FRPath.org Country and FRP Information Input Form		
Country: Europe	**Agency Name:** European Medicines Agency (EMA)	
Name of FRP: EMA Orphan Designation		
Is this FRP Proposed or Active? Active		
Date FRP was officially enacted: Click here to enter a date.		
1. Facilitates activities during development	**2. Accelerates the regulatory review process**	**3. Relies on or recognizes a prior regulatory decision**
☒	☒	☐

Is a Guidance or SOP describing how to apply this FRP publicly available?	Yes- see reference below
When should the FRP be requested?	At the time of the submission
Does the agency provide assistance/advice to the sponsor?	Yes- For any product type
For which types of product(s) can this FRP be used? E.g. NMEs, generics, biologics, biosimilars, all products	The Agency is responsible for reviewing applications from sponsors for orphan designation. To qualify for orphan designation, a medicine must meet a number of criteria: (i) it must be intended for the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of a disease that is life-threatening or chronically debilitating; (ii) the prevalence of the condition in the EU must not be more than 5 in 10,000 or it must be unlikely that marketing of the medicine would generate sufficient returns to justify the investment needed for its development; (iii) no satisfactory method of diagnosis, prevention or treatment of the condition concerned can be authorised, or, if such a method exists, the medicine must be of significant benefit to those affected by the condition. The Agency sends the COMP opinion to the European Commission, which is responsible for granting the orphan designation. The full list of orphan designations is available in the Community register of orphan medicinal products for human use.
Must the product address an unmet medical need or serious condition?	Yes
If a fee is required, what is the amount (in US$ equivalent)	Developing medicines intended for small numbers of patients has little commercial incentive under normal market conditions. Therefore, the EU offers a range of incentives to encourage the development of designated orphan medicines. Sponsors who obtain orphan designation benefit from protocol assistance, a type of scientific advice specific for designated orphan medicines, and market exclusivity once the medicine is on the market. Fee reductions are also available depending on the status of the

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	sponsor and the type of service required. Fee reductions and incentives are available for designated orphan medicines. Full details on all fees and fee reductions are available in the explanatory note: https://www.ema.europa.eu/documents/regulatory-procedural-guideline/explanatory-note-general-fees-payable-european-medicines-agency-1-april-2020_en.pdf
Total target (agency) time for assessment (calendar days)	Applications for orphan designation are examined by the EMA's Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP), using the network of experts that the Committee has built up. The evaluation process takes a maximum of 90 days from validation.
Total target (company) time for responses to agency questions (If stated)	Click here to enter text.

Select one of the following (* see definitions at end of document)

Is this a verification review (a recognition pathway)?*	**Is this an abridged* review (selected dossier portions)? (a reliance pathway)?***	**Is this a full* review of all parts of the dossier?**
☐	☐	☒

If this is a reliance or recognition pathway, what are the accepted reference agencies?	No, this process is not a reliance or recognition pathway.
How many reference agency decisions are required?	Not applicable
Does this FRP require submission of Assessment Reports from prior decisions?	Not applicable
Is a CPP (Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product) required for approval?	Not applicable
Can an alternate form of reference documentation to the CPP be used? If so, what types of documents?	Not applicable
If this process is through a Regional Regulatory Initiative, which countries participate in this process?	Member States of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).
Does the product have to have been marketed in another country? For a specific amount of time? If so, for how long?	Not applicable
How are queries to the companies sent?	Choose an item.
Are external reviewers (e.g. non-agency) involved in the assessment?	Yes- as needed
Post-authorization study	Always required

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commitments	
For how long is the initial approval or designation valid?	Choose an item.
Any other details you wish to provide?	- Marketing authorisation applications for designated orphan medicines must be submitted to EMA for assessment through the centralised procedure. They are assessed by EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP). Designated orphan medicines are eligible for conditional marketing authorisation. In some cases, designated orphan medicines may be allowed to be administered to patients under compassionate use, a treatment option that allows the use of an unauthorised medicine outside a clinical study. At the time of marketing authorisation, sponsors also need to submit an application for maintenance of the orphan designation in order to be eligible for the ten-year market exclusivity incentive. Sponsors may also need to submit an evaluation of orphan similarity. - Pre-submission meetings are not mandatory and sponsors are welcome to send an application for orphan drug designation without notice. However, EMA would appreciate it if sponsors could send the application a few days before any of the published submission deadlines available on the EMA website to allow more time for the validation process and the possibility to intervene in case of technical problems. - EMA strongly encourages sponsors to request a pre-submission meeting with the Agency prior to filing an application. Pre-submission meetings usually take place via teleconference, unless the sponsor has a strong preference to come to EMA in person. - If a sponsor feels they could benefit from a preliminary discussion before the submission of an orphan drug application, they can request a pre-submission meeting/teleconference at least two months prior to their planned submission date via the IRIS portal. This should allow enough time for the organisation and any amendment of the application as recommended by EMA. Sponsors should create an initial draft application for orphan designation before creating the application for the pre-submission discussion. These are two separate submissions to be made in the IRIS system. The draft submission for orphan designation should be populated with the relevant data and documents,

	but not submitted, at least one week before the pre-submission meeting date. Pre-submission meetings are useful since the evaluation process has a fixed duration of 90 days and cannot be lengthened to accommodate for the lack of data or other omissions in the application. Experience has shown that they have a positive impact on the success rate of the applications.
Date of this update	30 May 2020
References	1. Orphan Designation: Overview. https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/overview/orphan-designation-overview Accessed on 30 May 2020. 2. Rare diseases, orphan medicines: Getting the facts straight. https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/rare-diseases-orphan-medicines-getting-facts-straight_en.pdf Accessed on 30 May 2020. 3. Applying for Orphan Designation. https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/human-regulatory/research-development/orphan-designation/applying-orphan-designation Accessed on 30 May 2020.

*Definitions:

Verification review: A checklist review based on recognition of a prior regulatory decision. Recognition is the routine acceptance of the regulatory decision of another regulator or other trusted institution. Recognition indicates that evidence of conformity with the regulatory requirements of economy A is sufficient to meet the regulatory requirements of economy B.

Abridged review: An abbreviated review of selected portions of the dossier and the reliance on prior assessment decisions. Reliance is the act whereby a regulatory authority in one jurisdiction may take into account/give significant weight to work performed by another regulator or other trusted institution in reaching its own decision

Full review: A comprehensive review of all components of the dossier. This may or may not be CPP-dependent. This may form part of a reliance or recognition pathway.