African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH)

EVALUATION OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (EMP-TC)

SUBCOMMITTEE FOR VACCINES AND OTHER BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

CALL FOR INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS: MPOX CANDIDATE MEDICINAL PRODUCTS EXPEDITED EVALUATION AND EMERGENCY USE LISTING

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Invitation to Manufacturers

African Union Development Agency (AUDA NEPAD) through the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) initiative's Evaluation of Medicinal Products Technical Committee (EMP-TC) invites manufacturers or applicants of medicinal product intended for treatment or prevention of Mpox to submit their expression of intent for a continental Expedited Evaluation and Emergency Use Listing.

Categories of candidate medicinal products that may be considered for this call include unlicensed or unauthorized products, repurposed products as well as products authorized by acknowledged reference regulatory authorities. Mpox vaccines or any other medicinal products such as antiviral medicinal products intended for treatment of mpox are eligible.

1.2. Background

On Aug 13, 2024, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) declared mpox a public health emergency of continental security (PHECS) in Africa which was the followed by a declaration by the World Health Organization of Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

The decision was driven by the worsening mpox situation on the continent: since 2022, 40 874 cases and 1512 deaths have been reported across 15 AU member states. In 2024 alone, 17 541 cases and 517 deaths have been reported from 13 AU member states. These figures represent a 160% and 19% increase in the number of cases and deaths, respectively, in 2024 compared with the same period in 2023. A 79% increase in the number of cases was observed in 2023 compared with 2022. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) accounts for 96% of all cases and 97% of all deaths reported in 2024.

Under the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) Initiative, several Technical Committees (TCs) have been put in place to spearhead regulatory systems strengthening and harmonization in Africa working with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) medicines harmonization initiatives and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). Recently these technical committees have been working to lay a foundation and conduct joint regulatory reviews and inspections in support of the operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) whose Treaty came into force in November 2021.

Specifically, the Evaluation of Medicinal Products Technical Committee (EMP-TC) was established by the AMRH Steering Committee to play a vital role in the scientific evaluation of human medicinal products at continental level and to coordinate and conduct the assessment of applications for the priority medicinal products as guided by its Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Priority Medicinal Products and provide scientific recommendations to support product registration and marketing authorization at national levels. In accordance with this Guidance, medicinal products intended for Public Health Emergency are considered eligible for Continental pathway through the EMP-TC and based on the continental guidelines for Emergency Use Listing.

The EMP TC's continental procedure for evaluation of medicinal products and guidance for priority products eligibility criteria were approved by the AMRH Steering Committee and adopted by the Assembly of the 9th African Medicines Regulators Conference in August 2023.

1.3. How will the Emergency Evaluation and Listing Process be like?

The EMP TC will undertake an expedited comprehensive evaluation of the quality, safety, and efficacy of the candidate vaccine based on dossiers submitted by the applicants and on an assessment of the GMP/GCP/GLP compliance through relevant continental technical committees under AMRH.

Based on the *Continental Guideline for Emergency Use Listing* where evaluation demonstrates that a product and its corresponding manufacturing and clinical site(s) meet the continental standards acceptable by the Technical Committees (i.e., internationally acceptable standards) for products meant for Public Health Emergency, the medicinal product will be issued with an **INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC OPINION or RECOMMENDATION** which will then allow the product to be included in the continental list (listing) of medicinal products recommended by the EMP-TC (if positive).

The assessment as well as inspection reports will be shared with concerned National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs) in Africa to support and facilitate registration and marketing authorization of the product.

The EMP TC may also publish negative opinion if deemed appropriate in the interest of public health.

Product listed by the EMP-TC will be published on the AUDA NEPAD website and will inform the **Africa CDC Pooled Procurement Mechanism.**

2. SUBMISSION OF EOI

2.1. Who can Apply?

Manufacturers or suppliers (Applicants) of Mpox Vaccines or any other categories of medicinal products that may be considered for an EUL (including unlicensed products, repurposed products).

2.2. What to submit for the EoI?

An Expression of Intent (EOI) letter for product evaluation at continental level to be submitted by the applicants (manufacturer or supplier duly authorized) along with the self-screening checklist on the eligibility of products (self-screening checklist can be accessed *https://amrh.nepad.org/amrh-resources*).

2.3. Where and when to submit the EoI?

Send the EOI to the following mailbox addresses: emp@nepad.org cc alexj@nepad.org

The window for submissions of EOI is opened from the 27th of August 2024.

3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOSSIER FOR EVALUATION BY THE EMP TC

3.1. Where to submit the Application?

After the EOI is accepted, all applications and other supporting documents for the purpose of this Emergency Use Listing should be submitted to the South African Health Product Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) which has been selected by the AUDA NEPAD to receive, process, and manage the application dossiers on behalf of the AMRH EMP-TC in the interim period.

3.2. What are the documents to be supplied and under which format for the application?

All Medicinal Product Dossiers should be submitted in electronic Common Technical Documentation (eCTD).

The electronic CTD should be prepared as per the SAHPRA' eCTD submission Guidelines (2.23_Submission in eCTD format_Jul19_v3). Link below:

here

3.3. How to Compile the submissions?

Medicinal Product Dossier should be compiled in accordance with the EMP TC Guidelines on Submission of Application for Listing of Medicinal Products. The EMP TC specific guidelines for vaccines can be accessed here

For a specific submission related to Emergency Use Listing Guidelines. The EMP-TC has prescribed the minimum data requirement as provided for under **Appendix I** of this call.

3.4. When to apply?

Applicants can send applications along with their EOIs or submit the EOI and later the application dossier. The EMP TC plans to conduct a expedited review of submitted applications, with the aim of starting the first evaluations as soon as the applications are submitted.

3.5. What fee do I have to pay to participate in the Continental Emergency Use Listing (CEUL)?

Please note that, NO FEES WILL BE PAID TO PARTICPATE IN THIS PROCEDURE

3.6. In which language should the EoI be submitted?

The EOI application and all supporting documents should be submitted in English.

3.7. What are the timelines of evaluation pathway during the emergency phase under the EMP-TC.

Screening	Reliance or Abridged	Full Assessment
1 day	15 days	45 days

4. ONCE THE EMP TC RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN ADOPTED AND PRODUCT LISTED

The Continental Evaluation of Medicinal Products Procedure was approved by the AMRH Steering Committee and endorsed by the 9th Assembly of the African Medicines Regulators Conference (AMRC) in August 2023. These two structures have representatives of all African NRAs.

4.1. How will the EMP TC Recommendation translate into national emergency use authorisation?

The EMP TC is a continental Technical Committee whose members represent all African regions and therefore the assessment process by the EMP TC has the ownership of Africa's NRAs and therefore, these NRA will use EMP TC evaluations to make a final decision at national level to authorize the recommended or listed products.

Additionally, a Continental Forum for Heads of Registration and Marketing Authorization has been established in Africa comprising of all AU member states where a listed products will be adopted and concerned countries will be assisted in finalization national level decisions if deemed necessary.

4.2. What information will be exchanged between TCs and NRAs?

Dossier evaluation reports, GMP inspection reports (where applicable) and EMP TC sessions' reports on decision for Continental Emergency Use Listing will be shared by the TCs with concerned or participating NRAs.

4.3. Criteria for Decision on an EUL

The following criteria for issuing an EUL will need to be met:

a) Based on the totality of scientific evidence available, including data from adequate and well-controlled clinical trials, if available, it is reasonable to believe that the product may be effective in treating, or preventing a disease or condition caused by an agent.

b) The known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the product when used to prevent, or treat the disease (Mpox)
c) The product is manufactured in compliance with current GMP, and in an authorized manufacturing site.
d) The applicant undertakes to complete the development including monitoring and reporting of the product and apply for full authorization.

5. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

5.1. General principles for the Evaluation following submission of an EoI by applicants.

The assessment will be accelerated and undertaken to assess whether the vaccines or other candidate products submitted meet internationally acceptable requirements of safety, quality and efficacy and the site(s) is/are complying with Good Manufacturing Practices or Good Clinical Practices as applicable for Public Health Emergency.

This procedure, established by the AMRH EMP TC, is based on the following principles:

a) Understanding of the production and quality control activities of the manufacturer
b) Assessment of medicinal product data (quality, efficacy, and safety data) received in a Common Technical Document (CTD) format.
c) Inspection of Finished Pharmaceutical Product (FPP)/Immunological Product (IP) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)/ Immunogenic Substance (IS) manufacturing sites (GMP).
d) Inspection of clinical testing units or contract research organizations (CROs) with Good Clinical Practices (GCP) and Good Laboratory Practices (GLP).
e) Product lifecycle management with monitoring of changes in the product dossier and management of variations. ALTHOUGH during the phase 1 of the pilot, these will be handled at national level.
f) EMP-TC acknowledges that during PHEs there will be limited data available for products.

Once EMP-TC is satisfied that the procedure is complete for the relevant product, as manufactured at the specified manufacturing site(s) and that required standards are met, the product will be considered as recommended by the EMP-TC and will be included in the list of products recommended by the EMP-TC published on the AUDA NEPAD's AMRH website.

5.2. Terms and Conditions applicable to this Invitation

Applicants intending to submit EoIs to participate in this pilot, must meet the following criteria:

a) Provide a consent as part of the EoI letter to allow the AMRH TCs to share the assessment and inspection reports with NRAs in Africa
b) Submit a letter demonstrating how the product for which a product dossier is submitted meet Emergency Use Listing Criteria.
c) To facilitate national level authorisation, Applicants should adhere to the reliance principles among African regulators which requires that the data for the same product, same facility(ies), and same change(s) be submitted in the same format [e.g., following harmonized standards specified in ICH M4Q, M8, etc.].

6. CONTACTS

6.1. AMRH Secretariat/EMP-TC Secretariat

For enquiries and all technical related matters contact: emp@nepad.org and copy to alexj@nepad.org

6.2. SAHPRA for submission of product dossiers

For general enquiries and submissions communication: - Christelna Reynecke (christelna.reynecke@sahpra.org.za)

Appendix I: Data Package Contents
A description of the product and its intended use
A description of the product's international marketing authorization (MA) status.
All available safety and efficacy information for the product
A discussion of risks and benefits
Information on chemistry, manufacturing, controls and stability
A list of all sites where the product, if EUL is granted, will be (or was) manufactured and the GMP status of the manufacturer
Information about the quantity of finished product on hand and the surge capabilities of the manufacturing site(s)
Information comparable to summary of product characteristics and patient information leaflet (“Instructions for Use”-documents)
Proposed labelling of primary and secondary package
Product samples as per sampling schedule