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Medical devices — Application of risk management to medical devices

Dispositifs médicaux — Application de la gestion des risques aux dispositifs médicaux

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 14971 was prepared by ISO/TC 210, *Quality management and corresponding general aspects for medical devices*, and Subcommittee IEC/SC 62A, *Common aspects of electrical equipment used in medical practice*. Annex H, "Guidance on risk management for *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices", was prepared by ISO/TC 212, *Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 14971:2000) as well as the amendment ISO 14971:2000/Amd.1:2003.

For purposes of future IEC maintenance, Subcommittee 62A has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the maintenance result date¹⁾ indicated on the IEC web site under <http://webstore.iec.ch> in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition or
- amended.

This corrected version of ISO 14971:2007 incorporates the following correction:

- a corrected version of Figure 1 on page 6.

1) IEC National Committees are requested to note that for this publication the maintenance result date is 2014.

Introduction

The requirements contained in this International Standard provide manufacturers with a framework within which experience, insight and judgment are applied systematically to manage the risks associated with the use of medical devices.

This International Standard was developed specifically for medical device/system manufacturers using established principles of risk management. For other manufacturers, e.g., in other healthcare industries, this International Standard could be used as informative guidance in developing and maintaining a risk management system and process.

This International Standard deals with processes for managing risks, primarily to the patient, but also to the operator, other persons, other equipment and the environment.

As a general concept, activities in which an individual, organization or government is involved can expose those or other stakeholders to hazards which can cause loss of or damage to something they value. Risk management is a complex subject because each stakeholder places a different value on the probability of harm occurring and its severity.

It is accepted that the concept of risk has two components:

- a) the probability of occurrence of harm;
- b) the consequences of that harm, that is, how severe it might be.

The concepts of risk management are particularly important in relation to medical devices because of the variety of stakeholders including medical practitioners, the organizations providing health care, governments, industry, patients and members of the public.

All stakeholders need to understand that the use of a medical device entails some degree of risk. The acceptability of a risk to a stakeholder is influenced by the components listed above and by the stakeholder's perception of the risk. Each stakeholder's perception of the risk can vary greatly depending upon their cultural background, the socio-economic and educational background of the society concerned, the actual and perceived state of health of the patient, and many other factors. The way a risk is perceived also takes into account, for example, whether exposure to the hazard seems to be involuntary, avoidable, from a man-made source, due to negligence, arising from a poorly understood cause, or directed at a vulnerable group within society. The decision to use a medical device in the context of a particular clinical procedure requires the residual risks to be balanced against the anticipated benefits of the procedure. Such judgments should take into account the intended use, performance and risks associated with the medical device, as well as the risks and benefits associated with the clinical procedure or the circumstances of use. Some of these judgments can be made only by a qualified medical practitioner with knowledge of the state of health of an individual patient or the patient's own opinion.

As one of the stakeholders, the manufacturer makes judgments relating to safety of a medical device, including the acceptability of risks, taking into account the generally accepted state of the art, in order to determine the suitability of a medical device to be placed on the market for its intended use. This International Standard specifies a process through which the manufacturer of a medical device can identify hazards associated with a medical device, estimate and evaluate the risks associated with these hazards, control these risks, and monitor the effectiveness of that control.

For any particular medical device, other International Standards could require the application of specific methods for managing risk.

Medical devices — Application of risk management to medical devices

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a process for a manufacturer to identify the hazards associated with medical devices, including *in vitro* diagnostic (IVD) medical devices, to estimate and evaluate the associated risks, to control these risks, and to monitor the effectiveness of the controls.

The requirements of this International Standard are applicable to all stages of the life-cycle of a medical device.

This International Standard does not apply to clinical decision making.

This International Standard does not specify acceptable risk levels.

This International Standard does not require that the manufacturer have a quality management system in place. However, risk management can be an integral part of a quality management system.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply:

2.1

accompanying document

document accompanying a medical device and containing information for those accountable for the installation, use and maintenance of the medical device, the operator or the user, particularly regarding safety

NOTE Adapted from IEC 60601-1:2005, definition 3.4.

2.2

harm

physical injury or damage to the health of people, or damage to property or the environment

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.3]

2.3

hazard

potential source of harm

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.5]

2.4

hazardous situation

circumstance in which people, property, or the environment are exposed to one or more hazard(s)

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.6]

NOTE See Annex E for an explanation of the relationship between “hazard” and “hazardous situation”.

2.5

intended use

intended purpose

use for which a product, process or service is intended according to the specifications, instructions and information provided by the manufacturer

2.6

***in vitro* diagnostic medical device**

IVD medical device

medical device intended by the manufacturer for the examination of specimens derived from the human body to provide information for diagnostic, monitoring or compatibility purposes

EXAMPLES Reagents, calibrators, specimen collection and storage devices, control materials and related instruments, apparatus or articles.

NOTE 1 Can be used alone or in combination with accessories or other medical devices.

NOTE 2 Adapted from ISO 18113-1:—, definition 3.29.

2.7

life-cycle

all phases in the life of a medical device, from the initial conception to final decommissioning and disposal

2.8

manufacturer

natural or legal person with responsibility for the design, manufacture, packaging, or labelling of a medical device, assembling a system, or adapting a medical device before it is placed on the market or put into service, regardless of whether these operations are carried out by that person or on that person's behalf by a third party

NOTE 1 Attention is drawn to the fact that the provisions of national or regional regulations can apply to the definition of manufacturer.

NOTE 2 For a definition of labelling, see ISO 13485:2003, definition 3.6.

2.9

medical device

any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, appliance, implant, *in vitro* reagent or calibrator, software, material or other similar or related article, intended by the manufacturer to be used, alone or in combination, for human beings for one or more of the specific purpose(s) of

- diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease,
- diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, alleviation of or compensation for an injury,
- investigation, replacement, modification, or support of the anatomy or of a physiological process,
- supporting or sustaining life,
- control of conception,
- disinfection of medical devices,
- providing information for medical purposes by means of *in vitro* examination of specimens derived from the human body,

and which does not achieve its primary intended action in or on the human body by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means, but which may be assisted in its function by such means

NOTE 1 This definition has been developed by the Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF). See bibliographic reference [38].

[ISO 13485:2003, definition 3.7]

NOTE 2 Products, which could be considered to be medical devices in some jurisdictions but for which there is not yet a harmonized approach, are:

- aids for disabled/handicapped people,
- devices for the treatment/diagnosis of diseases and injuries in animals,
- accessories for medical devices (see Note 3),
- disinfection substances,
- devices incorporating animal and human tissues which can meet the requirements of the above definition but are subject to different controls.

NOTE 3 Accessories intended specifically by manufacturers to be used together with a “parent” medical device to enable that medical device to achieve its intended purpose, should be subject to this International Standard.

2.10

objective evidence

data supporting the existence or verity of something

NOTE Objective evidence can be obtained through observation, measurement, testing or other means.

[ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.8.1]

2.11

post-production

part of the life-cycle of the product after the design has been completed and the medical device has been manufactured

EXAMPLES transportation, storage, installation, product use, maintenance, repair, product changes, decommissioning and disposal.

2.12

procedure

specified way to carry out an activity or a process

[ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.4.5]

2.13

process

set of interrelated or interacting activities which transforms inputs into outputs

[ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.4.1]

2.14

record

document stating results achieved or providing evidence of activities performed

[ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.7.6]

2.15

residual risk

risk remaining after risk control measures have been taken

NOTE 1 Adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.9.

NOTE 2 ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.9 uses the term “protective measures” rather than “risk control measures.” However, in the context of this International Standard, “protective measures” are only one option for controlling risk as described in 6.2.

2.16

risk

combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.2]

2.17

risk analysis

systematic use of available information to identify hazards and to estimate the risk

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.10]

NOTE Risk analysis includes examination of different sequences of events that can produce hazardous situations and harm. See Annex E.

2.18

risk assessment

overall process comprising a risk analysis and a risk evaluation

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.12]

2.19

risk control

process in which decisions are made and measures implemented by which risks are reduced to, or maintained within, specified levels

2.20

risk estimation

process used to assign values to the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm

2.21

risk evaluation

process of comparing the estimated risk against given risk criteria to determine the acceptability of the risk

2.22

risk management

systematic application of management policies, procedures and practices to the tasks of analysing, evaluating, controlling and monitoring risk

2.23

risk management file

set of records and other documents that are produced by risk management

2.24

safety

freedom from unacceptable risk

[ISO/IEC Guide 51:1999, definition 3.1]

2.25

severity

measure of the possible consequences of a hazard

2.26

top management

person or group of people who direct(s) and control(s) a manufacturer at the highest level

NOTE Adapted from ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.2.7.