

CHAPTER 4

Post-marketing

Surveillance of Drugs

Post-marketing surveillance (PMS) to assure the efficacy and safety of drugs after they go on the market and to establish proper methods of use of drugs consists of three systems: the ADR collecting and reporting system, the reexamination system, and the reevaluation system ([Fig. 12. Pharmaceutical Post-marketing Surveillance System](#)).

The re-examination system for new drugs was introduced in the 1979 amendment of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law, and Good Post-marketing Surveillance Practice (GPMSP) came into effect from April 1993 to assure proper implementation of PMS and also to assure the reliability of such PMS data. Thereafter, major revisions were made in the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law and its Enforcement Regulations in 1996 to 1997 to further strengthen post-marketing safety measures, and the GPMSP, which had formerly been considered as an administrative notification, became law and came into effect on April 1, 1997 (MHW Ordinance No. 10 date March 10, 1997).

The Drug GPMSP was partially revised by Ordinance No. 151 of MHW dated December 27, 2000, and “Early Post-marketing Surveillance” for new drugs was newly established. Post-marketing surveillance related to reexaminations has also been revised (to be enforced from October 1, 2001).

The GPMSP is applied as standards requiring compliance by manufacturers or importers when performing post-marketing surveillance or studies, and also as compliance criteria for preparation of data.

Periodic reporting of safety information on new drugs, etc. was agreed at the ICH in January 1996, and the periodic safety update report (PSUR) system was introduced by Notification No. 32 of the Safety Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau dated March 27, 1997 and the Guidelines on Methods for Surveillance of Results of Use of Prescription Drugs (Notification No. 34 of the Safety Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau dated March 27, 1997) were specified. However, because of an increase in post-marketing ADRs not observed in the clinical trial stage of drug development and implementation of safety measures, regulations on safety measured for drugs (Notification No. 25 of the Safety Division, Pharmaceutical and Medical Safety Bureau) and entries in case report forms for ADRs and infections were specified in March 11,

1998. Furthermore, a new guideline, Implementation of Early Post-marketing Surveillance for Prescription Drugs (Notification No. 0324001, the Safety Division, PFSB dated March 24, 2006) to further strengthen the safety monitoring of medical products ([Fig. 14. Post-marketing Collection and Reporting of Pharmaceutical Safety Information](#)).

The system of reporting adverse reactions and infections and periodic safety reporting also became law.

In the revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Law enforced on April 1, 2004, there is a separation between the part that deals with the collection, preparation and consideration of information for appropriate use of post-marketing safety measures of the MHLW Ordinance on GPMSP related to the implementation of safety assurance measures, and the part that deals with tests and surveillance conducted to collect and prepare materials for reexamination and reevaluation. The former has been specified in the MHLW Ordinance on GVP (MHLW Ordinance Related to Standards for Post-Marketing Safety Management of Drugs, Medical Devices, Cosmetics and Medical Devices, Ministerial Ordinance No. 135 dated September 22, 2004), and the latter in the MHLW Ordinance on GPSP (MHLW Ordinance Related to Standards for Conducting Post-Marketing Surveys and

Studies on Drugs; Ministerial Ordinance No. 171 issued by MHLW on December 20, 2004). The MHLW Ordinance on GPMSP was abolished.

The use of MedDRA is recommended to standardize international regulatory-related medical terminology use at all regulatory levels before and after marketing for regulatory communication in registration, records, and safety monitoring of drugs. Efforts are being made to achieve international coordination of terminology related to pharmaceutical regulations (adverse reactions, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, indications, laboratory tests, surgical and conservative interventions and patient characteristics). Since the end of March 2000, it has been possible to use MedDRA for clinical trial data, reexamination and reevaluation data and package inserts. It is used in data input, retrieval, evaluation, and presentation at both the pre- and post-marketing regulatory stages for drugs. From October 27, 2003, it became obligatory to use MedDRA in individual case safety reports. MedDRA is maintained by the Maintenance and Support Organization (MSSO) and two new versions are generally published each year.

1. GVP

Good Vigilance Practice (GVP) establishes standards for post-marketing

safety management related to the collection, preparation, and study of proper use information on drugs, etc., and to the implementation of measures for safety assurance.

This standard consists of 16 articles. A summary is provided below.

(1) Purpose (Article 1)

This Ministerial Ordinance establishes the standards established by the MHLW Ordinance related to post-marketing safety management set forth in Article 12-2, Paragraph 2 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.

(2) Definitions of terms (Article 2)

- [1] Safety management information refers to material relating to the quality, efficacy or safety of drugs etc., and any other information required for the proper use of drugs, etc.
- [2] Quality assurance activities refers to any activity related to post-marketing quality control concerned with requisite measures based on the collection and study of safety management information, or on the results.
- [3] Early post-marketing surveillance refers to any safety assurance activities that are performed within a

period of 6 months following commencement of marketing by the marketer of a drug in order to promote proper use of the drug in medical treatment, and to quickly identify the occurrence of serious adverse drug reactions, etc. It is specified as a condition of approval.

- [4] Person in charge of drug information and person in charge of medical device information refer to persons whose main duties consist of collecting and providing safety assurance information through visits to health care professionals in order to contribute to the proper use of drugs or medical devices.

Articles 3 to 12 are specified for the first type of marketer (marketers of prescription drugs and highly controlled medical devices).

(3) Duties of general marketing compliance officer (Article 3)

The general marketing compliance officer must undertake the following duties.

- [1] To supervise the safety management supervisor.
- [2] To respect the opinions of the safety management supervisor.
- [3] To assure close coordination with the safety management

supervisor, quality assurance supervisor, and other persons responsible for duties involving manufacturing and marketing of prescription drugs or highly controlled medical devices.

(4) Organizations and personnel involved in safety assurance (Article 4)

[1] A department (safety management department) meeting the following requirements must be established to handle all duties related to safety assurance.

- This department is under the supervision of the general manufacturing/marketing supervisor
- This department must employ adequately qualified and competent personnel who are able to undertake safety assurance activities properly and smoothly.
- This department should be independent of all divisions responsible for marketing drugs and other departments that would hinder proper and smooth safety assurance activities.

[2] A safety management supervisor meeting the following requirements

must be appointed.

- The safety management supervisor is the supervisor of the safety management department.
- This supervisor must have been engaged for at least 3 years in safety assurance work or related work.
- This supervisor must have the ability to properly and smoothly undertake safety assurance activities.
- This supervisor must not belong to any division responsible for marketing drugs, etc.

[3] When all or part of the safety assurance activities are undertaken by persons other than the safety management supervisor, a supervisor of the work concerned (safety management implementation supervisor) must be appointed.

(5) Standard operating procedures for post-marketing surveillance (Article 5)

[1] The following standard operating procedures for post-marketing safety management must be prepared.

- Procedures for collection of safety management information
- Procedures for drafting of safety

<p>assurance measures based on examination of safety management information and the results thereof</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for implementation of safety assurance measures • Procedures for reporting from safety management supervisors to general marketing compliance officer • Procedures for early post-marketing surveillance • Procedures for in-house inspections • Procedures for education and training • Procedures for retention of records • Procedures for contacts with quality assurance supervisors and other supervisors engaged in work related to marketing of prescription drugs and highly controlled medical devices • Other procedures necessary for properly and smoothly implementing safety assurance measures of post-marketing surveillance <p>[2] The duties and management system for persons employed for work related to post-marketing safety</p>	<p>management must be specified in writing.</p> <p>[3] Items required for appropriate and smooth implementation of safety assurance activities must be specified in writing.</p> <p>[4] When the procedures in (1) or the documents in (2) and (3) are prepared or revised, they must be dated and retained.</p> <p>[5] The general marketing compliance officer shall make available the procedures in (1), the documents in (2) and (3) and other documents required for safety assurance work in the office performing the work and also must make available copies of procedures and other related documents in other offices performing safety assurance work.</p> <p>(6) Duties of the safety management supervisor (Article 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall supervision of safety assurance work • Confirmation that safety assurance work is being performed appropriately and smoothly and preparation and retention of records of such confirmation • Offering of opinions in writing to general marketing compliance supervisor when safety assurance
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work is required and retention of copies of such opinions

(7) Collection of safety management information (Article 7)

[1] The following safety management information shall be collected by the safety management supervisor and safety management implementation supervisor and records shall be prepared thereof.

- Information from health professionals
- Information on reports presented at scientific meetings, reports from the literature and other research reports
- Information from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, other government institutions, prefectural governments and organizations
- Information from foreign governments and overseas organizations
- Information from other pharmaceutical manufacturers/marketers
- Other safety management information

[2] The safety management implementation supervisor shall

report the records in (1) in writing to the safety management supervisor.

[3] The safety management supervisor shall preserve the records in (1) and reports in (2).

(8) Drafting of safety assurance measures based on examination of safety management information and the results thereof (Article 8)

[1] The safety management supervisor shall perform the following duties.

- Examine the collected safety management information without delay and record the results thereof.
- Supply all safety information that the quality assurance supervisor must be familiar with in writing without delay to the quality assurance supervisor.
- When it is confirmed necessary from an examination of safety management information, measures shall be drafted to discard, recall or suspend marketing of the product, revise package inserts, supply information to health professionals by persons in charge of drug or medical device information, reports to the Minister of Health, Labour and

<p>Welfare and other safety assurance measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafts of safety assurance measures shall be reported in writing to the general marketing compliance officer and copies shall be retained. <p>[2] When the safety management supervisor has the safety management implementation supervisor examine safety management information, he or she shall issue instructions in writing and retain a copy. Records of the examination performed by the safety management implementation supervisor shall be prepared and reported in writing. The safety management supervisor shall retain these results.</p>	<p>supervisors undertake safety assurance measures, instructions shall be issued in writing and retained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When safety management implementation supervisors undertake safety assurance measures, instructions shall be issued in writing and the safety management implementation supervisor shall retain copies. The safety management implementation supervisor shall prepare records and make reports in writing. Copies shall be given to the safety management supervisor.
<p>(9) Implementation of safety assurance measures (Article 9)</p> <p>[1] The general marketing compliance officer must undertake the following duties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately evaluate drafts of safety assurance measures, decide the safety assurance measures to be taken and prepare and retain records thereof. • When safety management 	<p>[2] The following duties must be undertaken by the safety management supervisor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety assurance measures shall be undertaken based on instructions from the general marketing compliance officer and records thereof shall be prepared and retained. • When safety assurance measures are undertaken by safety management implementation supervisors, instructions shall be issued in writing and copies shall be retained. Records shall be

<p>prepared, reported in writing and retained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of implementation of safety assurance measures shall be reported in writing to the general marketing compliance officer, and a copy shall be retained. • Copies of reports from the safety management implementation supervisor shall be retained. <p>[3] Evaluation of drafts of safety assurance measures for which post-marketing safety management standard operating procedures have been specified beforehand, deciding on safety assurance measures to be taken, and preparation and retention of records can be undertaken by the safety management supervisor in place of the general manufacturing/marketing supervisor.</p>	<p>surveillance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period of early post-marketing surveillance • Other necessary items <p>[2] When the early post-marketing surveillance protocol is prepared or revised, the early post-marketing surveillance protocol must be dated and retained.</p> <p>[3] The general marketing compliance officer shall make available early post-marketing surveillance protocol in the office performing the work and also must make available copies in other offices performing surveillance work.</p> <p>[4] The safety management supervisor shall confirm that early post-marketing surveillance is being performed appropriately and smoothly and records of such confirmation shall be prepared and retained. He or she shall also revise the early post-marketing surveillance protocol as required.</p> <p>[5] When early post-marketing surveillance is performed by the safety management implementation supervisor, the safety management implementation supervisor shall prepare records and report in writing to the safety management supervisor, and the safety</p>
<p>(10) Early post-marketing surveillance (Article 10)</p> <p>[1] A protocol (early post-marketing surveillance protocol) containing the following items must be prepared each time early post-marketing surveillance is performed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective of the early post-marketing surveillance • Method of early post-marketing 	

management supervisor shall retain such reports.

(11) In-house inspections (Article 11)

- [1] In-house inspections of duties related to post-marketing safety management shall be performed on a regular schedule by a person appointed beforehand.
- [2] When the person appointed beforehand in (1) is the safety management supervisor, the safety management supervisor shall prepare and retain records of in-house inspections.
- [3] When the person appointed beforehand in (1) is a person other than the safety management supervisor, that person shall prepare records of in-house inspections and report in writing to the safety management supervisor. The safety management supervisor shall retain these reports.
- [4] The safety management supervisor shall report the results of the in-house inspection in writing to the general marketing compliance officer and shall retain a copy of the report.
- [5] The general marketing compliance officer shall examine the necessity of improvements in post-marketing

safety management based on the results of in-house inspections and when improvements are necessary, the general marketing compliance officer shall undertake the specified measures and prepare records thereof. The safety management supervisor shall retain these records.

(12) Education and training (Article 12)

- [1] The general marketing compliance officer shall prepare and retain education and training protocols for employees engaged in duties related to post-marketing safety management
- [2] Education and training shall be performed as planned by a person appointed beforehand.
- [3] When the person appointed beforehand in (2) is the safety management supervisor, the safety management supervisor shall prepare and retain records of education and training.
- [4] When the person appointed beforehand in (2) is a person other than the safety management supervisor, that person shall prepare records of education and training and report in writing to the safety management supervisor. The safety management supervisor shall

retain these reports.

- [5] The safety management supervisor shall report the results of the education and training in writing to the general marketing compliance officer and shall retain a copy of the report.

(13) Standards for post-marketing safety management of type 2 marketers (marketers of drugs other than prescription drugs and controlled medical devices) (Articles 13 and 14)

The standards for type 1 marketers shall apply *mutatis mutandis* with the exception of the following.

- [1] Establishment of a safety management division is not specified.
- [2] No qualifications for safety management supervisors are specified.
- [3] Appointment of a safety management implementation supervisor is not specified.

(14) Standards for post-marketing safety management of type 3 marketers (Marketers of quasi-drugs, cosmetics and ordinary medical devices) (Articles 15)

The standards for type 1 marketers shall apply *mutatis mutandis* with the exception of the following.

- [1] (1) to (3) in Article 13 above.
- [2] Standard operating procedures for post-marketing safety management are not specified.
- [3] Collection of safety information in (7) for quasi-drugs and cosmetics is limited to research reports and other safety management information.
- [4] In-house inspections and education and training are not specified.

(15) Retention of records related to safety assurance (Article 16)

- [1] The period of retention of 5 years from the date when the records are no longer utilized. However, the period shall be 10 years for biological products, 30 years for specified biological products, and 15 years for designated controlled medical devices and highly controlled medical devices. Records related to in-house inspections and education and training shall be kept for 5 years from the date of preparation
- [2] Records specified by Ministerial Ordinance can be retained by persons designated by the marketer based on the standard operating procedures for post-marketing safety management.

2. GPSP

GPSP (Good Post-marketing Study Practice) specifies items that are to be strictly complied with in order to achieve appropriate post-marketing surveillance and studies conducted by marketers, and to assure the reliability of data submitted when applying for reexamination or re-evaluation.

The GPSP consists of 12 articles, which are summarized below.

(1) Purpose (Article 1)

These standards set forth the items that must be strictly complied with by marketers of drugs in conducting post-marketing surveillance and studies.

This GPSP applies to inspections, etc. of documents and data related to reexamination and reevaluation of prescription drugs. For post-marketing clinical studies forming part of post-marketing surveillance, GCP is also applicable, in addition to GPSP.

(2) Definitions of terms (Article 2)

The terms “post-marketing surveys, etc.,” “drug use-results survey,” “specified drug use survey,” and “post-marketing clinical study” which are used in these standards, are defined as follows:

- [1] Post-marketing surveys, etc. refers to drug use-results surveys or post-marketing clinical studies that

the marketer of drugs conducts in order to collect, screen, confirm or verify information relating to the quality, efficacy and safety of drugs.

- [2] Among post-marketing surveys, drug use-results survey refers to a survey by the marketer to screen or confirm information related to the incidence of each disease due to adverse drug reactions, together with the quality, efficacy and safety of drugs, without specifying the condition of the patients that use the drugs.
- [3] Among drug use result surveys, specified drug-use survey refers to a survey by the marketer to screen or confirm information relating to the incidence of each disease due to adverse drug reactions, together with the quality, efficacy and safety of drugs, in specified populations of patients, such as pediatric patients, elderly patients, pregnant women, patients with renal and/or hepatic disorders, and patients using the drug for long periods.
- [4] Among post-marketing surveys, post-marketing clinical study refers to a clinical study performed to verify assumptions arrived at as a result of studies undertaken with

regard to results of clinical studies or drug-use surveys, or studies conducted in accordance with approved dosage and administration, and indications to collect information on quality, efficacy and safety unobtainable in routine medical practice.

(3) Standard operating procedures for post-marketing surveillance (Article 3)

The following standard operating procedures for post-marketing surveillance shall be prepared and retained by the marketer for the proper and smooth conduct of post-marketing surveillance. The date must be entered in the SOP manual when SOP are prepared or revised.

- [1] Procedures related to drug use-results surveys
- [2] Procedures related to post-marketing clinical studies
- [3] Standards related to in-house inspections
- [4] Procedures related to education and training of personnel involved in post-marketing surveys, etc.
- [5] Procedures related to the outsourcing of duties in post-marketing surveys, etc.
- [6] Procedures related to the preservation of records involving duties in post-marketing surveys,

etc.

- [7] Any other procedures necessary for appropriate and smooth implementation of post-marketing surveys, etc.

(4) Supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. (Article 4)

- [1] A supervisor of the marketer must be appointed to coordinate the duties involved in post-marketing surveys, etc. (supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc.).
- [2] The supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. must not be a member of a department involved in marketing.
- [3] Duties to be performed by the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc.:
 - To prepare and preserve a basic protocol for post-marketing surveys, etc. for each drug individually.
 - To set forth in writing protocols for the implementation of drug use-results surveys, protocol for post-marketing clinical studies, and any other matters necessary for conducting post-marketing surveys, etc.
 - To revise the basic protocol for post-marketing surveys, etc. as required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In cases in which a basic protocol for post-marketing surveys, etc. is prepared or revised, to date and preserve it. • When it is considered necessary for the conduct of post-marketing surveys, etc., to provide written opinions to the marketer, and to preserve these documents or copies thereof. <p>[4] The marketer must respect the opinions provided by the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc.</p> <p>[5] The marketer must not make any statements that would interfere with the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. in the performance of his or her duties.</p>	<p>for post-marketing surveys, etc. and the basic protocol on post-marketing surveys, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide notification in writing of the results of post-marketing surveys, etc. <p>[2] The marketer must arrange that, for both drug use-results surveys and post-marketing clinical trials, records are prepared and preserved in order that the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. understands the conditions under which the surveys or tests were conducted.</p>
<p>(5) Post-marketing surveys, etc. (Article 5)</p> <p>[1] The marketer's supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. must assure that the duties for implementation of post-marketing surveys, etc. are performed as set forth below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare plans, proposals and surveys for implementation of post-marketing surveys, etc. • To confirm that post-marketing surveys, etc. are conducted appropriately and satisfactorily in accordance with the standard operating procedures for duties 	<p>(6) Drug use-results surveys (Article 6)</p> <p>[1] The marketer must instruct the supervisor or other designated person to conduct drug use-results surveys according to the post-marketing surveillance SOP and basic post-marketing survey protocol.</p> <p>[2] Contracts in writing must be concluded with the medical institutions competent in conducting the drug use-results survey and preserved.</p> <p>[3] Contract may be handled by electronically.</p> <p>[4] In protocols for drug use-results surveys, the purpose of the survey, scheduled number of cases, controls, survey method, survey period, items</p>

surveyed, analytical method and other necessary matters must be established.

(7) Post-marketing clinical studies (Article 7)

- [1] Post-marketing studies must be performed by the post-marketing surveillance supervisor or other person designated by the marketer based on the post-marketing surveillance SOP or basic post-marketing survey protocol.
- [2] The studies must be conducted in compliance with GCP

(8) In-House inspections (Article 8)

- [1] In-house inspections are to be conducted on a regular schedule. Items that have been audited based on GCP do not require in-house inspections.

In cases in which a person other than the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. conducts an in-house inspection, the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. is to be notified in writing of the results of the inspection.

Records of the results of the in-house inspection are prepared and preserved.
- [2] Post-marketing surveillance supervisors must report in writing the

results of the self-inspections to the marketer.

- [3] When it is found that improvements must be made in the work based on the results of the self-inspection, the necessary measures must be taken, and records of these measures must be prepared and retained.

(9) Education and training (Article 9)

The supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc. or a person designated by the marketer, etc. must assure that the duties set forth below are conducted.

- [1] Planned education and training related to post-marketing surveillance must be performed by the post-marketing surveillance supervisors or other persons designated by the marketer for persons employed in post-marketing surveillance work.
- [2] In cases in which education and training are performed by a person other than the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc., the supervisor of post-marketing surveys, etc., is notified in writing of the conditions of its implementation.
- [3] Records of education and training are prepared and preserved.

(10) Delegation of duties of post-marketing surveys, etc. (Article 10)

Some of the duties of

post-marketing surveys, etc may be delegated to persons who are capable of properly and effectively carrying out these activities.

(11) Preservation of records in connection with post-marketing surveys, etc. (Article 11)

Records of reexamination and reevaluation data must be retained for 5 years from the date that reexamination or reevaluation is completed. Other records must be preserved for 5 years from the date they are no longer in actual use or date of the final entry.

(12) Standards for Compliance of Reexamination and Reevaluation Data in Connection with Post-marketing Surveillance (Article 12)

In addition to provisions of the GCP MHLW Ordinance, the provisions of Article 3 through Article 8, Article 10, and Article 11 of this GPSP MHLW apply *mutatis mutandis* to the collection and preparation of data for reexamination and reevaluation applications in connection with post-marketing surveys, etc.

3. DATA COMPLIANCE SURVEYS AND COMPLIANCE SURVEYS OF MARKETERS BASED ON GPSP

GPSP compliance surveys for reexamination and reevaluation application data and surveys to assess GPSP compliance status of marketers, including verification of reliability of the collection and preparation of data submitted to the Minister of the MHLW to report adverse drug reactions and infections, are implemented in accordance with the Guideline for Implementation of GPSP On-site Surveys (Notification No. 0330003 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB dated March 30, 2005) established by the MHLW.

In compliance surveys related to reexaminations, the survey is performed by a survey group consisting of employees of the PMDA as a rule when an application for a GPSP on-site survey is received by the PMDA. Compliance surveys related to reevaluations are performed by a survey group consisting of employees of the PMDA under instructions from the MHLW.

Compliance status surveys are conducted by a survey team consisting of personnel from the Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau of the MHLW or prefectural governments as a rule.

On the basis of survey reports prepared by each survey team, data compliance surveys are conducted by the PMDA and

marketers' compliance surveys by the MHLW, and a determination of "compliance" or "non-compliance" is made and necessary measures are undertaken.

Paper reviews on compliance of reexamination and reevaluation data are performed by the PMDA in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines on Compliance Paper Reviews on Approval Application Data for New Drugs (Notification No. 0131010 of the PFSB dated January 31, 2006).

4. ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS AND INFECTIONS REPORTING SYSTEM

Programs for collecting and reporting safety information on drugs such as adverse drug reactions include an adverse drug reaction reporting system undertaken by pharmaceutical companies, the drug and medical device safety information reporting system undertaken by medical personnel, and the WHO International Drug Monitoring Program whereby drug safety information is exchanged among various countries ([Fig. 13. Collection and Reporting of Pharmaceutical Safety Information](#)).

4.1 Adverse Drug Reaction and Infectious Disease Reporting System by Pharmaceutical Companies

This system, based on the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law (Article 77-(4)-2-1), requires the reporting of safety findings by pharmaceutical companies to the PMDA for information processing. In light of the medical problems such as the development of AIDS associated with the use of HIV-contaminated, unheated blood products, provisions were established in the revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Law, which came into effect in April 1997, to mandate reporting of "adverse drug reactions" and the "occurrence of infections suspected to be caused by the use of the drug concerned."

Revisions in the Enforcement Regulations of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law, which became effective at the same time, based on items agreed to at the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH), also have defined the scope of "serious cases" subject to reporting. In addition, regulatory information such as measures adopted in overseas to discontinue marketing of a drug due to safety concerns must now be reported.

The collection and examination of Japanese and overseas drug safety information, as well as the adoption of specific measures based on this information, must be carried out in accordance with the

standard operating procedures for post-marketing safety management (GVP).

The provisions in Article 253 of the Enforcement Regulations for reporting adverse drug reactions specify reporting within 15 days and within 30 days. The cases requiring reporting within 15 days were increased in Notification No. 0317006 of the Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau dated March 17, 2005. This change was intended to assure focused supervision of serious cases caused by adverse reactions of drugs with little post-marketing clinical experience and to coordinate reporting criteria for adverse drug reactions with international standards. A summary of these provisions is presented below.

(1) Reporting within 15 days

The following must be reported within 15 days from the time they are first known:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The cases described below include suspected adverse reactions to the drug concerned reported both in Japan and overseas. These also include cases where the occurrence of an adverse reaction, its incidence, and/or the conditions of onset was unexpected based on the precautions in the package insert of the drug concerned (previously unknown serious cases). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Death (2) Disability (3) Any events possibly leading to death or disability (4) Any case that requires hospitalization for treatment or prolongs the duration of hospitalization. (5) Any other serious cases involving items (1) through (4) above (6) Any congenital disease or anomaly in the offspring of a treated patient. b) Any case involving items (1) through (6) above resulting from any unknown or known infections due to use of the drug concerned, including cases both in Japan and overseas. c) Any implementation of measures by regulatory authorities in foreign countries such as suspension of marketing of the drug. d) Known deaths e) Changes in onset trends of known serious adverse drug reactions that would result in or increase public health hazards. f) Serious cases considered to be caused by adverse reactions of drugs with new active ingredients within 2 years from the date of |
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- approval (known or unknown).
- g) Serious cases discovered in early post-marketing surveillance among adverse reactions of drugs other than drugs with new active ingredients for which early post-marketing surveillance is an approval condition (known or unknown).

(2) Reporting within 30 days

The following must be reported within 30 days from the time they are first known:

- a) Any cases involving items (2) through (6) in subsection (a) of the previous section attributed to a known adverse reaction of the drug concerned occurring in Japan (known serious cases).
- b) Research reports about the drug concerned, which demonstrate that it does not have an approved indication.

(3) Periodic reports of unknown non-serious adverse reactions of drugs

The degree of seriousness of cases of adverse drug reactions was conventionally classified into three grades: serious, moderate and mild, but the classification has been changed to the two-stage serious and non-serious

system used internationally. Cases suspected of being caused by adverse drug reactions that are unknown and non-serious must be reported periodically.

To further expedite assessments of adverse drug reactions by pharmaceutical companies, and to promote reporting of these adverse reactions in a more timely and proper manner, specific criteria for assessment of cases subject to reporting have been established by the Standards for Classification of Serious Adverse Drug Reactions (Notification No. 80 of the Safety Division, PAB dated June 29, 1992).

This seriousness classification of adverse drug reactions includes the following nine categories: liver, kidneys, blood, hypersensitivity, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, cardiovascular system, neuropsychiatry, and metabolic and electrolyte abnormalities.

The scope of “seriousness” was defined in April 1997 based on agreements at the ICH conference and details of the agreement on ICH E2D guideline were announced as the “Standards for expediting reporting of post-approval safety data” (Notification No. 0328007 of the Safety Division, PMSB dated March 28, 2005).

From October 27, 2003, three submission methods have been specified

for E2B/M2: (1) via the Internet, (2) mainly FD (disk) reports together with paper reports, and (3) mainly paper reports with FD reports attached.

From January 2006, access to all cases of suspected adverse drug reactions reported by companies has been possible on the homepage of the PMDA.

http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/iyaku_anzen/anzen_index.html

4.2 Drug and Medical Device Safety Information Reporting System by Medical Personnel

This is a MHLW reporting system that directly collects safety information from health professionals. Because of the need for collection of further information required for post-marketing product safety strategies, the limitation on reporting facilities was eliminated in July 1997. This system has been expanded and revised to include all medical institutions and pharmacies, and the reporting format has been simplified in order to further increase the number of reports from physicians, dentists, and pharmacists. Furthermore, the need of report as the duty of medical personnel was specified in the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in July 2003.

* The Pharmaceutical Affairs Law revised on June 14, 2006 (Law No. 69 to

be enforced in 2009) also requests the registered marketer to report safety information.

The information subject to reporting includes adverse reactions associated with the use of prescription medicines, over-the-counter drugs, medical devices, etc., including any adverse events, with the exception of mild, well-known adverse events, even though a causal relationship with the drug concerned is unclear.

When drugs and related products require especially intensive investigation and collection of information, the MHLW selects medical institutions and, if necessary, performs "early post-marketing phase safety information collection program (fixed-point survey)" in collaboration with them.

4.3 WHO International Drug Monitoring Program

Because of the necessity of safety measures to be implemented for drugs on an international level in view of the deformation scandal caused by thalidomide in 1961, the World Health Organization (WHO) first implemented an international drug-monitoring program in 1968. Adverse drug reaction data is collected from all participating member states, and a summary of the results of evaluation of this information is sent back to each country. Japan became a member of this program in 1972.

Information about adverse drug reactions that occur in Japan has been reported to WHO, and likewise, WHO has provided any necessary information to Japan. There is also information exchange with countries including the United States, Great Britain, and Germany.

5. PERIODIC INFECTION REPORTS FOR BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

With the revision of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in July 2002, drugs manufactured from materials derived from humans or other living organisms (excluding plants) that require caution in terms of public health and hygiene are designated as biological products by the MHLW, as a lesion from incidents of AIDS infection and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease due to contaminated blood coagulation factors. From July 30, 2003, the system of periodic infection reports was introduced by which manufacturers of such biological products must evaluate their products based on findings obtained from the latest reports on infections caused by raw materials of the products and report the results every 6 months to the Minister (Article 68-8 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law).

6. REEXAMINATION SYSTEM (ARTICLE

14-4 OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS LAW)

The reexamination system is aimed at reconfirmation of the clinical usefulness of drugs by performing GPSP or GVP as one aspect of PMS, through collecting information on the efficacy and safety of the drug during a specified period of time after approval. This system was commenced in April 1980. Based on the revision of October 1993, the reexamination period for orphan drugs was extended to a maximum of 10 years.

There are limitations on the quantity and quality of data submitted for review at the time of approval of a new drug. Examples of such limitations include relatively small numbers of subjects in clinical studies performed prior to approval, relatively short use data of the drug, and lack of experience using the drug under diverse conditions such as concomitant medication, complications, and age. There are limitations on confirmation of all of these aspects before approval.

It is, therefore, obligatory for manufacturing/marketing companies to perform postmarketing surveillance of their drugs after approval in order to determine if any problems have arisen with efficacy when the drug is used in actual practice, or to see if the level of efficacy has not been changed by factors such as dosage, duration of administration, complications or concomitant

medication. In terms of safety, any marked increase in the incidence of ADRs and changes in the incidence of ADRs due to factors such as dosage, duration of administration, complications, or concomitant medication should be detected and assessed.

When the revised Pharmaceutical Affairs Law was enforced from April 1997, the surveillance and studies required for reexamination applications must be performed in compliance with the GPMSP, GCP or GLP depending on their objective. It is also obligatory to prepare application data in accordance with these standards. Based on the revision of the Law in April 2005, the GPMSP has been abolished and replaced with the GPSP and GVP.

6.1 Designation for Reexamination of Drugs

The drugs subject to reexamination include products designated by the MHLW at the time of marketing approval as drugs with, for example, active ingredients, quantities of ingredients, dosage and administration, and/or indications that are distinctly different from drugs that have already been approved (Article 14-4 of the Law).

The timing when these drugs should be reexamined is designated by the MHLW at the time of their approval as new drugs. The times that reexaminations should

generally be conducted for specific products are given below.

(1) Reexamination 10 years after the date of approval:

- Orphan drugs

(2) Reexamination 8 years after the date of approval:

- Drugs containing new active ingredients

(3) Reexamination 6 years after the date of approval:

- New prescription combination drugs
- Drugs with new routes of administration

(4) Reexamination from 4 to within 6 years after the date of approval:

- Drugs with new indications
- Drugs with new dosages

The reexamination period for drugs with new active ingredients was extended from 6 years to 8 years based on Notification No. 0401001 of the PFSB dated April 1, 2007.

When pharmacoepidemiological surveys or clinical studies for setting pediatric doses performed, the study period can be prolonged before completion of the reexamination period as required (maximum reexamination period: 10 years).

6.2 Periodic Safety Reports (Article 63 of the Enforcement Regulations of the Law)

On the basis of agreements at the ICH concerning periodic safety update report (PSUR) system, however, a "periodic safety report system" was enacted into law at the time of revision to the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in April 1997.

As the base date for the reporting period of these reports, the concept of the international birth date in the PSUR system was introduced. Based on this concept, the date designated by the MHLW at the time of approval is established as the base date. The frequency of reports is every 6 months during the first 2 years from this base date. Thereafter, reports are to be submitted once each year during the remaining period of reexamination. The drugs for which these reports are applicable include prescription medicines designated for reexamination (medical devices are subject to annual reporting as previously). In the event that a drug is marketed in a foreign country, reports must specify any adverse drug reactions that appeared in that country and information about any regulatory measures adopted. In addition, when PSUR prepared by foreign companies should be appended to the Japanese Periodic Safety Report together with the information obtained in drug use-results survey in the section "Future

Safety Measures Planned on the Basis of Surveillance Results" in the Periodic Safety Report, and submitted, or the contents of the PSUR should be compiled and incorporated into the Japanese Periodic Safety Report and submitted. Either method is acceptable. A summary of the report items to be submitted includes the following:

- Period of the survey
- Number of cases surveyed
- Quantity of product shipped
- Status of implementation of drug use-results survey
- Summary of the surveillance results and analysis of the data
- Incidence of adverse drug reactions classified by type
- A list of cases in which adverse drug reactions occurred
- Measures adopted to ensure proper product use such as revisions of the precautions
- Package inserts
- Future safety measures planned on the basis of surveillance results

6.3 Data Required for Reexamination Applications and Reexamination Procedures

Post-marketing surveillance to acquire data required for reexamination applications, including drug use-results surveys, specified drug-use surveys, and post-marketing clinical

trials, must be implemented in accordance with the GPSP. The data must also be collected and prepared in accordance with these standards (post-marketing clinical trials must be conducted also in compliance with the GCP).

Applications for reexamination must be completed within 3 months from the time of the designated base date. The data submitted and organization of this data should generally be as described below, with a focus on data from specified drug-use surveys and post-marketing clinical trials of the drug concerned in the application. In addition, for any other research data acquired after drug approval related to indications and/or safety of the drug concerned, a Periodic Safety Report submitted near the date of the reexamination application should be attached.

(1) Summary of data for reexamination applications

The data should include a summary of the drug specified in the application; specific details up to the time of reexamination application including the changes in quantity and value of product shipped and the estimated number of patients who used the drug, the status of approval and sales overseas; summary of post-marketing surveillance; information about safety and efficacy; and references.

(2) Data Attached to Reexamination Applications

This data should include summary of drug use-results surveys; specified drug-use survey reports; post-marketing clinical trial reports; data from patients who have developed adverse drug reactions or infections; data from research reports; reports of specific measures adopted in Japan and overseas; and reports of serious adverse drug reactions.

(3) Compliance survey data

This includes data from GPSP compliance reviews as well as data from GCP and/or GLP compliance reviews as required.

(4) Reference data

This includes, for example, case report forms used in drug use-results surveys, package inserts at the time of reexamination application, summaries of replies, review reports, a summary of the data at the time of product approval application (for Evaluation Committees), copies of approval forms, and a copy of periodic safety report submitted closest to the reexamination application.

Reexamination is based on submission of the above application data. [Fig. 15 \(Reexamination System\)](#) is a flow diagram of this reexamination process. After the application is received, the PMDA evaluates compliance with standards such as GPSP and conducts surveys on quality, efficacy, and safety. The application is next reviewed by the Department on Drugs of the PAFSC. Then, the MHLW issues an official report of the results of the examination. The results of these examinations are classified into one of the three approval categories shown below, and any required specific measures are adopted. Article 14 Paragraph 2 of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law specifies three reasons for refusal of approval. These include cases where (1) the indications of the drug stated in the application have not been demonstrated; (2) the drug exhibits prominent harmful effects that outweigh any target indications, thus rendering the product not useful; and (3) the drug is judged to be markedly inappropriate with respect to public health and hygiene because of its characteristics or quality.

*** Designated Classifications**

- [I] Approval refused (manufacturing and marketing suspended, approval revoked)
- [II] Changes in approval (modifications in approved items as directed)

[III] Approved (as per application for reexamination)

7. REEVALUATION SYSTEM (ARTICLE 14-5 OF THE PAL)

The reevaluation of drugs is a system whereby the efficacy and safety of a drug, which has already been approved, is reconsidered on the basis of the current status of medical and pharmaceutical sciences. This system was initiated in December 1971 on the basis of administrative guidance. From January 1985, reevaluations were based on the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law, and the new reevaluation system came into effect from May 1988.

New Reevaluation System:

This new reevaluation system aimed at reevaluations of the efficacy and safety of all prescription drugs was started in May 1988. These reevaluations are at first performed by means of a review by the PAFSC. When the Council's decision requires further literature surveys by the manufacturers, they are required to perform such surveys according to the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law ([Fig 16. Reevaluation System](#)).

The new reevaluations were designated from February 1990.

The MHLW has implemented various measures related to generic drugs. In the final report of the Council on the Pharmaceutical Sector in the 21st Century issued on May 28, 1993, it was suggested that manufacturing control and quality control must be thoroughly implemented for all products including original drugs. For this purpose the dissolution test was proposed as a routine verification method. In February 1997, "quality reevaluation" was started, and dissolution test conditions and specifications were set for original drugs that had no specified dissolution test. This step was intended to assure the quality of generic drugs by confirming their equivalence to the original products.

Thereafter, a notification entitled "Guidelines for Bioequivalence Studies on Generic Drugs" was issued in December 22, 1997 and partially revised on May 31, 2001 (Notification No. 786 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB) and on November 24, 2006 (Notification No. 1124004 of the Evaluation and Licensing Division, PFSB) to guarantee the therapeutic equivalence of generic drugs to the original drugs.

For products with dissolution tests established after completion of quality reevaluation, "official dissolution tests" were

included in the third section of the Japanese Pharmaceutical Codex, which was published on March 23, 1999.

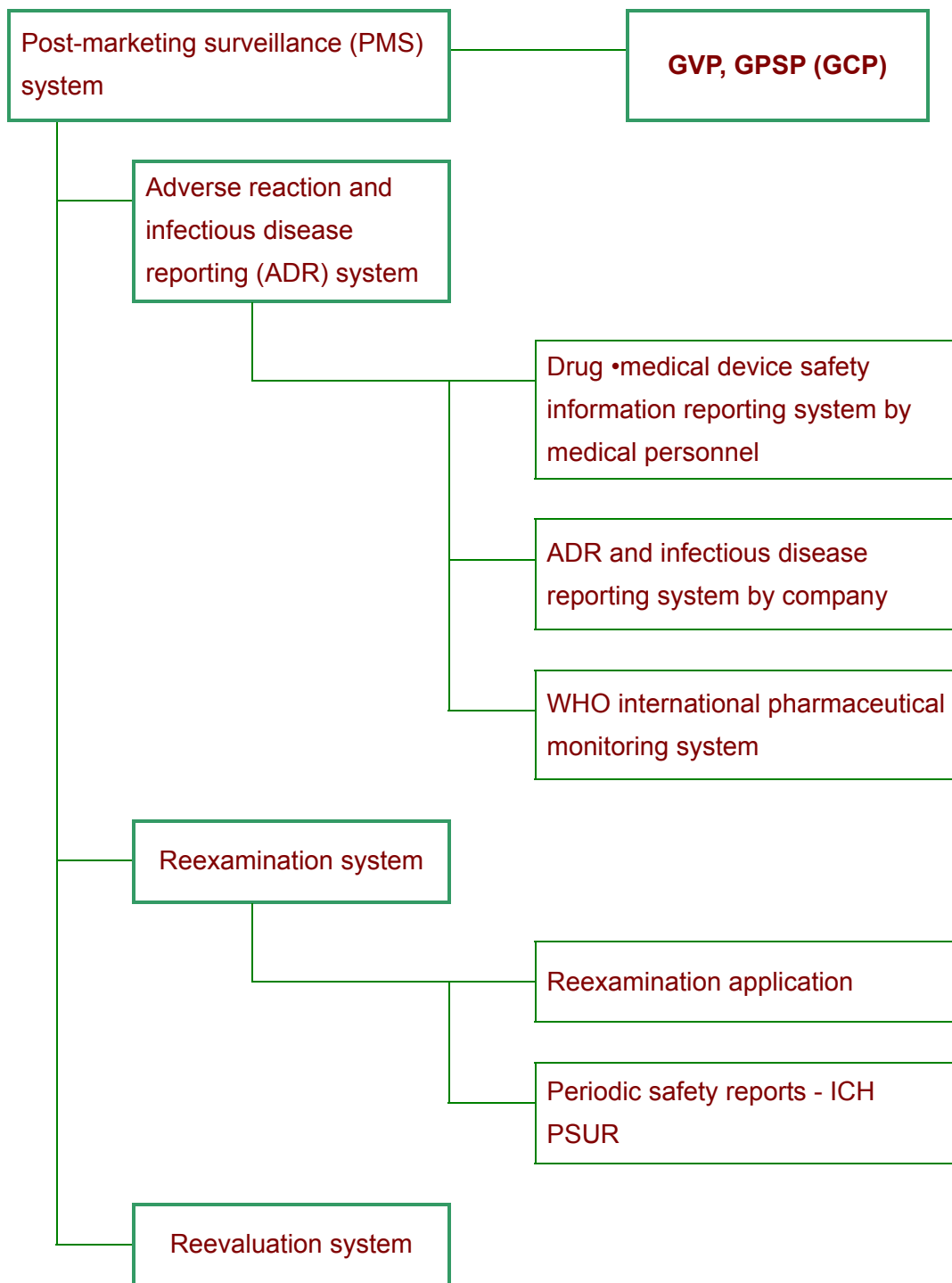


Fig. 12 Pharmaceutical Post-marketing Surveillance System

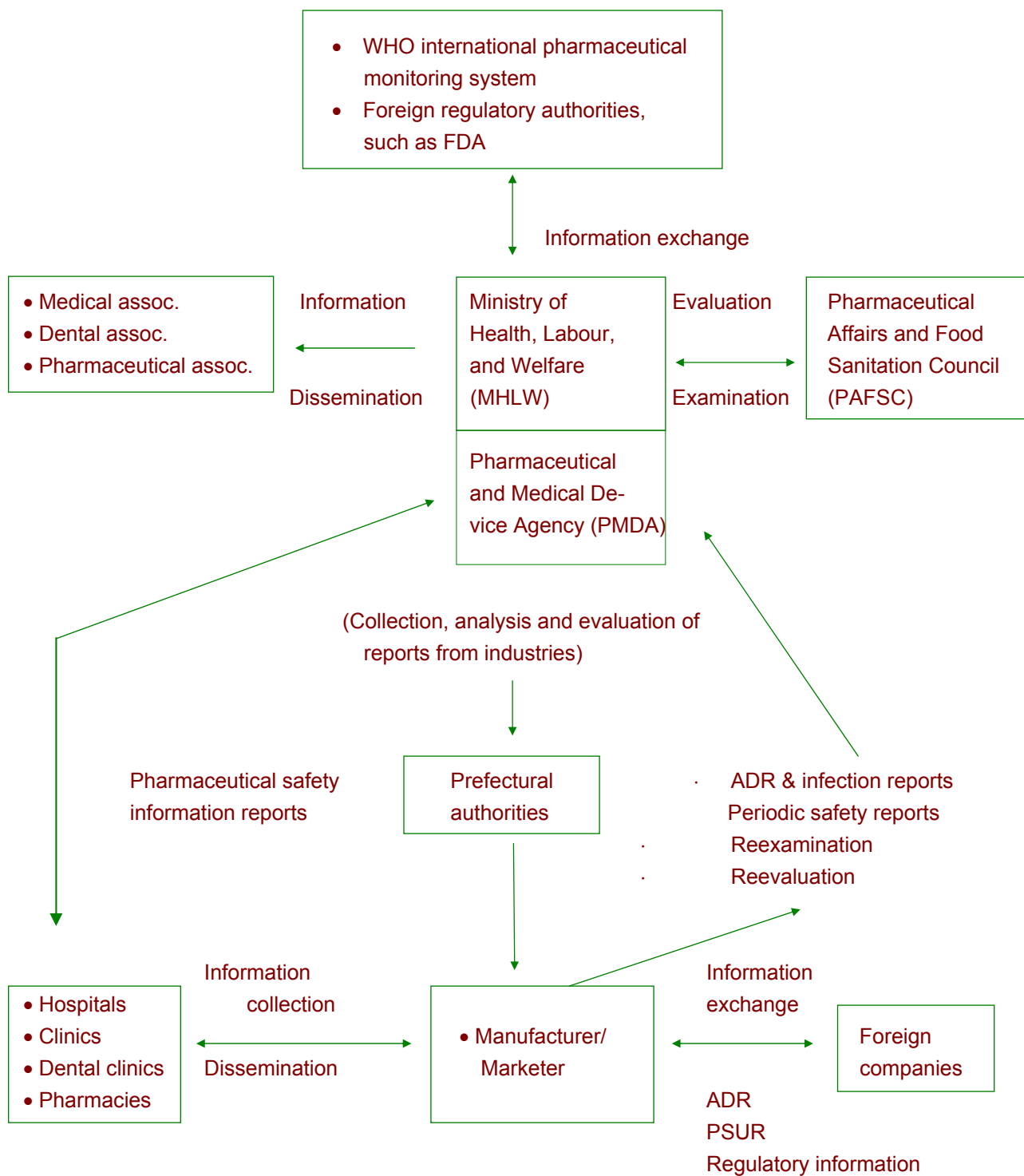


Fig. 13 Collection and Reporting of Pharmaceutical Safety Information

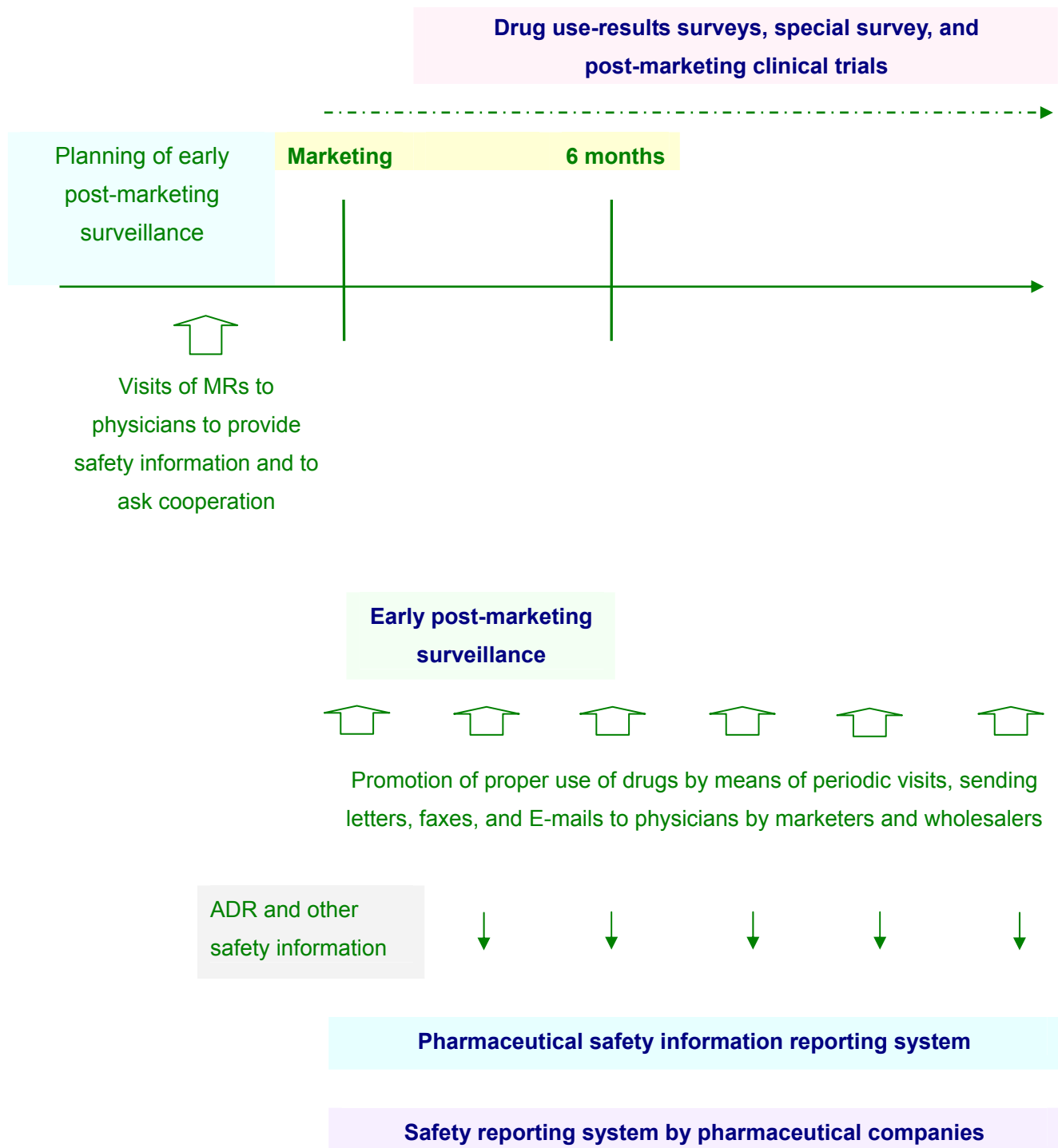


Fig. 14 Post-marketing Collection and Reporting of Pharmaceutical Safety Information

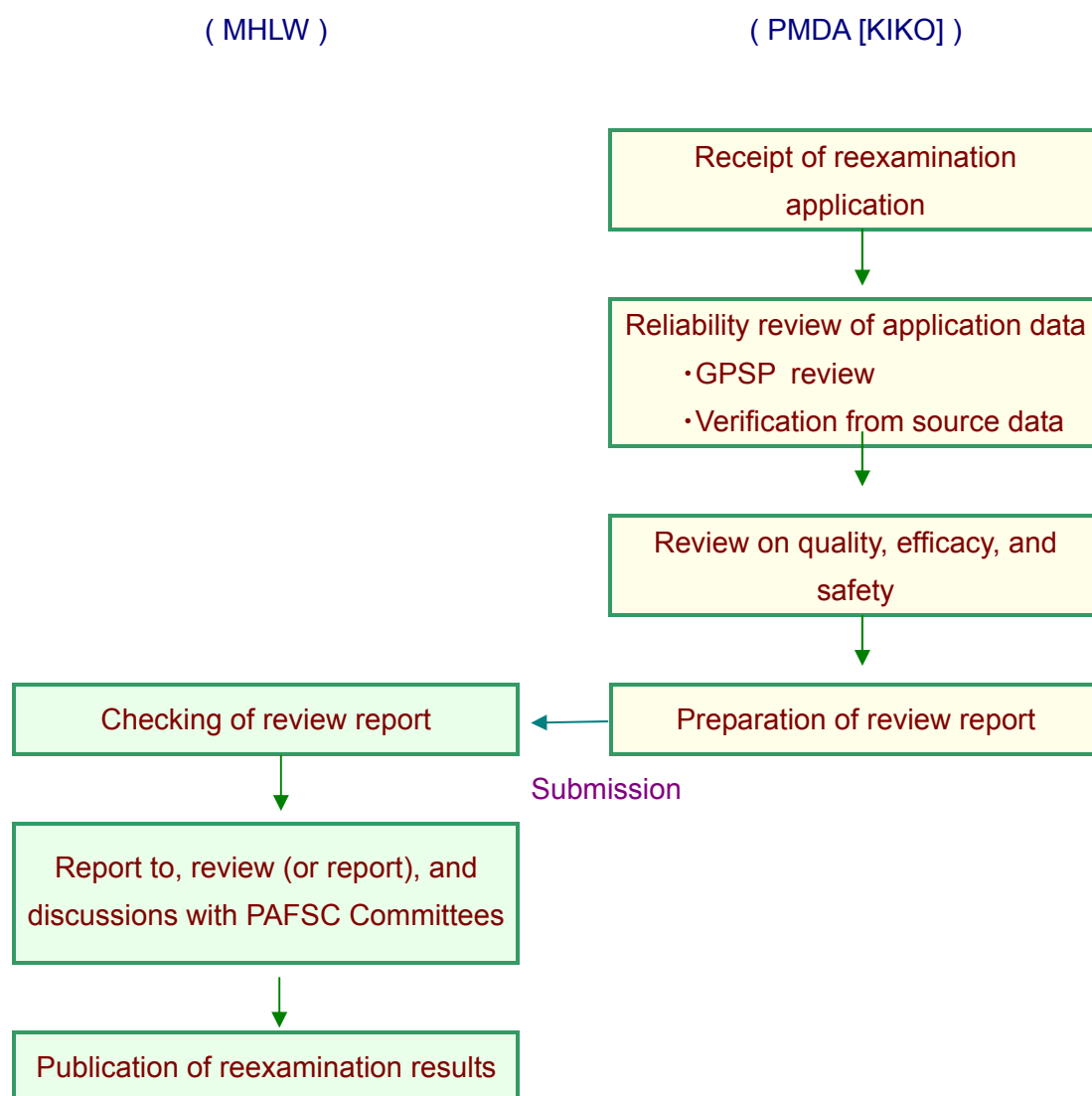


Fig. 15 Reexamination System

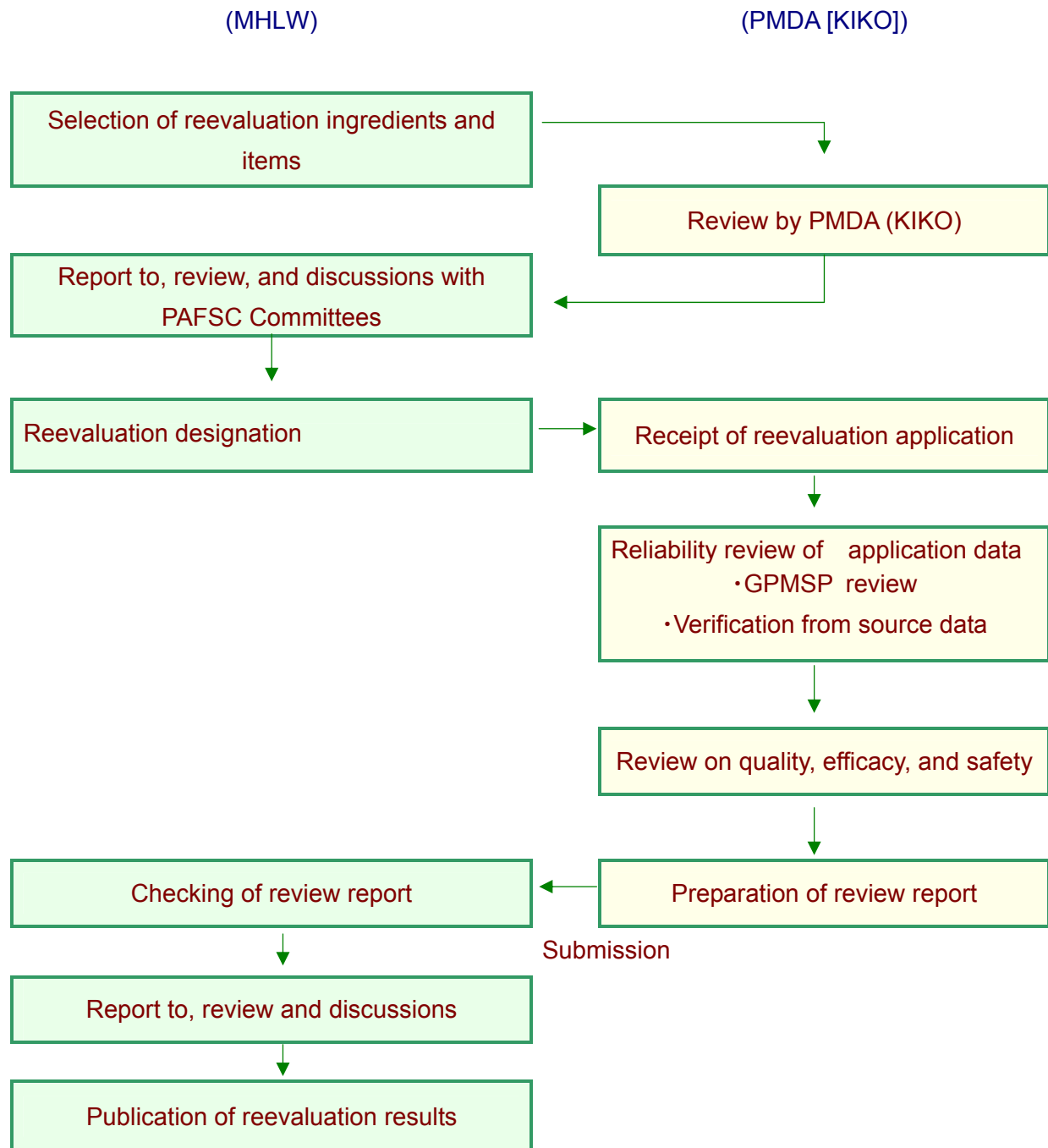


Fig. 16 Reevaluation System