The Essentials of Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

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Objectives

- Explain the origin and purpose of Good Clinical Practice (GCP).
- Describe the International Conference on Harmonization’s Guideline for Good Clinical Practice (ICH GCP).
- Discuss the ICH GCP Guideline and its importance in conducting safe, ethical, and sound clinical research.
Discuss the rationale for the development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
Good Clinical Practice

- Is a standard for designing, conducting, performing, monitoring, auditing, recording, analyzing, and reporting clinical trials

- Provides assurance that data and reported results are credible and accurate and that the rights and confidentiality of subjects are protected
Elements of Good Clinical Practice

- Federal Regulations
  “The letter of the law”
- Regulatory Agency Guidelines
- ICH GCP Guideline
  “The spirit of the law”
- ISO 14155: 1 and 2

- Other government regulations
- State and local laws
- Sponsor, site, ERC/EC/IRB, SOPs
- Practice Acts and Licensure
- Standards of Care
Relationship Between GCP Elements

ICH Guidelines

ISO Standards

Sponsor SOPs

State Regulations

Site SOPs

IRB SOPs
Provide a unified standard for the European Union (EU), Japan, and the United States to facilitate the mutual acceptance of the clinical data by the regulatory authorities in these jurisdictions
The ICH Guideline is an effort to define GCP and to create and provide a unified standard for designing, conducting, recording and reporting trials that involve the participation of human subjects.
Objectives of the ICH Guideline for GCP

- Achieve greater agreement in interpreting and applying technical guidelines and requirements for product registration
- Eliminate unnecessary delay in:
  - Global development
  - Availability of new medicines
- Maintain safeguards to protect public health
GCP Guidelines are organized into eight sections:

1) Glossary of Terms
2) The Principles of ICH GCP
3) Institutional Review Board (IRB), or Independent Ethics Committee (IEC)
4) The Investigator
5) The Sponsor
6) Clinical Trial Protocol and Protocol Amendments
7) The Investigator’s Brochure
8) Essential Documents for the Conduct of a Clinical Trial
Organization of ICH GCP Guidelines

Each section contains specific definitions and outlines the essential responsibilities of Investigators and Sponsors in conducting clinical trials and the elements that must be contained in trial protocols and the Investigator’s Brochure.
2.1 - Clinical trials should be conducted in an ethical manner

2.2 - A trial should be initiated and continued only if the anticipated benefits outweigh the risks

2.3 - Protecting the rights, safety, and well-being of human subjects is more important than the interests of science and society

2.4 - The available nonclinical and clinical information on an investigational product should adequately support the proposed 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 IRB/IEC approval

2.7 - Qualified physicians are responsible for the medical care given to, and medical decisions made on behalf of, the subjects

2.8 - Individuals 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 - Protect the identity of the subjects, respecting the privacy and confidentiality rules in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements
2.12 - Investigational products should be manufactured, handled and stored according to 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.
3.1 - 3.4  ICH GCP and the IRB

- The Institutional Review Board (IRB) exists to safeguard the rights, safety, and well being of all trial subjects.

- ICH GCP Guideline for IRBs outlines the following:
  3.1 Responsibilities
  3.2 Composition, Functions, and Operations
  3.3 Procedures
  3.4 Records
An Investigator is defined as the person responsible for the conduct of the clinical trial at a trial site

The Guideline outlines the following:

4.1 The Investigator’s Qualifications and Agreements
4.2 What constitutes “Adequate Resources” to conduct a trial
4.3 Standards for providing “Medical Care of Trial Subjects”
4.4 Communications with the IRB
4.5 The need for “Compliance with the Protocol”
4.6 Handling of “Investigational Product(s)"
4.7 Randomization Procedures and Unblinding
4.8 Informed Consent of Trial Subjects
4.9 Responsibilities for “Records and Reports”
4.10 Need for “Progress Reports”
4.11 Responsibilities for “Safety Reporting”
4.12 What to do with “Premature Termination or Suspension of a Trial”
4.13 The “Final Report(s) by the Investigator”
Examples of GCP at the Site

- Investigator responsibilities
  - FDA Guidance for Industry – Investigator Responsibilities: Protecting the Rights, Safety and Welfare of Study Subjects

- Consent responsibilities

- IRB responsibilities
Examples of GCP at the Site (Cont.)

- Protocol responsibilities
- Study file maintenance
- Study drug accountability
The Sponsor is responsible for a large number of issues including, but not limited to:

5.1 Quality Assurance and Quality Control
5.4 Trial Design
5.5 Trial Management, Data Handling, and Record Keeping
5.14 Supplying and Handling Investigational Product(s)
5.18 Monitoring
5.19 Auditing
Protocols should include the following:

6.1 General information on the trial, including contact information
6.2 Background information on the specific trial
6.3 Trial objectives and purpose
6.4 The trial design
6.5 Inclusion/exclusion and discontinuation criteria of subjects
Investigator’s Brochure (IB):

“A compilation of the clinical and non-clinical data on the investigational product(s) that are relevant to the study of the product(s) in human subjects…”
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The Essence of GCP:

1. Human subject protection
2. Data integrity and validity
3. Investigational product control and accountability
“Device GCP”

- ‘Clinical Investigation of Medical Devices for Human Subjects’

  1. General Requirements
  2. Clinical Investigation Plans

- Recently updated in 2011
FDA (BIMO) GCP Inspections of Investigators:

- Fiscal 2008 Total: 675
  - CDER: 405
    1. Protocol violations
    2. Recordkeeping failures
    3. AE reporting failures
    4. Informed consent violations
    5. Drug accountability failures
  - CBER: 77
  - CDRH: 155
  - Others: 38
SOPs

- Standard Operating Procedures:
  - Detailed, written instructions that the research team follows to achieve uniformity of research procedures and ensure compliance with GCP and all FDA regulations and guidelines for clinical trials conducted at the investigative site.
‘Investigator Responsibilities – Protecting the Rights, Safety, and Welfare of Study Subjects’

Overview
1. Ensuring that a clinical study is conducted according to the signed investigator statement, the protocol, and applicable regulations
2. Protecting the rights, safety and welfare of study subjects
3. Controlling investigational drugs, biologics, and devices
‘Nothing in this guidance is intended to conflict with recommendations for investigators contained in the [ICH] guidance for industry, [GCP Guidance].’

Clarification of Certain Investigator Responsibilities

1. Supervision of the conduct of a clinical investigation
2. Protecting the rights, safety and welfare of study subjects
Supervision of the conduct of a clinical investigation
1. Appropriate delegation of study-related tasks
2. Adequate training
3. Adequate supervision of the ongoing trial
4. Oversight of other parties involved in study conduct

Protecting the rights, safety and welfare of study subjects
1. Provide reasonable medical care
2. Provide reasonable access to medical care
3. Adhere to the protocol to minimize risks
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Questions?

Thank you!