Regulation of cell and gene therapies in Australia

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Cell & Gene Therapy Products (CGTP): Manufacturing, Quality and Regulatory Considerations

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Role of the TGA

• Australian Commonwealth Government
• Department of Health
• The TGA regulates:
  ➢ medicines
  ➢ medical devices
  ➢ vaccines, blood products
  ➢ biologicals

Regulation of cell and gene therapies in Australia
Regulation of gene versus cell therapies

- Gene and cell therapies are regulated under different legislation in Australia.
- Biological medicines versus biologicals.
Regulation of gene versus cell therapies

• Biological medicine
  – a medicine (other than an antibiotic) that is:
    ▪ a vaccine, a peptide, a protein or polysaccharide-based; and
    ▪ human, animal or other organism derived, or produced through recombinant technology/biotechnology;
    ▪ certain human blood products
  – e.g. vector based gene therapies, monoclonal antibodies

• Regulated as a prescription medicine
  – Submission of dossier using ICH Common Technical Dossier Format module 3 (quality/CMC)
  – Application of Pharmacopoeia (Ph Eur) standards, ICH, EMA guidelines
    and Australian-specific legislation including Therapeutic Goods Orders (TGOs)
Regulation of gene versus cell therapies

- **Biological**
  - Something that comprises, contains or is derived from human cells or human tissues
  - *e.g. cellular therapies, CAR-T cells*

- Governed using the regulatory framework for biologicals 2011
  - Biologicals separated into classes based on risk from low risk class 1 to high risk class 4
  - Dossier submitted based on ICH CTD or TGA biologicals dossier
    - Application of ICH and EMA guidance
    - Use of Australian Therapeutic Goods Orders
Regulation of gene versus cell therapies

• TGA dossier
  – 1 INTRODUCTION
  – 2 SCOPE
  – 3 RISK MANAGEMENT
  – 4 QUALITY AND MANUFACTURING ASPECTS
    – 4.1 Biological starting materials
    – 4.2 Manufacturing process
    – 4.3 Characterisation
    – 4.4 Control of final product
    – 4.5 Storage and stability
    – 4.6 Product development
    – 4.7 Labelling and release documentation
    – 4.8 Transportation
  – 5 INTENDED USE – Class 2 only
  – 5 NON-CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT - Class 3 & 4 only
  – 6 CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT - Class 3 & 4 only
Pathways for submission

- Standard pathway for medicines and biological allows 255 days from acceptance of evaluation to decision

- For medicines where there is a high unmet clinical need other pathways are available
  - Provisional
    - Registered on basis of preliminary clinical data where benefit outweighs risk
    - Requires further submission of clinical data for full registration
  - Priority
    - Target timeframe of 150 days
Quality review of active ingredient

- For a typical biological medicine we would expect evidence of:
  - Consistent manufacture
  - Thorough characterisation
  - Stability studies performed
Regulation of gene versus cell therapies

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Quality review of viral vector production

Manufacturing
- Establishment of a cell bank
- Establishment of a plasmid bank

Amplification
- Transfection of cells
- Vector characterisation
- Vector release testing

Release

Regulation of cell and gene therapies in Australia
Quality review of viral vector production

- For a viral gene therapy we would expect evidence of:
  - Most parameters met with therapies examined so far

- Issues with some analytical methods
  - e.g. Lack of a meaningful potency assay
  - Ultimately considered acceptable based on risk analysis and balance of other analytical data

- Interest in manufacturing process evolution
  - Looking for comparability between early and late batches
    - Especially in regard to those used for clinical trials
Quality review of cell therapy production

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Quality review of cell therapy production

- Cell therapies have many more steps which are difficult to control
- CAR-T cells as an example
  - Starting materials inherently different
  - Batch analysis difficult
  - Lack of appropriate reference material
  - After transduction multiple active ingredients
  - Limited material to establish test methods
  - Appropriate potency assay
Reducing regulatory burden

• Autologous cellular therapies have a reduced risk of infectious disease transmission compared to others

• Current Australian legislation for donor selection mandates testing, medical history and deferral requirements

• We are proposing to exempt these requirements in certain autologous settings
  – Criteria which compromise quality, safety and efficacy must be considered
  – GMP required for appropriate manufacturing to prevent potential contamination