A Potential Innovative CMC Solution: Responding To Public Health Needs With An Accelerated Clinical Pathway–A Vaccine Example



January 2018 Natalie A. Christian Integrated Development and Supply Team Lead



It is an Internal Race to Bring Products to the Market Meet the Drivers:



Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC) constitutes that part of pharmaceutical development that deals with the nature of the drug substance and drug product, the manner in which both are made, and the manner by which the manufacturing process is shown to be in control.





Clinical Development Takes the Lead with an *Accelerated Approval Pathway*

Per CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS SEC 601.41

- FDA may grant marketing approval on the basis of clinical trials that establish the biological product has an effect on a surrogate endpoint
- Applicant to study the biological product further to verify the clinical benefit
- Post-marketing studies would usually be underway



Accelerated Approvals Bring



Vaccine Case Study Background

The Mission:

Develop a high quality vaccine for unmet medical need that can be launched expeditiously and available to patients all the time



Clinical - Go FAST!

- Vaccine target is recognized by health authorities as an unmet medical need
- Regulatory agencies provide early feedback they are open to considering an accelerated pathway (no commitment)



CMC – Can we keep up?

- Final manufacturing process is still under development
- Need a facility for Ph3 clinical manufacturing





CMC Strategy: Enable acceleration by leveraging CMC opportunities



Compress process and analytical development timeline



Supply Ph3 clinical consistency lots from an existing facility and tech transfer prior to initial licensure



Compress timelines for licensure facilities



Opportunity # 1: Compressing Process Development Timelines



Accelerated Pathway puts the Squeeze on CMC Window



Start the race together







What happens in the "CMC window"?

Process Definition & Analytical Development

- Define raw materials, process operations, and parameter setpoints.
- Complete Analytical method development

Facility Readiness, Process Characterization, Analytical Validation

Process Characterization - Additional process experience to understand impact of raw material, components, and process parameters on critical quality attributes and process variability.



Process Qualification



DS and DP process qualification lots are manufactured in **commercial facility** to demonstrate the process is capable of reproducibly meeting critical quality attributes.

Stability Data Prepare to File

Accumulate **minimum** of 6M of drug product accelerated and real-time stability data and prepare file for submission.



*Figure from Design Space Presentation prepared by Drug Regulations – a not for profit organization. www.drugragulations.org







Benefits:

- Earlier process characterization work increases process understanding and opportunity to influence Final Manufacturing Process
- Early site engagement improves knowledge transfer and increases influence during process design needed for robust manufacturing procedures

Challenges:

- Facility design re-work if process changes identified during process characterization
- Rapid increase in resource demand to support characterization and facility design
- Cannot accelerate generation of stability data. Compress with agency alignment to use stability data from product development studies.



Opportunity #2: Supplying Phase 3 Consistency Lots from Existing Facility



Opportunity: Supply Clinical Consistency Lots From an Existing Facility (not Launch Facility)



Strategy: Gain Regulatory Alignment to Allow Flexibility in Sourcing Clinical Consistency Lots



Proposal to Regulatory Agencies:

- Allow company to use 100% of clinical consistency lots from pilot plant or CMO facility
- Demonstrate analytical comparability through deep and extended characterization between the consistency lots and PPQ lots from the commercial facility to ensure comparability of the clinical and commercial product





Benefits:

- Critical to enable accelerated pathway
- Faster patient access to vaccine to meet an unmet medical need
- Company can complete tech transfer in parallel to the Ph3 study

Challenges:

- Vaccines do not typically have the benefit of platform technologies (ex. Biologics)
- Minimizing process changes during tech transfer may propagate long-term process robustness and supply risks
- Scale-up may be required between pilot plant/CMO and commercial facilities
- Failure to meet comparability requirements may lead to additional process development and repeating qualification lots with impact to file timeline



Opportunity #3: Compress timelines for licensure facilities



Opportunity: Optimize facility plan based on project timing and resources



Proprietary

Strategy: Capital investment in facilities to support launch, Acceleration timeline, and defers spend required to increase capacity



Launch Asset Investment

Long-term Supply Asset Investment





Benefits:

- Minimizes capital spend prior to approval
- Improves speed to market for unmet medical need
- Launch facility could be designed as product agnostic to repurpose for future pipeline opportunities



Challenges:

- Launch facility is not sized for market demand or cost effective (COGs)
- Post-approval filings required for capacity expansions.



CMC Strategies may Enable Clinical and CMC to Finish Together but Comes with Risk



- Compress process and analytical development timeline
 - **RISK:** Post-approval filings to improve process/analytical robustness. May result in high discard rates and product shortages impacting patient access and public trust
- Supply Ph3 clinical consistency lots from an existing facility that will not be used for commercial supply
 - **RISK:** If regulatory feedback does not support strategy, significant impact to speed to market and patient access
- File and launch from a commercial facility with limited capacity
 - **RISK**: Post approval filings required and risk of product shortages until larger facility is approved



Early Feedback of Possible Accelerated Approval Pathway is Not a Commitment

If Accelerated Approval pathway is not granted:

Impact if company continues program:

- Increased time to improve process and analytics
- Return on investment is delayed by multiple years
- Facility has prolonged idle period
- Staffing challenges to maintain experienced operators

Impact if company discontinues product development:

- Unmet medical need remains
- May influence other companies to discontinue programs given product development investment and clinical trial durations
- Sunk costs in facility and resources
- Factory must be repurposed



How Can Regulators Help CMC Support Acceleration and Ensure Robust Product Supply?

- Provide guidance and flexibility on expectations for clinical consistency lots if not manufactured in the commercial facility used for licensure
- Flexibility to leverage stability data obtained during development (not PPQ/final facility) to support shelf-life
- Guidance for change control requirements prior to BLA to support changes between manufacture of clinical supply lots and commercial facility qualification
- Approve **prospective comparability protocols** to streamline post approval filings/reviews for scaling out of facilities (e.g. modular capacity expansions) based on sound science
- Limit **comparability requirements** to only scope of transfer (ex. upstream, downstream, drug product)







THANK YOU



