

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Animal Health Institute (AHI) have reached a new Animal Drug User Fee Agreement which must be ratified by Congress by September 20, 2023 when the current ADUFA IV expires: The agreement is designed to close the gap between capacity and performance by controlling cost increases while putting in place new mechanisms to measure and improve performance.

Funding

The ADUFA V base funding is \$33.5 million per year with one-time funding from carryover to cover cost for the third-party assessment (up to \$3M) and IT enhancements (up to \$1M). Base funding rates will be adjusted for inflation in years 2-5 and may be increased by the workload adjuster in years 3-5 if the criteria are met.

About 32% percent of the Center for Veterinary Medicine's new animal drug review budget will be user-fee funded.

Program Enhancements

The agreement contains enhancements and improvements to increase productivity, promote consistency and create accountability to bring safe and effective products to the market.

- Annual Educational Conferences for Industry
- Early feedback for virtual presubmission conferences
- Updating internal policies and procedures for industry-Agency meetings prior to designing and beginning studies (H submissions)
- Implementation of a process for clarifying required raw data and commitment to maintain evaluation of the process
- Ongoing commitment to collaborate with industry to improve manufacturing of animal drugs
- Issue Guidance on Parallel submission of phased data submission for CMC (manufacturing)
- Commitment to work toward improvements in residue method trials, revision of ADAA combination language and exploration of new programs such as clock stops.
- Explore ways to improve feedback on sponsor's development plans

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New metrics

The agreement includes new metrics to be immediately implemented in addition to commitments to investigate the process for additional metrics. Metrics for immediate implementation include:

- Submission outcomes to be displayed by technical section along with average review hours.
- Number of H Submissions by division
- Number of certain filed/submitted sentinel submissions by review division
- Use of information from Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) in Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in regulatory decisions

Commitments to explore include:

- Metrics on time in the agency and time in industry
- Development of a report on how many cycles it takes to achieve a favorable outcome for each key section.

Financial Sustainability

Sustainability of the program is a key priority. The agreement incorporates additional areas for evaluation of the program, creation of mechanisms for regular performance reporting and better alignment of fees with the workload.

- Third Party Assessment
- Annually publish a 5-Year Financial Plan
- Set a carryover cap (16 weeks) and minimum (12 weeks) and simplify carryover provisions by:
 - Eliminating shortfall provision
 - Eliminating current final year 12-week adjustment provision
 - Eliminating provisions to offset workload adjuster or shortfall by excess collections.
- Modernize workload Adjuster by:
 - Moving to a 5-year rolling base
 - Workload Adjuster invoked only if greater than 3% twice within 5 years