

Pharmacy preparation for MHRA GCP Inspection

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SOP Reference:	Pharm/S99
Version Number:	1.0
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Implementation date of current version:	11 th February 2015

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This SOP will normally be reviewed every 2 years unless changes to the legislation require otherwise

Version History Log

This area should detail the version history for this document. It should detail the key elements of the changes to the versions.

Version	Date Implemented	Details of significant changes
1.0	11 th February 2015	

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1 Introduction, Background and Purpose

An introduction to GCP (Good Clinical Practice) Inspections is described in Annex 1 of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Good Clinical Practice Guide. This describes the following aspects relating to GCP inspections:

- The Legal Basis for Inspections
- MHRA GCP Inspectors
- Types of GCP Inspections
- Scope of GCP Inspections
- Inspection schedule
- Phases of the Inspection Process

Pharmacy is likely to be involved at each of the phases of the inspection process as follows;

- Planning
Input into the GCP inspection dossier that is required to be submitted to the MHRA prior to a statutory inspection of the organisation.
- Conduct
Investigational Medicinal Product management is one of the activities that may be selected for review by the MHRA during an organisation site inspection, and in the case of a Investigator site inspection, Pharmacy may be required to provide documentation relating to IMP accountability, or host a tour of GCP Inspectors, or be interviewed as part of the inspection process.
- Reporting
Pharmacy, if part of the inspection, may have critical, major or minor deficiencies following the inspection which they will need to address as part of the organisations CAPA (Corrective And Preventative Action) plan.

The purpose of this SOP is to describe the process of Pharmacy preparation for MHRA GCP Inspection and to describe the actions that the Pharmacy clinical trials team should take to support the phases of the GCP Inspection process as described above.

2 Who Should Use This SOP

This SOP is applicable to all members of the Pharmacy Clinical Trials Team in York and Scarborough hospitals, which form part of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

3 When this SOP Should be Used

This SOP should be used as follows:

- Pharmacy related preparation for GCP inspection and Sponsor inspection.
- Pharmacy input into the phases of the inspection process.
- Pharmacy reporting and actions following inspection.

4 Procedure(s)

4.1 Preparation for the Inspection

Once notification of GCP inspection has been received by the Organisation, members of the Pharmacy clinical trials team should check compliance with the following points and take action to rectify any issues found (these points are adapted from SOP's and Checklists for UK Pharmacy Personnel. An aid to producing pharmacy clinical trial standard operating procedures. 2nd Edition. The Institute of Clinical Research. May 2008);

Facilities (consideration should also be made for IMP storage areas outside Pharmacy)

1. Is all study medication in an area with restricted access?
2. Are all environmental monitoring records available?
3. Is all study medication segregated from normal hospital stock and clearly marked?
4. Are all returns/used study medication segregated from unused study medication (i.e. that suitable for dispensing)?
5. Are quarantine areas clearly marked and quarantine records updated and maintained?
6. Are calibrated temperature monitoring systems/devices being used (and records easily available for inspection)?
7. Are all IT systems suitably validated e.g. electronic prescribing/dispensing systems, document management systems?
8. Are records available for fridge and freezer servicing?

Documentation

1. Are all documents version controlled and the latest version being used?
2. Do all Pharmacy files demonstrate a full audit trail of study medication management in Pharmacy?

The standard Pharmacy file contents list (Pharm/F52) should be used to audit the contents of Pharmacy files and anything noted should be resolved, or missing documentation filed. Particular attention should be given to those studies selected for inspection or audit. The following are key aspects of the audit trail of study medication management and should form key checks as part of preparation for GCP inspection;

- Study medication receipt documents are present and match entries on relevant accountability logs.
- Environmental monitoring records (for storage and shipments) are present and readily available for inspection.
- Prescriptions are present and match entries on accountability logs.
- Signature logs are in place in each file to identify staff involved in dispensing, checking and other study activities.
- Dispensing and checking procedures are in place and they reflect the latest study protocol.
- Accountability logs are clear and match study medication held at site.
- Returns and destruction records are all up to date.
- Any deviations from SOPs or the trial protocol are documented in clear file notes (using file note template, R&D/T20).

- The following documents (and latest versions thereof) are present;
 - i. Trial Protocol
 - ii. Amendments
 - iii. Investigators Brochure
 - iv. Technical Agreements
 - v. Regulatory and Trust approvals i.e. MHRA, Ethics, NHS permission

Standard Operating Procedures

1. Are standard operating procedures in place, and up to date, for all activities being undertaken by the Pharmacy Clinical Trials Team?

Training Records

1. Are CV's, GCP certificates and other relevant training records readily available for all staff involved in dispensing or checking clinical trials prescriptions?

4.2 Pharmacy input into the Inspection Process

Planning

Once notification of GCP inspection has been received by the Organisation, members of the Pharmacy clinical trials team should comply with any requests from the local R+D department for documentation to be included within the GCP inspection dossier.

The following documentation is likely to be requested to be included and therefore should be made available for R+D unit staff;

- Copies of the training records pertaining to each member of the Pharmacy clinical trials team.
- An organisation chart for the Pharmacy department including details of the structure for oversight of clinical trials conduct.
- Copies of standard operating procedures and other policies e.g. Medicines code, relating to the management of study medication by Pharmacy.
- Evidence of corrective and preventative action taken from previous inspections.
- Pharmacy files relating to those studies selected for inspection.

Members of the Pharmacy clinical trials team should plan to be available during the inspection, ensure sufficient resources are in place during the inspection schedule to allow attendance at planned Interviews or tours, without impact on the Pharmacy service and plan appropriate facilities to support such events.

Conduct

Once GCP inspection has commenced in the Organisation, members of the Pharmacy clinical trials team should comply with any requests from the local R+D department for Pharmacy files or other documentation that is requested by the GCP Inspector.

During any planned interviews or tours of the Pharmacy department by the GCP Inspector, members of the Pharmacy clinical trials team should;

- Be completely open and honest at all times.
- Be clear on their roles and responsibilities.
- Communicate promptly to the inspection team if there are any problems in fulfilling inspection requests.

Other tips for preparing for a competent authority inspection are described in section A1.11 of the MHRA Good Clinical Practice Guide.

Reporting

Following GCP inspection, a member of the Pharmacy clinical trials team (preferably the Lead Pharmacist or Clinical Trials Manager) should attend the close out session to understand any deficiencies that may relate to the Pharmacy department.

The Lead Pharmacist or Clinical Trials Manager should then liaise with the local R+D department over the actions to be included in the CAPA plan relating to any deficiencies found in Pharmacy.

Points to consider when responding to inspection findings are contained within section A1.7 of the MHRA Good Clinical Practice Guide.

In general, corrective and preventative action should be completed by the Pharmacy department in a timely manner. Confirmation of actions completed should be sent to the R&D department.

5 Related SOPs and Documents

MHRA Good Clinical Practice Guide, 2012.

SOP's and Checklists for UK Pharmacy Personnel. An aid to producing pharmacy clinical trial standard operating procedures. 2nd Edition. The Institute of Clinical Research. May 2008.

Pharmacy clinical trial file contents - Pharm/F52.

File note template - R&D/T20.