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INNOVATION & QUALITY  
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# Physicochemical In-use Studies: Industry Experts Insights

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on behalf of IQ working group 'Physiochemical In-Use Stability Testing'  
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# Outline

Problem statement

Physiochemical In-Use Stability Testing Working Group

- Harmonized approach to conduct in-use study

Regulatory guidance

- Different interpretations & implementation from different companies.

Complications in practice

- Selection of testing materials
- Study design strategy – a possible solution
- Analytical methods & acceptance criteria

Conclusions

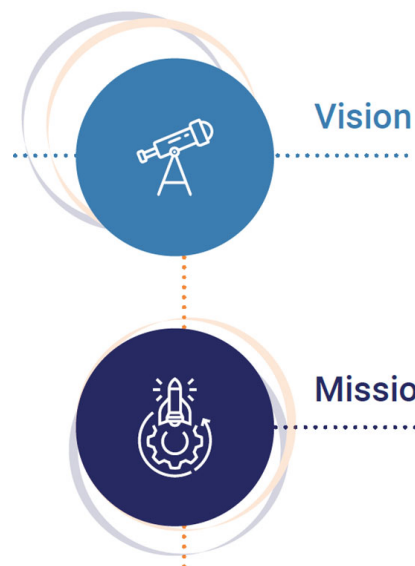
# Problem Statement

- In-use stability and compatibility studies are critical to demonstrate product quality during administration
- Minimal guidance on Biologics in-use stability testing. Each country or region has different or unwritten expectations, causing challenges for global submissions.
- Administration components in fluid path highly diversified across clinical sites.
- Assay performance strongly affected by in-use matrix; challenging to set appropriate acceptance criteria
- Diversified approaches utilized by pharmaceutical companies to conduct in-use stability studies.



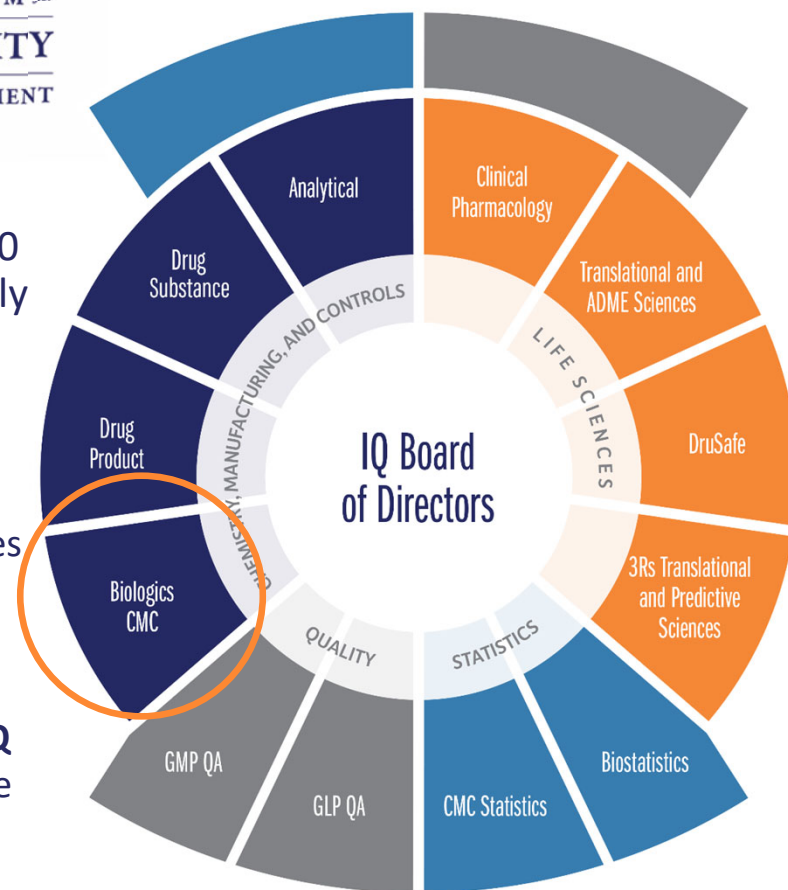
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As a technically-focused organization of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, **IQ advances science and technology** to augment the capability of member companies to bring transformational solutions that benefit patients, regulators and the broader R&D community.



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# IQ WG Mission & Deliverables

Harvest existing knowledge and publish best practices recommendations for specified type of molecules

- Focus on conventional biologics in phase I: antibody-based therapeutics, peptides, proteins, (non-mRNA) vaccines.
- Harmonized approach to conduct in-use stability & compatibility study
  - Selection of administration material (material of contact) & DP (process, batch, age)
  - Selection of analytical methods for in-use study & acceptance criteria
  - Appropriate quality standard to conduct in-use study
- Harmonized approach to communicate in-use stability to clinics and regulatory agencies

# IQ Physicochemical In-Use Stability Working Group

Working group formed by members across industry

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# Regulatory Guidance Leaves Big Room for Interpretation

## **ICH Q1A R2 Section 2.2.7 & ICH Q8 R2 Section II. F Compatibility**

High-level expectations regarding in-use stability and compatibility to support labeling.

## **USP <1049> Stability after Reconstitution of Freeze-Dried Product (6.6),**

General expectation regarding stability of reconstituted freeze-dried product.

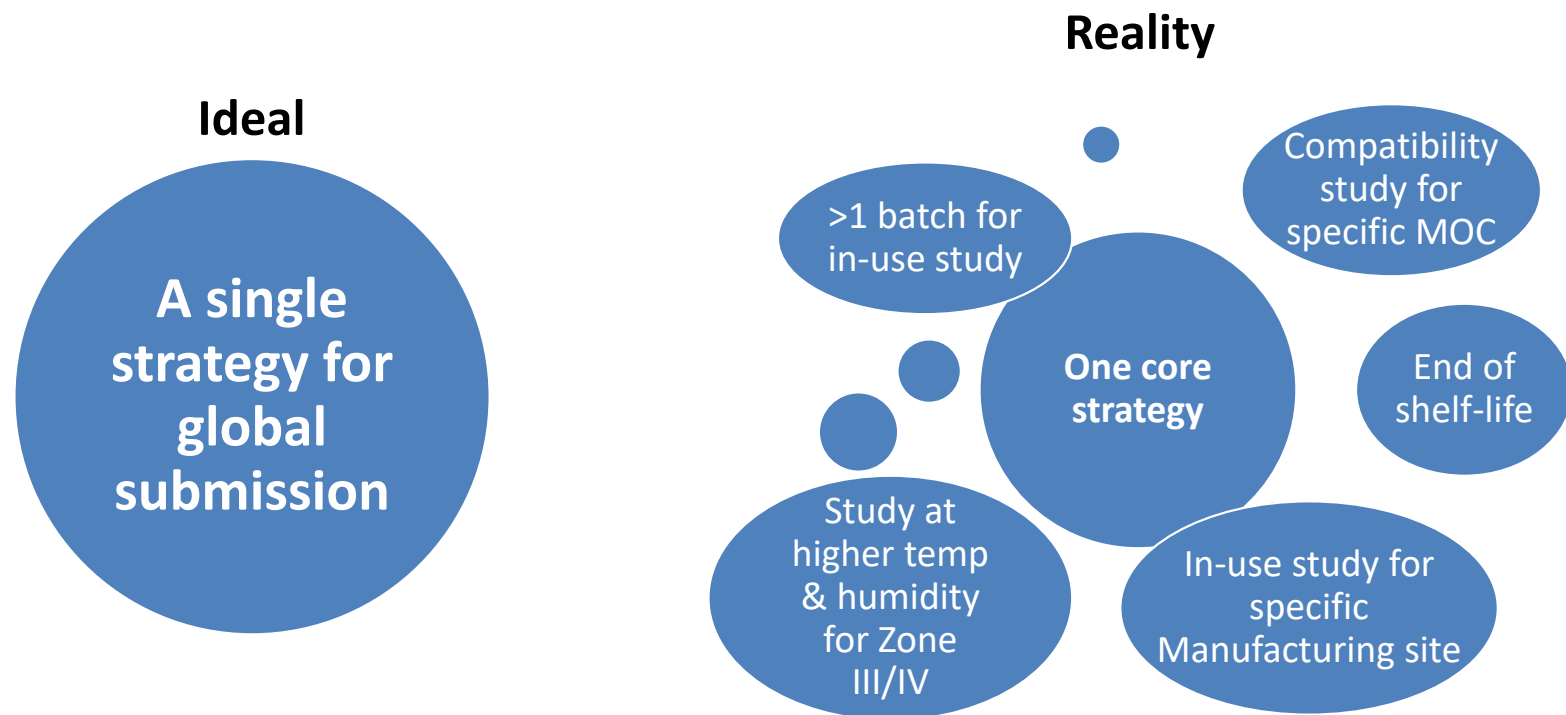
## **EMA CHMP/SWP/28367/07 (Section 5.3)**

General expectation that the low-dose products should have suitable formulation for stability and demonstrate compatibility with in-use containers and primary packaging materials

## **CPMP/QWP/2934/99, note for guidance on in-use stability testing of human medicinal products**

More detailed instructions on batch number, selection criteria of testing materials, and testing design.

# Unwritten Expectations Causing Challenges for Global Submission





# Fluid Path Material of Construction (MOC)

Polymers such as PVC, PO, PE, EVA, PU, PBD, PES, PS, silicone, and other materials such as stainless steel, etc...



# MOCs and Study Design

There are various strategies for study designs, and deciding which administration MOCs to test:

Material contact duration:  
extended (eg. IV Bag) or  
transient (eg. Luer connector)

Route of administration:  
IV, SC, IVT, etc

Types of polymer:  
(e.g., PVC vs polyolefins as  
a general class)

Clinical phase:  
(PhI/II, PhIII, BLA/IMA)

Bracketing of protein  
concentration to  
support dose ranges

Clinical site choice of  
materials or  
market/biosimilar  
competition



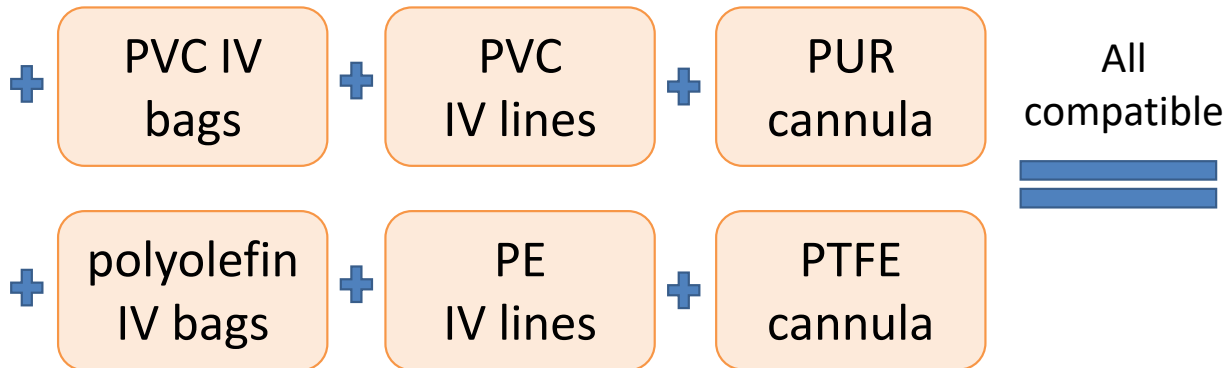
# Matrixing Approach to In-use Study Design

There are various strategies for study designs, and deciding which administration MOCs to test:

Matrixing of commercially available administration components preferred option  
versus testing every combination of line, IV bag and diluent

Example  
matrix:

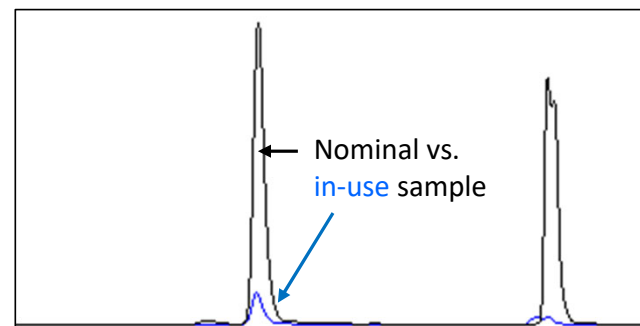
0.9% NaCl  
diluent



Can support use  
of 0.9% NaCl,  
PVC, PUR, PO,  
PE and PTFE for  
administration

# Select the Right Methods to demonstrate quality at end of in-use period

- Qualified analytical methodology not directly usable
  - Outside assay qualification range
  - Strong in-use matrix impact



- Test quality attributes with suitable assays in phase dependent manner

## Common Tests

Protein content

Color, clarity, visible particles

## As Applicable: Test & Assess

Product related variants or  
impurities

Soluble aggregates  
Sub-visible particles

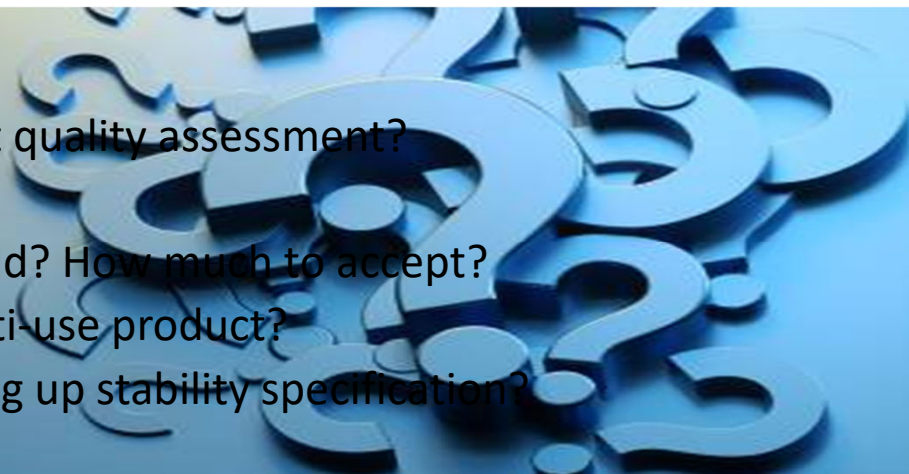
## If Feasible:

Potency  
All modes of action  
Test must have adequate precision

# Now that we tested, how do we assess the data ...?

## Key questions often asked (shall we ...):

- Leverage specification for in-use product quality assessment?
- Apply USP criteria for in-use samples?
- Accept trend of change during in-use hold? How much to accept?
- Accept product quality change for a multi-use product?
- Consider in-use degradation when setting up stability specification?



There are several options to select acceptance criteria:

Absence of foreign visible particles

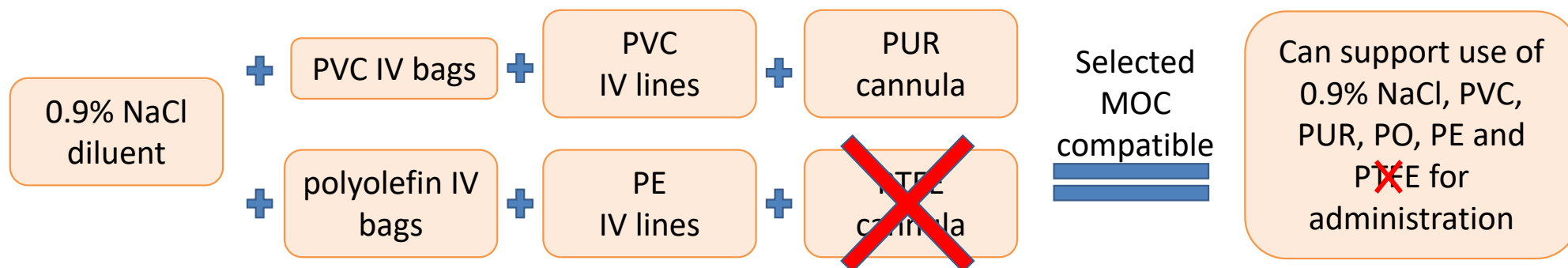
Acceptable change within specification

No meaningful changes  
compared to initial values

# Case Study:

## Assessment of Compatibility Using Matrixing Approach

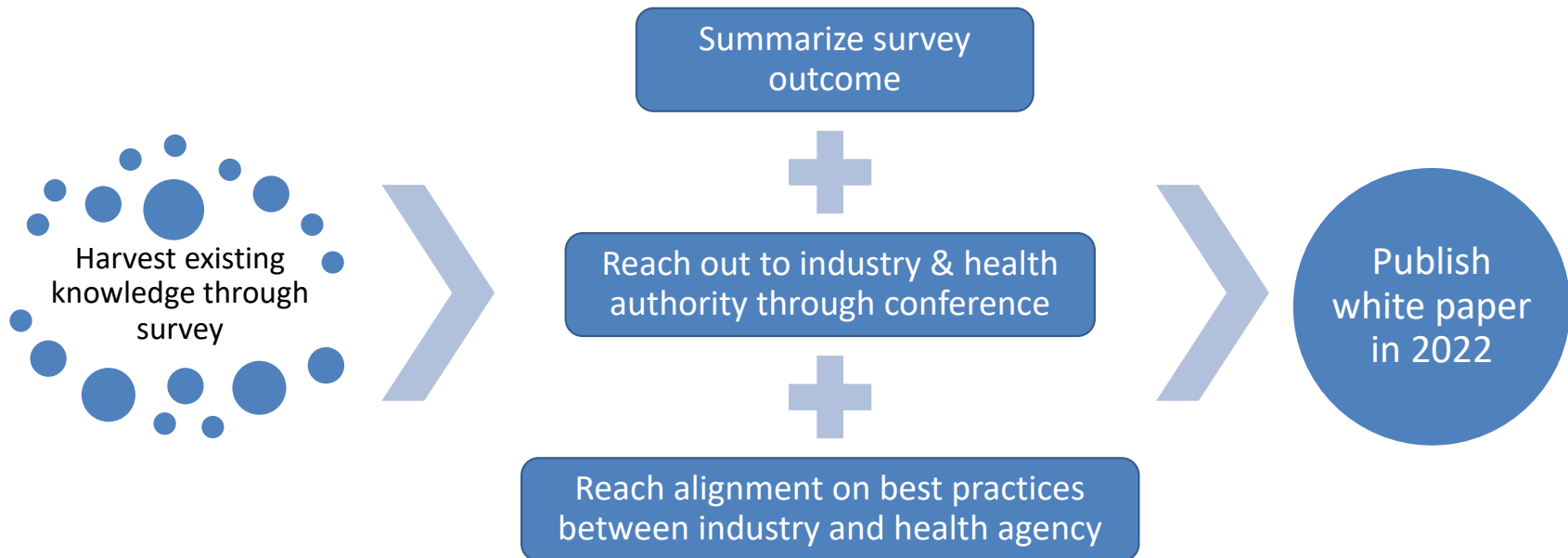
Bracketing approach for protein concentration to cover lowest and highest clinical dose ranges



**Poor recovery of protein observed: Troubleshooting of 2<sup>nd</sup> IV set-up indicates unacceptable level of protein adsorption to PTFE cannula at lowest dose cohorts.**

**Mitigation: only enable use of PUR cannula for PhI clinical studies for initial dose cohorts.**

# IQ Working Group Status



# Conclusions

In-use stability requires close collaborations across industry

- Suppliers for administration devices
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Regulatory agencies
- Clinical sites

Harmonized approach is strongly desired and benefit all parties



# Acknowledgement

This presentation was developed with the support of the International Consortium for Innovation and Quality in Pharmaceutical Development (IQ, [www.iqconsortium.org](http://www.iqconsortium.org)). IQ is a not-for-profit organization of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with a mission of advancing science and technology to augment the capability of member companies to develop transformational solutions that benefit patients, regulators and the broader research and development community.

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