



Title: Harmonisation of European Breakpoints set by EMEA/CHMP and EUCAST		Document no.: SOP/H/3043
Applies to: Product Team Leaders in the Human Pre-Authorisation Unit, (Co)Rapporteurs, External Experts, EUCAST		Effective Date: 14 February 2005
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1. Purpose

To describe the interaction between EMEA/CHMP and EUCAST in the process of harmonisation of European breakpoints.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to Product Team Leaders in the Human Pre-Authorisation Unit, (Co)Rapporteurs and Clinical/Non-Clinical Experts involved in the assessment of microbiological data and the setting of susceptibility breakpoints. It also applies to relevant members of EUCAST. The feasibility of the procedure for individual applications depends on the agreement with the applicant (Annex 1).

3. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the EMEA and the EUCAST to ensure that this procedure is adhered to within their own remits. The responsibility for the execution of a particular part of this procedure is identified in the right-hand column in **7. Procedure**.

4. Forms needed for this SOP

Form on an "Agreement between EMEA and applicant to allow the EMEA expert information sharing during the EUCAST Steering Committee meeting" (Annex 1).

Public declaration of interest and confidentiality undertaking of EMEA scientific committees members and experts.

5. Related documents

"Clarifications on the EUCAST process" (Annex 2)

6. Definitions

BSAC - British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

CA-SFM - Comité de l'Antibiogramme de la Société Française de Microbiologie

CHMP - Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use

DIN - Deutsches Institute for Normung eV.

DM&P - Document Management and Publishing
 EFPIA - European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries Associations
 EMEA - European Medicines Agency
 EUCAST - European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
 ISO/CEN - International Organization for Standardization/European Committee for Standardization
 MAA - Marketing Authorisation Application
 NCCLS (now CLSI) - National Committee on Clinical Laboratory Standards
 PTL - Product Team Leader
 SPC - Summary of Product Characteristics
 SRGA - The Swedish Reference Group of Antibiotics

7. Procedure

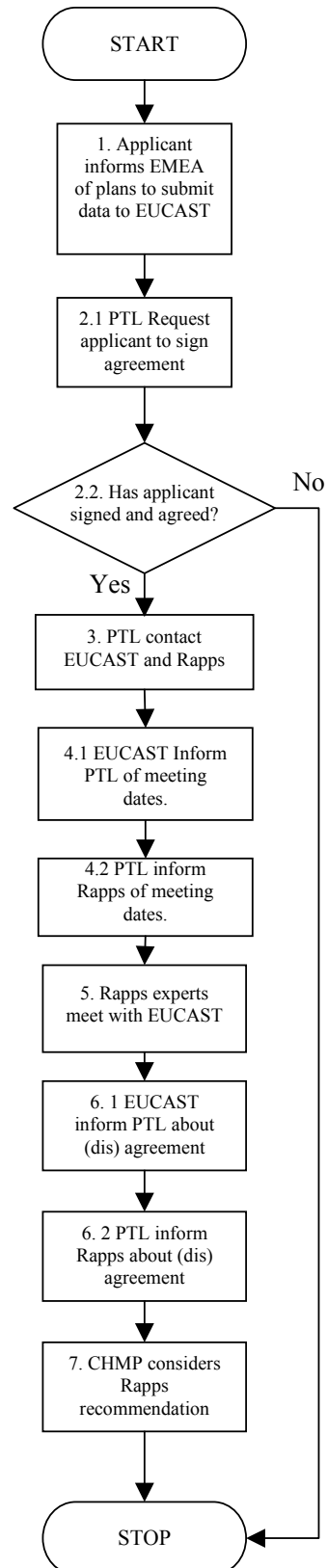
Step	Action	Responsibility
1.	During pre-submission meeting at the EMEA or upon receipt of information on intention to submit a MAA: Inform EMEA of plans to submit non-clinical/pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic/clinical data to the EUCAST.	Applicant
2.	During pre-submission meeting at the EMEA or at the time of receipt of the MAA:	
2.1	Fill in form (annex 1) and request applicant to sign agreement between the EMEA and applicant to allow active participation of CHMP Rapporteur/Experts in EUCAST Steering Committee meetings thus enabling the possibility to discuss data from the CHMP assessment.	PTL
2.2	If the agreement in step 2.1 is denied by the applicant, the process stops here. If the agreement is accepted by the applicant proceed to step 3.	PTL
3.	After agreement with the applicant on submission of data to both EMEA and EUCAST and planned date of submission and after a signature has been obtained on form (annex 1): Contact the EUCAST chairman and scientific secretary (emails on the EUCAST web-site www.eucast.org) and CHMP appointed Rapporteurs and inform about agreement and planned submission date.	PTL
4.	Upon confirmation of the EMEA/CHMP participation:	
4.1	EUCAST to inform EMEA PTL about the meetings dates of the EUCAST Steering Committee.	EUCAST chairman
4.2	EMEA PTL to further inform the (Co) Rapporteurs about the dates.	PTL
5.	Upon finalisation of the initial assessment (or during first clock stop in the centralised procedure): Meet with EUCAST Steering Committee to discuss the data to reach a preliminary agreement on breakpoints.	Rapporteurs' experts
6.	Upon agreement between National breakpoint committees and the EUCAST, prior to Day 150 of the Centralised procedure:	

Step	Action	Responsibility
6.1	Inform the EMEA product team leader about European agreement or disagreement on breakpoints.	EUCAST chairman
6.2	Inform (Co) Rapporteurs about this agreement/disagreement.	PTL
7.	Upon receipt of final position from EUCAST: Consider Rapporteurs' recommendation on breakpoints.	CHMP

8. Records

Hardcopies of reports generated by this SOP will be archived in the Product Master File. The electronic versions will be saved in the relevant product folder in EDMS.

9. Process Map/ Flow Chart



Annex 1**Agreement between the EMEA and the Applicant for the marketing authorisation for <product name> to allow or not the EMEA expert information sharing during the EUCAST Steering Committee meeting.**

<Company name> hereby agrees that the EMEA expert is entitled to discuss any scientific issues related to the assessment of our product <product name> in the EUCAST Steering Committee meeting aimed at proposing tentative breakpoints for this antimicrobial agent. Therefore any scientific data that comes out of the regulatory assessment of the dossier can be brought forward by the EMEA expert and included in that discussion.

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<Place>

<Date>

<Name and Signature of company representative>

Annex 2**Clarifications on the EUCAST process in association with Centralised Applications as agreed between EMEA/CHMP, EUCAST and EFPIA.**

- For a centralised submission, bridging studies to the methods used by member states (e.g. BSAC, CA-SFM, DIN or SRGA) will not be required
- EUCAST will accept data generated with NCCLS methodology and/or in the future an agreed ISO/CEN methodology. However, it would be useful to consult/inform EUCAST prior to initiating the studies.
- Tentative breakpoints could be set at Phase II. It may be helpful for companies to also consult with EUCAST at that time. If a company goes to EMEA/CHMP for scientific advice on tentative breakpoints, the CHMP would take the EUCAST response into account in their answer.
- EUCAST will use the same form regarding conflict of interest (Declaration of Interest) that is used by EMEA/CHMP. This covers consultancies, limits for personal and institutional gain.
- Each of the steering committee members of EUCAST will sign a confidentiality agreement and the chairmen of national breakpoint committees will garner the signatures of their respective committee members at the soonest possibility (the ensuing national committee meeting).
- Any scientific issues raised by the EUCAST on the medicinal product during the review will be posed to the applicant thereby providing a response to the EUCAST. The EMEA/CHMP rapporteurs will be copied in this request for information and the response given by the applicant will be copied to the EMEA/CHMP Rapporteurs. The Company will also be kept informed by the EMEA of any interaction between the EUCAST and the CHMP during the review.
- As will be agreed between the Company and EUCAST, the company will be able to attend the EUCAST Steering Committee meeting to present the data requesting a breakpoint.