

# MDUFA V: How is it impacting FDA staff, industry, and patients? *International Harmonization*

Erin Cutts

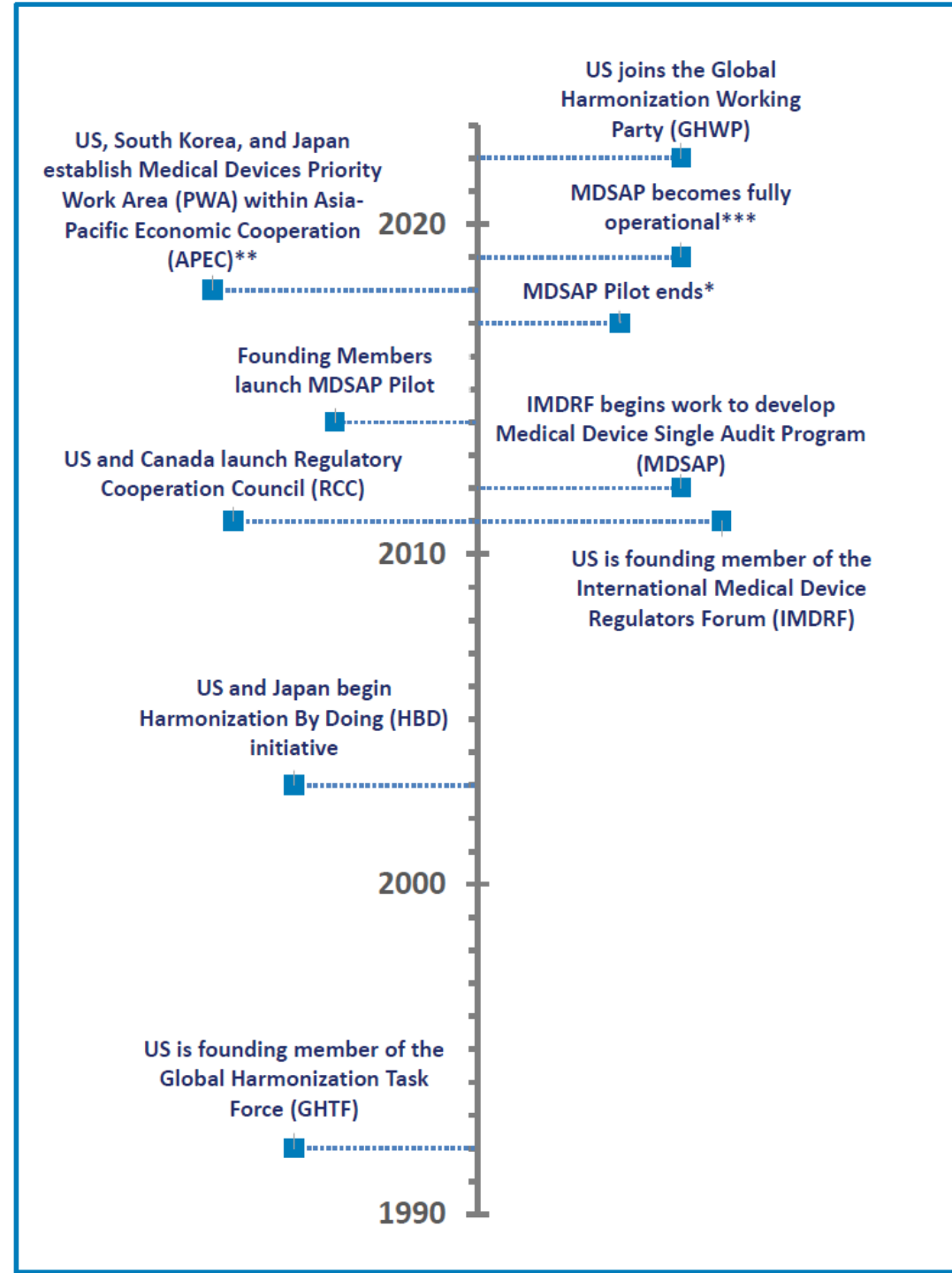
Senior International Policy Analyst  
Office of the Center Director  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration



## Why a global approach?

- The medical device sector has become increasingly globalized and complex.
- Each economy may develop and implement its own regulatory requirements and its own path to market products, especially as emerging and innovative technologies are considered.
- This means regulatory authorities must administer, and industry must navigate adherence to, numerous and sometimes redundant regulatory requirements.
- Reducing these inefficiencies through harmonization, convergence, and reliance on the work of others promotes a more effective regulatory model for medical devices.
- Ultimately, a more efficient and effective model means patients (in the US and globally) have better access to safe, effective, and high-quality medical devices.

**CDRH has been working on global convergence for 30+ years.**



Staff dedicated to International Affairs are located in the Office of the Center Director.



# CDRH International Affairs

- Participate in global harmonization initiatives:
  - International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF)
  - Global Harmonization Working Party (GHWP)
  - Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
  - Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
  - World Health Organization (WHO) Activities
- Participate and lead medical device harmonization programs including:
  - Medical Device Single Audit Program (MDSAP)
  - Harmonization by Doing (HBD)
- Bilateral/multilateral engagements
  - Digital Health Think Tank Meetings
  - International Medical Device Safety Meetings
  - Regulatory Cooperation Council with Canada



# MDUFA International Harmonization Commitments



1. **Expand engagement in international harmonization and convergence efforts** through participation with international regulators and other key stakeholders in forums, working groups, projects, and committees to promote alignment with international best practices and internationally developed policies, including exploring the development of harmonized premarket review processes.
2. **Further support regulatory convergence by creating a mechanism for FDA to work with regulatory partners** with whom we have appropriate confidentiality commitments to inform and align international regulatory strategy. This may include, for example, sharing of scientific, clinical, or other technical information, or policies and practices, as needed and consistent with applicable disclosure law and policy.
3. Commencing in FY 2023, **assess the extent of CDRH implementation of International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) technical documents** and make this information publicly available to enhance clarity and transparency.
4. **Support the creation of a forum to engage with relevant stakeholders**, including industry representatives and other regulators, to identify opportunities for regulators to leverage one another's approach to decision making.
5. **Participate in outreach activities to other regulatory authorities** that encourage harmonization and may also encourage such authorities to rely in whole or in part on FDA marketing authorizations.
6. By the end of FY 2023, **issue for public comment a draft strategic plan** with additional details and timelines associated with achieving the international harmonization objectives described above.
7. Commencing with FY 2024, **publish an annual assessment of the international harmonization activities** described the strategic plan above, including the progress assessment described in subparagraph 3 above.

# What these commitments mean for FDA Staff...



**Good Machine Learning Practice for Medical Device Development:  
Guiding Principles**  
October 2021

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health Canada, and the United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have jointly identified 10 guiding principles that can inform the development of Good Machine Learning effective, and high-quality medical devices.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning are new and important insights from the vast data sets they use software algorithms to learn from and improve the product's performance. But the iterative and data-driven nature of their development is a challenge.

These 10 guiding principles are intended to provide a foundation for developing Good Machine Learning Practice that addresses the unique nature of AI/ML products. They will also help cultivate trust in this rapidly progressing field.

The 10 guiding principles identify areas where international medical device regulators and collaborative bodies could work to advance tools and resources, international harmonization efforts, and regulatory guidelines.

- We envision these guiding principles may:
- Adopt good practices that have been used in other sectors
  - Tailor practices from other sectors to the medical device sector
  - Create new practices specific for AI/ML medical devices

As the AI/ML medical device field evolves, we encourage partnerships with our international public partners to advance responsible innovations in this space through broader international engagements, including public-private partnerships.

We welcome your continued feedback and look forward to engaging with you on these topics.

## Health Canada and FDA eSTAR Pilot



**UPDATE – January 27, 2023: Health Canada and the FDA launch eSTAR pilot**  
Health Canada and U.S. Food and Drug Administration's joint eSTAR pilot has reached its total of 9 participants. Requests to participate in the pilot are no longer being accepted.

### On This Page

- [About eSTAR](#)
- [Joint pilot between Health Canada and the FDA](#)
- [Eligibility factors for the eSTAR pilot program](#)
- [Requesting participation in the eSTAR pilot program](#)
- [Preparing a submission using eSTAR](#)
- [Submitting responses to requests for additional information](#)
- [User fees for eSTAR pilot](#)
- [Review timeline for eSTAR](#)

## A global perspective that continues to grow.

- Increased engagement in international harmonization and convergence efforts means more FDA staff becomes aware of activities and connect with counterparts in other countries
- Additional outreach to understand International Affairs, our role, and when/how to engage with other regulators

# What these commitments mean for industry...

## **A call to action as we work towards a more efficient regulatory model.**

- In navigating global device marketing, industry has a direct view of regulatory requirements in different jurisdictions.
- FDA benefits from hearing industry's perspective, including pain points and identification of opportunities for harmonization.
- We ask that you think globally when you're working within your region. Help us identify opportunities for harmonization and, when pilots or programs to further international harmonization are offered, please participate and provide feedback.
- FDA support of creating a forum to engage with relevant stakeholders speaks to the important role of industry





# What these commitments mean for patients...



## Better access to safe, effective, high-quality medical devices

- Reducing redundant regulatory requirements leads to a more efficient and effective regulatory model.
- Ultimately, a more efficient and effective model means patients (in the US and globally) have better access to safe, effective, and high-quality medical devices.

# Thank you!

- [CDRHInternational@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:CDRHInternational@fda.hhs.gov)
- [CDRH International Programs | FDA](#)
- [Office of Global Policy and Strategy | FDA](#)

