ICH GCP Guidelines

DMID/ICSSC

10/7/08
GCP Introduction

GCP is...

“An international ethical and scientific quality standard for designing, conducting, recording, and reporting trials that involve participation of human subjects”

E6 Good Clinical Practice: Consolidated Guidance
ICH Guidelines

What is the ICH?
International Conference on Harmonization of the Technical Requirements for the Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (www.ICH.org)

What is its purpose?
ICH Guidelines

ICH Guidelines are divided into 4 main topics:

- **Quality Topics** - relate to chemical and pharmaceutical quality assurance
e.g. Q1 Stability Testing

- **Safety Topics** - relate to preclinical studies
e.g. S1 Carcinogenicity Testing

- **Multidisciplinary Topics** - cross-cutting topics which don’t fit into one of the other categories
e.g. M1 Medical Terminology (MeDRA)
Efficacy Topics - relate to clinical studies in human subjects

e.g. **E6 Good Clinical Practice**;

e.g. **E2A Clinical Safety Data Management: Definitions and Standards for Expedited Reporting**;

e.g. **E9 Statistical Principles for Clinical Trials**
Sections of I CH E6

1. Glossary
2. Principles of GCP
3. IEC/IRB Responsibilities
4. Investigator Responsibilities
5. Sponsor Responsibilities
6. Protocols and Amendments
7. Investigator’s Brochure
8. Essential Documents
The Principles of ICH GCP

- Ethical Principles
- Scientific considerations
The Principles of ICH GCP

**Ethical Principles**
- Well-being of participants
- Benefits versus risks
- Ethics committee approval
- Voluntary informed consent
- Participant confidentiality
The Principles of ICH GCP

Scientific Considerations

- Scientifically sound study design
- Study conducted by qualified individuals
- Quality assurance and quality control systems
Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
- 21 CFR
  - Electronic Records – Part 11
  - Protection of Human Subjects (Informed Consent) – Part 50
  - Financial Disclosure – Part 54
  - Institutional Review Boards – Part 56
  - Investigational New Drug Application – Part 312

Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP)
- 45 CFR 46
  - Subpart A: Protection of Human Research Subjects (Informed Consent and IRBs)
  - Subpart B: Protection of Pregnant Women, Human Fetuses and Neonates
  - Subpart C: Protection of Prisoners
  - Subpart D: Protection of Children

International Conference on Harmonization (ICH)
- E6
  - Section 1: Glossary
  - Section 2: Principles of ICH GCP
  - Section 3: IRB/EC
  - Section 4: Investigator
  - Section 5: Sponsors
  - Section 6: Protocol
  - Section 7: Investigator’s Brochure
  - Section 8: Essential Documents
2. THE PRINCIPLES OF ICH GCP

2.1 Clinical trials should be conducted in accordance with the ethical principles that have their origin in the Declaration of Helsinki, and that are consistent with GCP and the applicable regulatory requirement(s).

2.2 Before a trial is initiated, foreseeable risks and inconveniences should be weighed against the anticipated benefit for the individual trial subject and society. A trial should be initiated and continued only if the anticipated benefits justify the risks.

2.3 The rights, safety, and well-being of the trial subjects are the most important considerations and should prevail over interests of science and society.

2.4 The available nonclinical and clinical information on an investigational product should be adequate to support the proposed clinical trial.

2.5 Clinical trials should be scientifically sound, and described in a clear, detailed protocol.

2.6 A trial should be conducted in compliance with the protocol that has received prior institutional review board (IRB)/independent ethics committee (IEC) approval/favorable opinion.

2.7 The medical care given to, and medical decisions made on behalf of, subjects should always be the responsibility of a qualified physician or, when appropriate, of a qualified dentist.

2.8 Each individual involved in conducting a trial should be qualified by education, training, and experience to perform his or her respective task(s).

2.9 Freely given informed consent should be obtained from every subject prior to clinical trial participation.

2.10 All clinical trial information should be recorded, handled, and stored in a way that allows its accurate reporting, interpretation, and verification.

2.11 The confidentiality of records that could identify subjects should be protected, respecting the privacy and confidentiality rules in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirement(s).

2.12 Investigational products should be manufactured, handled, and stored in accordance with applicable good manufacturing practice (GMP). They should be used in accordance with the approved protocol.

2.13 Systems with procedures that assure the quality of every aspect of the trial should be implemented.
Exercise

1. Which principle of ICH GCP addresses the rights and well-being of subjects?

2. Which principle of ICH GCP addresses “freely given informed consent”?

Case Study

A study is being conducted in Bango, Mozambique to determine the prevalence of schistosomiasis disease. The study is being conducted at a busy primary care clinic. One of the doctors at the clinic is the investigator and she does the initial examination of the participants and has the final say on the clinical assessment. She has been trained on Good Clinical Practice and Research Ethics. Since the clinic is very busy, only one nurse has been assigned to the study and she is required to obtain informed consent from the participants, maintain the study records and regulatory files and the complete the case report forms. She is also required to do quality control on the completed case report forms and do quality assurance reviews of the participants’ records and regulatory files. The nurse is also required to serve as the liaison with the ethics committee, submit required documentation to the ethics committee for review, and track those regulatory submission. The nurse has had little training. The doctor spent an hour giving her a quick overview of the study. Although the nurse has never had formal training in clinical research or Good Clinical Practice, she was very interested in a study that was conducted at the clinic a year ago and at the time found out as much as she could about clinical research from the other staff who were involved with the study.

The nurse obtains informed consent from the first participant but because of her huge workload, she does not take the time to fully explain the content of the inform consent document to the participant but provides a quick summary and then persuades the participant to agree to take part in the study. She obtains informed consent from participants in the busy waiting room of the clinic.

She does quality control on the case report forms that she has completed, but is not really sure what she has to check. She decides that she will ask one of the other nurses how to perform quality assurance reviews of the participant records and regulatory files.
The doctor tells the nurse that the next version of the protocol (version 2.0) needs to be submitted to the ethics committee for review. The nurse is very busy and forgets to do so, finally remembering a month later, and then she submits the new version of the protocol and revised consent forms to the ethics committee. She reads the revised consent form and decides that she can’t see that many changes in the new consent form and decides to start using it right away.

Which principles of ICH GCP have been contravened?