

EC-DG SANTE/HMA-CTFG/EMA joint training on the Clinical Trials Regulation (EU) 536/2014

Study vs. Trial

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Key definitions in Reg (EU) 536/2014



Clinical study

Any investigation in relation to humans [for effects, safety or PK] with the objective of ascertaining the safety or efficacy of medicinal products.





Clinical trial

ANY of the following applies:

- assignment to the therapeutic strategy is decided in advance and not within normal clinical practice in MSC
- decision to prescribe is simultaneous with decision to include subject in the trial
- diagnostic/monitoring procedures additional to normal clinical practice are applied

Non-interventional study (NIS)

A clinical study other than a clinical trial.

Why having a NIS at all?



- The purpose for excluding these studies from the scope of the Regulation (EU) 536/2014 is that these studies are typically considered to have no or negligible risk.
- It should be ensured that medical activities which are normal clinical practice and, as such, part of the general medical surveillance of a patient, are excluded from the scope of the Regulation (EU) No 536/2014.

In Austria we use the picture of "Looking over the doctor's shoulder and taking notes…"

Why is the definition important?



- According to Article 1 of the CTR, non-interventional studies are excluded from the scope of the CTR
 - → to be regulated in National law
- The question if a submitted study falls under the CTR needs to be answered during validation (10 days)
 - > clear rules are required that do not require full assessment of the protocol
- "Clinical trial or not" is one of the most frequent questions in general queries to the Austrian NCA. With changed definitions this number will increase.

Decision criteria



Criteria for NIS	Examples?
The assignment of the subject to a particular therapeutic strategy is NOT DECIDED IN ADVANCE	no randomisationno artificial groups
The therapeutic strategy DOES FALL WITHIN NORMAL CLINICAL PRACTICE of the Member State concerned	 no products without marketing authorisation no administration to healthy volunteers or without indication
The DECISION TO PRESCRIBE the investigational medicinal products is NOT TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE DECISION TO INCLUDE the subject in the clinical study	 prescription should happen before inclusion no randomisation no blinding
NO DIAGNOSTIC OR MONITORING PROCEDURES IN ADDITION TO NORMAL CLINICAL PRACTICE are applied to the subjects	 no additional or more frequent sampling no research parameters that are not part of clinical practice (Austria)







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