Ethics & GCP Forum – MHRA Update

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Agenda

- Metrics
- CT Regulation Update
  - Including MHRA-HRA pilot
- Innovative trial designs
- COVID-19
Metrics
Total trial applications assessed

Note! Data from the European database shows that UK workload as a % of total EU/EEA trials has remained constant.
UK Commercial applications received

![Graph showing the number of CTA applications received from 2005 to 2019 for different commercial phases.]

- **Commercial Phase 2-3**: 588, 561, 553, 520, 476, 457, 449, 518, 545, 556, 622, 623, 635, 630, 591
- **Commercial Phase 4**: 82, 121, 77, 43, 48, 33, 47, 41, 49, 47, 32, 37, 31
- **Commercial Phase 1**: 316, 263, 264, 232, 219, 211, 216, 177, 168, 163, 171, 134, 156, 131, 107
UK FIH totals by year
Advanced therapies:

- 127 ongoing trials observed in December 2019, with a majority employing viral vector mediated gene transfer. This represents approximately 12% of all ongoing global trials.

Source: Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (Jan ‘20)
CTR update
• General update
  • UK will no longer be part of the Clinical Trial Regulation since we will have exited the EU by the time it comes into force
  • UK specific legislation will be followed from 1st January 2021
    – For clinical trials this will not look much different as it has always been a national competency

• Monitor MHRA website as updates will be posted later this year

• No matter what the outcome of current negotiations, the UK is committed to offering a competitive service for clinical trial assessment.
Promoting increased collaboration between MHRA and the Health Research Authority to ensure balanced and risk based regulation of clinical trials
Exploring Combined Ways of Working

Aim to run a scheme that will test:

• a new process that will result in a single UK decision on a clinical trial (consisting of the current ethics opinion and MHRA clinical trial authorisation).

• a single clinical trial application route that incorporates both the Research Ethics Service and the MHRA regulatory centre

• The pilot is currently open to applications by prior agreement only, with the expectation that it will be opened up to all CTIMP applications as it develops.

Ultimately, we hope to discover, evidence and refine a combined way of working and the processes needed to enable this.
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- a new process that will result in a single UK decision on a clinical trial (consisting of the current ethics opinion and MHRA clinical trial authorisation).
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- The pilot is currently open to applications by prior agreement only, with the expectation that it will be opened up to all CTIMP applications as it develops. **ATIMPs have now been included**

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New IRAS

- New application system
- Electronic interfaces with UK REC and MHRA systems
- The first part of this new technical process went live on 2 March for a small number of sponsors involved in the CWoW pilot following user testing in February 2020. This initial release provides those sponsors already on the pilot with basic functionality that we will continue to refine during 2020.
Status of pilot

• 177 Initials consisting of:
  • 29 Phase 1 HVTs
  • 148 Phase 2-4

(152 approved, 14 are still under assessment, 7 is awaiting a response to questions raised, 1 was rejected and 1 was withdrawn, 2 removed from the pilot as responses to the list of questions raised weren’t submitted within the timeframe)

• 271 Amendments consisting of:
  • 33 Phase 1 HVTs
  • 238 Phase 2-4

• 18 End of Trials
Timelines for approved pilot applications

Validation: average of 3.5 days

Initial applications: quickest 17 days
average 53 days

Amendments: quickest 0 days
average 27 days
Next steps

- Continued development of ‘new IRAS’ to support scale-up of the pilot
  - Will remain ‘by invitation’ until scale-up possible
- Implementation of new MHRA case management system
- Development of interface between MHRA and HRA case management systems to facilitate co-assessment
- ‘Live’ guidance document updated based on discussion in support calls
- Ongoing formal feedback gathering from applicants
Innovative Trial Design
What do we mean by innovative design?

- Basket
- Umbrella
- Matrix
- Platform
- Pick-a-winner
- Adaptive
Guidance

- “Recommendation Paper on the Initiation and Conduct of Complex Clinical Trials” published February 2019
• Effective delivery of Complex Innovative Design (CID) cancer trials—A consensus statement

• https://www.nature.com/articles/s41416-019-0653-9

• British Journal of Cancer volume 122, pages 473–482(2020)
Supporting innovative trial designs

Enabling access to advice that supports innovative trial design

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/InnovativeTrialDesign

Workshop planned for Mid-2020 following analysis of survey results

Survey on novel trials and MHRA advice services – tell us what you think

Kirsty Wydenbach, 23 December 2019 - Improving Our Services

Innovation and supporting the research environment in the UK is a key priority for MHRA. But we know we can do more and be even better.
Supporting innovative trial designs

Enabling access to advice that supports innovative trial design

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/InnovativeTrialDesign NOW CLOSED

Workshop planned for Mid-2020 following analysis of survey results

• 2 afternoon webinars – October 12th and October 13th
• Open to all – sign up will be available soon
COVID-19
COVID-19 work

Trials Assessed

Amendments Assessed
Helpline

CTU Helpline

January: 292 Emails, 286 Phonecalls
February: 261 Emails, 286 Phonecalls
March: 611 Emails, 354 Phonecalls
April: 972 Emails, 229 Phonecalls
May: 286 Emails, 251 Phonecalls
June: 179 Emails, 504 Phonecalls
July: 270 Emails
Information updates

The MHRA Clinical Trials Unit is primed to prioritise assessment of any application that is submitted for COVID-19.

We would advise that COVID-19 applications are submitted directly to the clinical trial Helpline (clintrialhelpline@mhra.gov.uk) as well as via the normal route (CESP) so that our assessors can begin their work as soon as possible. We will liaise very closely with you to ensure your application is managed as efficiently as possible.

We would recommend you review our guidance on submission and management of COVID-19 trials here and here and regulatory flexibilities here. We also recommend that you comply with the NIHR process for prioritisation of COVID-19 research https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/

Documents to send with your application can be found here
Non-COVID trials

- Updates on flexibilities are available for GCP aspects that may be impacted by COVID-19 such as
  - Remote monitoring
  - Consent / signatures
  - How to manage protocol deviations
  - USMs
  - When to submit changes to MHRA
  - Halting trials
Finally…..
The biggest barrier to innovation and research from our perspective is not coming to ask our advice early enough (or at all !)

We can offer

- Scientific advice
- Broader scope meetings
- Regulatory advice
- Innovation office meetings
  - [https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/mhra-innovation-office](https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/mhra-innovation-office)
  - innovationoffice@mhra.gov.uk
- SCOPE advice – is a study a CTIMP or not
- Email advice – clintrialhelpline@mhra.gov.uk
- Telephone assistance – 020 3080 6456
Questions?
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