example, as part of research related to conjugated estrogens (CE) during 2020, FDA developed an ultra high-performance liquid chromatography-mass spectrometer (UHPLC-MS) method to assess both steroidal and non-steroidal components in CE tablets, which supported the development and recommendations in the PSG for this product. A modified analytical method was developed to characterize these components in different lots of a CE vaginal cream product. Similarly, FDA developed an UHPLC-MS/mass spectrometer method to characterize degradation and process impurities that were identified in synthetic teriparatide samples. All samples contained the same degradation impurities, but different production methods gave rise to a set of unique process impurities, and some were above the reporting threshold of 0.1%. These outcomes represented critical steps toward the development of PSGs, and ultimately, clearer pathways for the development and approval of generics.

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<sup>45</sup> Dong, Y., Hengst, L., Hunt, R., Patel, D., Vo, A., Choi, S., Ashraf, M., Cruz, C.N., and Xu, X. *Understanding drug distribution and release in ophthalmic emulsions through quantitative evaluation of formulation-associated variables*. *Journal of Controlled Release*. (2019) 313:96-105. doi: [10.1016/j.jconrel.2019.09.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jconrel.2019.09.010). PMID:[31536731](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31536731/).

<sup>46</sup> Dong, Y., Hengst, L., Hunt, R., Feng, X., Kozak, D., Choi, S., Ashraf, M., and Xu, X. *Evaluating Drug Distribution and Release in Ophthalmic Emulsions: Impact of Release Conditions*. *Journal of Controlled Release*. (2020) 327:360–370. doi: [10.1016/j.jconrel.2020.08.020](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jconrel.2020.08.020). PMID:[32822741](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32822741/).

- Long-Acting Injectables and Implanted Products

A revised draft PSG for a generic levonorgestrel intrauterine device (LNG-IUS) was posted, recommending an in vitro and in vivo combination approach for establishing the BE of a generic LNG-IUS.<sup>47</sup> Although the recommended approach reduces the duration of an in vivo BE study from 5 years to 12 months, conducting an in vitro drug release testing for 5-plus years can still be burdensome. Accordingly, efforts have been made to develop both real time and accelerated in vitro drug release testing methods for LNG-IUSs. In FY 2020, study results of the research grant (1U01FD005443) on the Development of Real-Time and Accelerated Dissolution Methods for a Long-Acting Levonorgestrel Intrauterine System, with Diane Jane Burgess at the University of Connecticut, have led to two significant publications.<sup>48,49</sup>

- Complex Injectables, Formulations, and Nanomaterials

Propofol injectable emulsion is a complex injectable drug product. While egg lecithin, an inactive ingredient in propofol injectable emulsion, can stabilize the emulsion by forming a monolayer at the oil-water interface, it may give rise to the formation of additional lipid vesicles if an excess amount of lecithin exists in the formulation. Commonly used particle sizing techniques (like dynamic light scattering and laser diffraction) have limitations when attempting to differentiate emulsion oil droplets and lipid vesicles, so FDA has developed a high resolution cryo-transmission electron microscopy method and utilized this method to characterize the particle size and morphology of four therapeutically equivalent propofol products. The results revealed that all four products contained a mixture of oil droplets, lipid vesicles, and oil droplet-lipid vesicle aggregates. Although the particle size and amount of lipid vesicles (as well as oil droplet-lipid vesicle aggregates) are different in the four products tested, the amount of propofol active ingredient in the lipid vesicle fraction was found to be nearly negligible compared to the amount of propofol in the oil emulsion phase. The findings from this internal research helped to elucidate whether the observed differences in lipid structural composition and vesicle size were likely to affect the performance of the propofol drug products. The outcome of this project provided valuable support to FDA's regulatory activities, such as PSGs and ANDA reviews.

- Inhalation and Nasal Drug Products

To characterize the aerodynamic particle size distribution (APSD) of a dry powder inhaler product, standardized methods often recommend coating the different stages of a cascade impactor (CI) with an adhesive substance to minimize the chance of particles bouncing

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<sup>47</sup> Revised Draft *Guidance for Levonorgestrel Intrauterine Device* (Jan. 22, 2020), available at [www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/psg/PSG\\_021225.pdf](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/psg/PSG_021225.pdf).

<sup>48</sup> Bao, Q., Zou, Y., Wang, Y., Kozak, D., Choi, S., and Burgess, D. J. *Drug Release Testing of Long-Acting Intrauterine Systems*. *Journal of Controlled Release*. (2019) 316:349–358. doi: 10.1016/j.jconrel.2019.11.015. PMID:31733294.

<sup>49</sup> Bao, Q., Zou, Y., Wang, Y., Choi, S., and Burgess, D. J. *Impact of Product Design Parameters on In Vitro Release from Intrauterine Systems*. *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*. (2020): doi: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2020.119135. PMID:32057890.



and depositing on lower stages, which can impact the results. For APSD testing with metered dose inhalers (MDIs), it was unclear whether a similar approach to the coating of the stages would have a significant impact on the results across different products and formulations. Initial studies with MDIs found differences in the fine particle dose (FPD) measured between different laboratories, which was dependent on whether the CI stage coating was performed. To evaluate whether coating produced similar effects on other MDI products, 11 different suspension-based and solution-based MDI products were tested using a Next Generation Impactor (NGI) with or without stage coating. Coating of the NGI stages led to a reduction in FPD of particles smaller than 2 microns and had a larger impact on particles smaller than 4 microns compared to larger particles. These research outcomes indicated that the magnitude of the stage coating impact was particle size dependent. Also, suspension-based MDI products were more significantly affected by the use of stage coating compared to solution-based MDIs. These results suggest that the consideration for using NGI stage coating during an APSD study cannot be generalized across all MDIs and may be dependent on the particular formulation being tested, which has direct implications for the corresponding BE study recommendations for such products.<sup>50</sup>

- Topical Dermatological Products

During 2020, a dermal open flow microperfusion (dOFM) clinical study with 20 healthy subjects was conducted to assess the accuracy, reproducibility and discrimination sensitivity of a dOFM BE study with lidocaine and prilocaine cream and gel products. The dOFM sampling technique was accurately and reproducibly able to demonstrate comparable cutaneous pharmacokinetic (PK) profiles for the reference cream to itself (R vs. R) and to an approved generic cream ( $T_{\text{generic}}$  vs. R). The dOFM sampling technique was also successfully able to differentiate the cutaneous PK profiles of a gel with the same drugs at the same strengths from both the reference and generic creams product. A scaled average BE statistical analysis was successfully used to analyze the BE of lidocaine and prilocaine from various product comparisons confirming that the R product is bioequivalent to itself as well as to the  $T_{\text{generic}}$  product, while the  $T_{\text{non-equ}}$  product was not found to be bioequivalent to either the R or the  $T_{\text{generic}}$  product based on both PK endpoints.

- Locally-Acting Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling

FDA scientists continued to collaborate with external experts to develop, evaluate, and improve physiologically based models for the challenging routes of delivery for generic drug development, like orally inhaled and nasal drug products (OINDP). Research in this area during 2020 expanded the knowledge base for various types of models, including PBPK and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models, to facilitate reliable predictions of local drug delivery to the site of action (e.g., in the lung or nasal tissues). Reliable models that can predict local delivery of OINDPs may be useful for quantifying the impact of

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<sup>50</sup> Dennis S, Svensson M, Conti D, Sheth P, Oguntimein O, Bielski E, Bulitta J, Hochhaus G. Coating Stages of Next Generation Impactor (NGI) When Testing Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) – A Comparative Study on US Commercial MDI Products. *Respiratory Drug Delivery*. 2020, 3:463-468.

differences observed with relevant in vitro and in vivo studies, where these predictions may be useful for streamlining BE approaches for this class of drug products. Toward that end, during 2020, FDA-funded research characterized the influence of an upstream grid in a dry powder inhaler<sup>51</sup> and the use of particle image velocimetry to measure air-flow velocity in a realistic in vitro deformable mouth-throat model.<sup>52</sup> These published research results can be used to validate a CFD-discrete element method hybrid model that could directly support generic drug development and future regulatory decision making.

- Quantitative Clinical Pharmacology

During 2020, as part of its ongoing effort to develop efficient model-based BE methods, FDA evaluated three alternative approaches for calculation of standard error for PK BE studies with sparse sampling. The alternative approaches included i) an adaptation of the correction proposed by Gallant to nonlinear mixed-effects models, ii) a posteriori distribution of the treatment coefficient using the Hamiltonian Monte Carlo algorithm using Stan, and iii) a parametric random effects and residual errors bootstrapping. Simulations were conducted to evaluate these approaches with parallel and cross-over designs. All proposed approaches controlled the type I error within 5% (within a 95% prediction interval of 0.050 i.e., 0.0326 - 0.0729) in PK studies with sparse designs (n=3) and had similar control of type I error for PK studies with rich designs (n=10). This work demonstrated that for PK BE studies with a sparse design, where a non-compartmental approach is impractical, model-based approaches may serve as a viable alternative.

- Oral Absorption Models and BE

During 2020, FDA sought to enhance its understanding on the impact of excipients on drug absorption as part of an initiative to potentially expand biowaivers to non-Q1/Q2 generic versions of Biopharmaceutics Classification System (BCS) Class III drugs. The focus was on the interaction between excipients and organic anion transporting polypeptide 2B1 (OATP2B1), which is an uptake transporter abundantly expressed in the intestine that transports drugs such as antihistamines, statins, and antihypertensive agents. A total of 136 excipients commonly used in oral dosage forms, including dyes, buffering agents, antimicrobial agents, flavoring agents, and surfactants, were screened for their inhibition potential on OATP2B1 in an in vitro cell system. Using an inhibition of OATP2B1 transport by >50% as the criterion, 24 excipients were identified as OATP2B1 inhibitors, and these were chemically and functionally diverse but tended to have a higher molecular weight and lipophilicity among the excipients tested. The findings of this research indicated a potential influence of excipients on the bioavailability of drugs that

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<sup>51</sup> Elserfy, K., Kourmatzis, A., Chan, H. K., Walenga, R., and Cheng, S. Effect of an Upstream Grid on the Fluidization of Pharmaceutical Carrier Powders. *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*. (2020): doi: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2020.119079.PMID: 31988029.

<sup>52</sup> Zhao, Y., Raco, J., Kourmatzis, A., Diasinos, S., Chan, H. K., Yang, R., and Cheng, S. The Effects of Upper Airway Tissue Motion on Air-flow Dynamics. *Journal of Biomechanics*. (2020) 99: doi: 10.1016/j.jbiomech.2019.109506. PMID: 31780123.

are OATP2B1 substrates.<sup>53</sup> Weighing on the OATP2B1 inhibition potency of sodium lauryl sulfate and its quantity in oral drug products, Grant #3U01FD005978-04S3 was awarded in FY 2020 to determine how the in vitro findings translate into clinical significance using a tablet product of fexofenadine, an OATP2B1 substrate, as the model drug product.

- Patient Substitution of Generic Drugs

Two recently completed studies demonstrate the comparability of treatment outcomes for generic vs. brand narrow therapeutic index (NTI) drug products, one in patients with hypothyroidism and another in a senior population treated with anticoagulation agents. The first study compared patient outcomes within 3 months after treatment with generic or brand name levothyroxine products, characterizing the proportions of patients with normal thyroid stimulating hormones (TSH) levels (4.5-19.9 mIU/L) or markedly abnormal TSH levels (<0.1mIU/L or >10mIU/L) to determine if there was a difference in the treatment effect or lack thereof, respectively. After 1:1 matching between the generic and brand-name drug initiators, the results showed that the proportion with normal or markedly abnormal TSH level within 3 months of filling L-thyroxine prescriptions was similar for patients who received generic vs. brand L-thyroxine, 75.4% vs. 76.9%, p=0.23 or 4.1% vs. 3.9%, p=0.65, respectively.<sup>54</sup> The second study, with warfarin, showed comparable effectiveness, safety, and risk of all-cause mortality between initiators of brand and generic warfarin products in the Medicare population.<sup>55</sup> These studies provide real-world evidence to support public confidence in the generic NTI drugs.

- Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Products

FDA is developing in vitro methods that may be (bio)predictive of drug delivery following the nasal insufflation of milled oxycodone hydrochloride extended release tablets. In 2020, FDA published a study that described a dissolution method for manipulated abuse deterrent formulations using the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Apparatus 4, where the model drug was metoprolol succinate.<sup>56</sup> FDA also developed a method for measuring the regional deposition of nasally insufflated powder produced from milling tablets with abuse-deterrent formulations. In parallel with the development of these in vitro methods, an in-silico model was also developed that uses CFD to predict the regional deposition of nasally insufflated particles and a hybrid CFD-PBPK nasal surface model to

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<sup>53</sup> Zou, L., Spanogiannopoulos, P., Pieper, L. M., Chien, H. C., Cai, W., Khuri, N., Pottel, J., Vora, B., Ni, Z., Tsakalozou, E., Zhang, W., Shoichet, B.K., Giacomini, K. M., and Turnbaugh, P. J. Bacterial Metabolism Rescues the Inhibition of Intestinal Drug Absorption by Food and Drug Additives. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* (2020) 117(27):16009; doi: 10.1073/pnas.1920483117. PMID: 32571913.

<sup>54</sup> Brito, J.P., Ross, J.S., Sangaralingham, L., Dutcher, S.K., Graham, D.J., Wang, Z., Wu, Y., Yao, X., Smallridge, R.C., Bernet, V., Shah, N.D., and Lipska K.J. Comparative Effectiveness of Generic vs Brand-Name Levothyroxine in Achieving Normal Thyrotropin Levels. *JAMA Network Open* 2020; 3 (9): e2017645.

<sup>55</sup> Desai, R. J., Gopalakrishnan, C., Dejene, S., Sarpatwari, A. S., Levin, R., Dutcher, S. K., Wang, Z., Wittayanukorn, S., Franklin, J. M., and Gagne, J. J. Comparative Outcomes of Treatment Initiation with Brand Vs. Generic Warfarin in Older Patients. *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics.* 2019; 107(6):1334–1342.

<sup>56</sup> Feng, X., Zidan, A., Kamal, N. S., Xu, X., Sun, D., Walenga, R., Boyce, H., Cruz, C. N., and Ashraf, M. Assessing Drug Release from Manipulated Abuse Deterrent Formulations. *AAPS PharmSciTech.* (2020) 21(2):40. doi: 10.1208/s12249-019-1595-5. PMID: 31897805.

simultaneously predict mucociliary clearance and systemic absorption while using in vitro dissolution data as a model input.

- Data Analytics

To identify measures that might accelerate the development of generic drug products, FDA researchers investigated factors that might predict the likelihood that an ANDA, relying on a given reference (approved) drug product, would be submitted to FDA.<sup>57</sup> The investigators evaluated data related to ANDAs to learn whether a drug's characteristics, or factors related to its regulatory history or market sales, were predictive of an ANDA submission. For example, if the period of market exclusivity resulted in annual revenues greater than \$250 million dollars for up to a 4-year period after the approval date, per the RLD, an ANDA submission for the given product was nearly four times more likely to be submitted than a product generating sales of less than \$10 million. The data also suggested a strong positive association between the availability of a PSG before an ANDA submission and an increased likelihood of ANDA submission.

- Drug-Device Combination Products

Research involving drug-device combination products during FY 2020 investigated the influence of formulation parameters and device (actuator) design on in vitro aerodynamic product performance for suspension-based MDIs. This research incorporated three suspension-based mometasone furoate MDI formulations (F1, F2, F3) manufactured with differences in API particle size, oleic acid (surfactant) content, and ethanol (cosolvent) content in a hydrofluoroalkane propellant. The studies included MDIs with four actuator designs differing in orifice diameter (OD), jet length, and sump depth. Regarding the actuator variants tested, OD had the strongest effect on the drug particles exiting the USP induction port or mouth-throat model (i.e., a smaller OD led to increased FPD values), which was formulation independent. The outcomes of this study demonstrated the importance of actuator design and its interaction with formulation factors on in vitro product performance for suspension-based MDIs. This research has meaningfully improved FDA's scientific understanding of such products and contributed to regulatory decision-making in ANDA reviews for suspension-based MDIs.

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<sup>57</sup> Wittayanukorn, S., Rosenberg, M., Schick, A., Hu, M., Wang, Z., Babiskin, A., Lionberger, R., Zhao, L. Factors that have an impact on Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) Submissions. *Journal Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science* (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43441-020-00163-x>.

## **Appendix C: FY 2021 GDUFA Science and Research Priority Initiatives**

Under GDUFA, FDA committed to developing an annual list of regulatory science and research priority initiatives for generic drugs. For FY 2021, several priority areas were revised and new priorities that reflect the current landscape of regulatory science needs were added. For example, a research priority initiative to develop better methods for evaluating abuse deterrence of opioid products included in the FY 2020 priorities was not included in the FY 2021 priorities as FDA's ongoing research in this area is sufficient to address the identified needs. The success of our research programs on alternative BE methods for topical and ophthalmic products has led to the completion of these priorities and a new focus on expanding alternative BE methods to a larger space of formulation differences. For inhalation drug products, the success of previous research activities has changed the focus from development of new BE approaches to implementation of new BE approaches. Research priorities to optimize BE study design and methodologies to evaluate modified study designs have been proposed for FY 2021 as a response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A new focus of our modeling and simulation research for oral products will support ongoing global harmonization of BE standards via the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use process.

The priority initiatives are organized according to the categories of complex generic drug products described in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter, followed by a category addressing topics related to tools and methodologies for evaluating BE and therapeutic equivalence more generally. These initiatives are based on the need to develop efficient and modern generic drug research, development, and review tools:

### **A - Complex active ingredients, formulations, or dosage forms**

1. Improve advanced orthogonal methods for characterization of chemical compositions, molecular structures, and distributions in complex active ingredients
2. Improve particle size, shape, and surface characterization to support demonstration of therapeutic equivalence of suspended and colloidal drug products
3. Establish predictive in silico, in vitro, and animal models to evaluate immunogenicity risk of formulation or impurity differences in generic products
4. Develop predictive in vitro BE methods for long-acting injectable drug products including the identification of the critical quality attributes and drug release mechanisms for these products
5. Advance characterization tools for polymeric excipients and related complex formulations to provide product-specific guidance on qualitative sameness assessment and explore alternative BE approaches

## **B - Complex routes of delivery**

1. Improve PBPK models of drug absorption via complex routes of delivery (e.g., nasal, inhalation, dermal, ophthalmic) to allow their use in supporting alternative BE approaches
2. Enhance understanding of excipients on topical drug absorption to evaluate in vitro BE methods for non-Q1/Q2 topical drug products applied to skin or other local areas
3. Implement in vitro methods together with PK and certain other methods as alternatives to the use of comparative clinical endpoint BE studies for nasal and inhaled drug products

## **C - Complex drug-device combination products**

1. Evaluate the impact of identified differences in the user-interface from the RLD on the therapeutic equivalence of complex generic drug-device combination products
2. Develop criteria for device performance comparisons that would support a BE demonstration by in vitro methods and eliminate the need for in vivo BE

## **D - Tools and methodologies for BE and therapeutic equivalence evaluation**

1. Improve quantitative pharmacology and BE trial simulation to optimize design of BE studies for generic drug products and establish a foundation for model-based BE study designs
2. Integrate predictive dissolution, PBPK, PK/pharmacodynamic models and machine learning to evaluate in vitro BE options for orally administered drug products and support global harmonization of the most efficient BE recommendations
3. Expand the scientific understanding of the role of excipients in generic drug products to support the expansion of the BCS Class 3 biowaivers to drug products with differences in formulations larger than currently recommended in FDA guidance
4. Develop alternative BE approaches to account for unexpected events such as COVID-19-related study interruptions and protocol deviations
5. Develop methods and integrated technological solutions that will allow FDA to leverage large data sets (e.g., BE study submissions, electronic health records, substitution/utilization patterns, drug safety data, and drug quality data) to support regulatory decisions and improve post-market surveillance of generic drug substitution

## Appendix D: Analysis of Use of Funds

On August 18, 2017, FDARA (Public Law 115-52) was signed into law. FDARA amends the FD&C Act to revise and extend the user fee programs for human drugs, biologics, generic drugs, medical devices, and biosimilar biological products.

FDARA requires specified analyses of the use of funds in the annual performance reports of each of the human medical product user fee programs. These analyses include information such as differences between aggregate numbers of submissions and certain decisions, an analysis of performance goals, a determination of causes affecting the ability to meet goals, and the issuance of corrective action reports.

Section 904(c)(1) of FDARA requires that the analysis of the use of funds include information on (1) the difference between aggregate numbers of ANDAs filed and certain types of decisions, (2) an analysis of performance enhancement goals, and (3) a determination of causes affecting the ability to meet goals.

### *A. Aggregate Number of ANDAs Received and Certain Types of Decisions*

Although the mandate is to report the number of ANDAs *filed*, the term “received” is used instead of “filed” in the statute with respect to ANDAs. FDA will thus report on the aggregate number of ANDAs *received*. Per 21 CFR 314.101(b)(1), an ANDA will be reviewed after it is submitted to determine whether the ANDA can be “received.” “Receipt of an ANDA” means that FDA made a threshold determination that the ANDA is substantially complete. A “substantially complete ANDA” is an ANDA that on its face is sufficiently complete to permit a substantive review. “Sufficiently complete” means that the ANDA contains all the information required under section 505(j)(2)(A) of the FD&C Act and does not contain a deficiency described in 21 CFR 314.101(d) and (e). The number of ANDAs *received* in the table below does not account for submissions that were determined to not be substantially complete.

Goal Type FY 2019 Final Performance	Review Goal	Received	Received with Goal Post FY 2019	Approved	Tentatively Approved	Complete Response	Missed Goal*	Percent on Time <sup>†</sup>	Potential Range <sup>†</sup>
<b>I. Original ANDA Review Goals</b>									
Standard Original ANDA Applications	10 months	570	502	87	11	457	19	97%	95% to 97%
Priority Original ANDA Applications (if applicant meets requirements of a PFC)	8 months	38	21	9	0	29	1	98%	98% to 98%
Priority Original ANDA Applications (if applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	252	214	13	5	227	6	98%	96% to 98%
<b>II. Amendment Review Goals</b>									
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is not required)	8 months	842	589	112	19	700	22	97%	97% to 97%
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is required)	10 months	45	29	11	1	32	0	100%	98% to 100%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is not required)	6 months	292	134	47	11	230	20	93%	93% to 93%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	14	9	1	0	13	0	100%	100% to 100%



Goal Type FY 2019 Final Performance	Review Goal	Received	Received with Goal Post FY 2019	Approved	Tentatively Approved	Complete Response	Missed Goal*	Percent on Time <sup>†</sup>	Potential Range <sup>†</sup>
Standard and Priority Minor ANDA Amendments	3 months	1086	300	457	110	515	85	92%	92% to 92%

\* Missed Goals include submissions that have not had an action and have passed the goal date.

<sup>†</sup> These percentages include RTR actions, withdrawn submissions, and pending submissions, in addition to approval, TA, and CR actions.



Goal Type FY 2020 Preliminary Performance	Review Goal	Received	Received with Goal Post FY 2020	Approved	Tentatively Approved	Complete Response	Missed Goal*	Percent on Time	Potential Range <sup>†</sup>
<b>I. Original ANDA Review Goals</b>									
Standard Original ANDA Applications	10 months	580	498	16	0	83	2	98%	21% to 100%
Priority Original ANDA Applications (if applicant meets requirements of a PFC)	8 months	32	18	4	0	10	1	93%	41% to 97%
Priority Original ANDA Applications (if applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	98	87	2	0	10	0	100%	19% to 100%
<b>II. Amendment Review Goals</b>									
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is not required)	8 months	976	695	51	12	241	15	95%	30% to 98%
Standard Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is required)	10 months	27	25	1	0	3	0	100%	15% to 100%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is not required)	6 months	157	87	19	3	57	5	94%	48% to 97%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is required and applicant meets the requirements of a PFC)	8 months	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	0% to 100%
Priority Major ANDA Amendments (if pre-approval inspection is required and applicant does not meet the requirements of a PFC)	10 months	7	11	0	0	2	0	100%	29% to 100%
Standard and Priority Minor ANDA Amendments	3 months	850	212	305	80	257	46	93%	71% to 95%

\* Missed Goals include submissions that have not had an action and have passed the goal date.

<sup>†</sup> These percentages include Refuse to Receive actions, Withdrawn submissions, and Pending submissions, in addition to Approval, TA, and CR actions.



## *B. Performance Enhancement Goals Met*

The following table addresses section 904(c)(1) of FDARA, pertaining to GDUFA, which requires FDA to include relevant data to determine whether CDER and CBER have met performance enhancement goals identified in the letter described in section 301(b) of GDUFA II (i.e., currently the GDUFA II Commitment Letter) for the applicable fiscal year.

For the purposes of this report, “performance enhancement goals” are defined as any non-review goal described in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter with a specified goal date that falls within the applicable fiscal year.



Performance Enhancement Goal	Target Goal Date	On Time (Y/N)	Actual Completion Date	Comments
Update the Inactive Ingredient Database on an ongoing basis and post quarterly notice of updates made.	Quarterly	Y	Quarterly	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-approvals-and-databases/most-recent-changes-iid-database">www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-approvals-and-databases/most-recent-changes-iid-database</a>
Complete enhancements to the Inactive Ingredient Database so users can perform electronic queries to obtain accurate Maximum Daily Intake and Maximum Daily Exposure information for each route of administration for which data is available.	10/1/2020	Y	Enhancements published 07/30/2020	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-approvals-and-databases/most-recent-changes-iid-database">www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-approvals-and-databases/most-recent-changes-iid-database</a>
Conduct a public workshop to solicit input from industry and stakeholders for inclusion in an annual list of GDUFA II Regulatory Science initiatives.	Annually	Y	Public Workshop held 5/4/2020	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-meetings-conferences-and-workshops/fy-2020-generic-drug-regulatory-science-initiatives-public-workshop-05042020-05042020">www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-meetings-conferences-and-workshops/fy-2020-generic-drug-regulatory-science-initiatives-public-workshop-05042020-05042020</a>
Hold meetings between FDA and industry's GDUFA II regulatory science working group.	Biannually	Y	First Meeting held 2/10/2020 Second Meeting held 10/6/2020	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/drugs/generic-drugs/generic-drugs-priorities-projects">www.fda.gov/drugs/generic-drugs/generic-drugs-priorities-projects</a>
Report on its website the extent to which GDUFA regulatory science-funded projects support the development of generic drug products, the generation of evidence needed to support the efficient review and timely approval of ANDAs, and the evaluation of generic drug equivalence.	Annually	Y	Posted 10/7/2020	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/drugs/fy-2019-gdufa-science-and-research-outcomes">www.fda.gov/drugs/fy-2019-gdufa-science-and-research-outcomes</a>
Issue PSGs identifying the methodology for developing drugs and generating evidence needed to support ANDA approval for 90 percent of new chemical entity New Drug Applications that are approved on or after October 1, 2017, at least 2 years prior to the earliest lawful ANDA filing date.	At least 2 years prior to the earliest lawful ANDA filing date.	Y	Annual	In FY 2018, 35 non-complex new chemical entity New Drug Applications were approved. FDA has issued PSGs for all 35 non-complex new chemical entities ( <a href="http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/psg/index.cfm">www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/psg/index.cfm</a> )
Publish monthly reporting metrics set forth under section VI(C)(1)(a) through (d) of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter.	Monthly	Y	Monthly	FDA posted these monthly metrics at <a href="http://www.fda.gov/drugs/abbreviated-new-drug-application-anda/activities-report-generic-drugs-program-fy-2019-monthly-performance">www.fda.gov/drugs/abbreviated-new-drug-application-anda/activities-report-generic-drugs-program-fy-2019-monthly-performance</a>

Performance Enhancement Goal	Target Goal Date	On Time (Y/N)	Actual Completion Date	Comments
Publish quarterly reporting metrics set forth under section VI(C)(2)(a) through (d) of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter	Quarterly	Y	Quarterly	FDA posted these quarterly metrics at <a href="http://www.fda.gov/industry/activities-report-generic-drugs-program-fy-2019-gdufa-ii-quarterly-performance">www.fda.gov/industry/activities-report-generic-drugs-program-fy-2019-gdufa-ii-quarterly-performance</a>
Publish annual reporting metrics set forth under section VI(C)(3)(a) through (p) of the GDUFA II Commitment Letter	Annually	Y	Annual	Please see the Performance Reporting section of the FY 2020 GDUFA Performance Report
Obtain through a contract with an independent third party an evaluation of options and recommendations for a new methodology to accurately assess changes in the resource needs of the human generic drug review program and how to monitor and report on those needs moving forward. Publish the report no later than the end of FY 2020 for public comment.	9/30/2020	Y	7/31/2020	<a href="http://www.fda.gov/media/140656/download">www.fda.gov/media/140656/download</a>
Publish updates to the GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan no later than the second quarter of each subsequent fiscal year	3/31/2020	Y	3/31/2020	FDA published the FY 2020 GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan update in March 2020 ( <a href="http://www.fda.gov/media/136586/download">www.fda.gov/media/136586/download</a> )
Convene a public meeting no later than the third quarter of each fiscal year starting in FY 2019 to discuss the GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan, along with the Agency's progress in implementing modernized time reporting and resource management planning	6/30/2019	Y	6/22/2020	FDA held the public meeting (Financial Transparency and Efficiency of GDUFA) in June 2020 to discuss the GDUFA Five-Year Financial Plan in June 2020



**C. Common Causes and Trends Impacting Ability to Meet Goals**

This section addresses section 904(c)(1) of FDARA, pertaining to GDUFA II, which requires FDA to identify the most common causes and trends for external or other circumstances affecting the ability of FDA to meet the review time and performance enhancement goals identified in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter.

In addition to the causes and trends initially identified in last year’s report, the table below represents FDA’s FY 2019 updated performance results.

Cause or Trend	Impact on FDA’s Ability to Meet Goals
Review Goals	In last year’s report, the Agency could not fully report on this in the appendix because some submissions received in FY 2019 had associated review goals that fell within the subsequent fiscal year. As stated in last year’s report, the Agency can now fulfill the commitment to fully report its performance on review goals. FDA met the FY 2019 review goals.
Pre-ANDA Program Goals	In last year’s report, the Agency could not fully report on this in the appendix because some submissions received in FY 2019 had associated pre-ANDA program goals that fell within the subsequent fiscal year. As stated in last year’s report, the Agency can now fulfill the commitment to fully report its performance on pre-ANDA program goals. FDA met the FY 2019 Pre-ANDA program goals.

The table below represents FDA’s FY 2020 preliminary performance results.

Cause or Trend	Impact on FDA’s Ability to Meet Goals
PAS Goals	Some submissions that fall under the Standard PAS (if pre-approval inspection is required) review goal category, and submissions that fall under the other review goal categories received in FY 20 have associated review time goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 review time goals yet, FDA will provide a full evaluation and a corrective action report for this fiscal year in next year’s GDUFA performance report and appropriate appendices.



## Appendix E: FY 2020 Corrective Action Report

### FY 2020 Corrective Action Report

On August 18, 2017, FDARA (Public Law 115-52) was signed into law. FDARA amends the FD&C Act to revise and extend the user fee programs for human drugs, biologics, medical devices, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes. Among the provisions of Title IX, section 904 of FDARA, FDA is required to issue a corrective action report that details FDA's performance in meeting the review and performance enhancement goals identified in the letter described in section 301(b) of GDUFA II (i.e., the GDUFA II Commitment Letter) for the applicable fiscal year.

If the Secretary determines, based on the analysis presented in the GDUFA Annual Performance Report, that each of the review and performance enhancement goals for the applicable fiscal year have been met, the corrective action report shall include recommendations on ways in which the Secretary can improve and streamline the human drug application process.<sup>58</sup>

For any of the review and performance enhancement goals during the applicable fiscal year that were not met, the corrective action report shall include a justification, as applicable, for the types of circumstances and trends that contributed to missed review goal times; and with respect to performance enhancement goals that were not met, a description of the efforts FDA has put in place to improve the ability of the Agency to meet each goal in the coming fiscal year. Such a description of corrective efforts is not required by statute for review time goals, but FDA is nonetheless providing this information in an effort to be complete.

This report satisfies this reporting requirement.

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<sup>58</sup> Section 744C(c)(1) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 379j-43(c)(1)).



## Executive Summary

### FY 2019 Review Goal Performance

The following table represents FDA's FY 2019 updated performance results for goal types that the Agency was not able to fully report in last year's report. If a goal type is not listed in this table for FY 2019, then the Agency fully reported on it in last year's report.<sup>59</sup>

Goal Type	Circumstances and Trends Impacting Ability to Meet Goal Date	Corrective Action Plan
Review Goals	All FY 2019 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.
Pre-ANDA Program Goals	All FY 2019 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.

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<sup>59</sup> See [www.fda.gov/about-fda/user-fee-performance-reports/gdufa-performance-reports](http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/user-fee-performance-reports/gdufa-performance-reports).

The following table represents FDA's FY 2020 preliminary performance results.

Goal Type	Circumstances and Trends Impacting Ability to Meet Goal Date	Corrective Action Plan
<b>Review Goals</b>	Too soon to determine.	Some submissions received in FY 2020 have associated review goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot yet evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 review goals, FDA will provide a full evaluation next year.
<b>Review Program Enhancement Goals</b>	Too soon to determine.	Some submissions received in FY 2020 have associated review program enhancement goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot yet evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 review program enhancement goals, FDA will provide a full evaluation next year.
<b>Pre-ANDA Program Goals</b>	Too soon to determine.	Some submissions received in FY 2020 have associated pre-ANDA program goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot yet evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 pre-ANDA program goals, FDA will provide a full evaluation next year.
<b>Facilities Goals</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.
<b>Enhanced Accountability and Reporting Goals</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.
<b>Policy Documents</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.
<b>Public Meetings and Workshops</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.
<b>Program and Process Implementation</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.
<b>Reporting</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan needed.
<b>Website Publishing</b>	All FY 2020 goals were met.	No corrective action plan is needed.



## ***GDUFA Review Goals***

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The following section addresses section 904(c)(2)(B) of FDARA (section 744C(c)(2)(A) of the FD&C Act), which requires FDA to provide a justification for the determination of review goals missed during FY 2020 and a description of the circumstances and any trends related to missed review goals.

This section presents GDUFA performance and workload information for all review performance goals for ANDAs.

### **I. FY 2020 Review Goal Performance**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* Some submissions received in FY 2020 have associated review goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot yet evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 review goals, FDA will provide a full evaluation next year.
- B. *Justification:* Too soon to determine if a justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* Too soon to determine if a corrective action is needed.

### **II. FY 2020 Review Program Enhancement Goals**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* Some submissions received in FY 2020 have associated review program enhancement goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot yet evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 review program enhancement goals, FDA will provide a full evaluation next year.
- B. *Justification:* Too soon to determine if a justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* Too soon to determine if a corrective action is needed.

### **III. FY 2020 Pre-ANDA Goals Performance**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* Some submissions received in FY 2020 have associated pre-ANDA goals that fall within the subsequent fiscal year. Because FDA cannot yet evaluate the entire performance for FY 2020 pre-ANDA goals, FDA will provide a full evaluation next year.
- B. *Justification:* Too soon to determine if a justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* Too soon to determine if a corrective action is needed.



**IV. FY 2020 Facilities Goals Performance**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

**V. FY 2020 Enhanced Accountability and Reporting Goals Performance**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

**VI. FY 2020 Policy Documents**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

**VII. FY 2020 Public Meetings and Workshops**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

**VIII. FY 2020 Program and Process Implementation**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

**IX. FY 2020 Website Publishing**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

**X. Reporting**

- A. *Summary of Performance:* All FY 2020 goals were met.
- B. *Justification:* No justification is needed.
- C. *FY 2021 Corrective Actions:* No corrective action is needed.

## **GDUFA Performance Enhancement Goals**

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The following section addresses section 904(c)(2) of FDARA (section 744C(c)(2) of the FD&C Act), which requires FDA to provide a detailed description of the efforts it has put in place for the fiscal year in which the report is submitted to improve FDA's ability to meet performance enhancement goals during FY 2021.

This section presents non-review performance goals cited in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter with required completion dates in FY 2020. For the purposes of this report, "performance enhancement goals" are defined as any non-review performance goal with a specified deadline as named in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter. Performance enhancement goals with specified completion dates in FY 2021 through FY 2022 will be covered in subsequent corrective action reports.

FDA was able to meet all its non-review performance goals with specified deadlines in the GDUFA II Commitment Letter and, therefore, no description of efforts to meet those goals in FY 2021 is necessary.



**Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration**

This report was prepared by FDA's Office of Planning in collaboration with the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. For information on obtaining additional copies, contact:

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