

# ENCePP

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## Checklist of Operational research Standards

ENCePP Plenary, 18 September 2009

Bert Leufkens  
Xavier Kurz

## “Research standards & guidance”

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Chair: Gonzalo Calvo Rojas

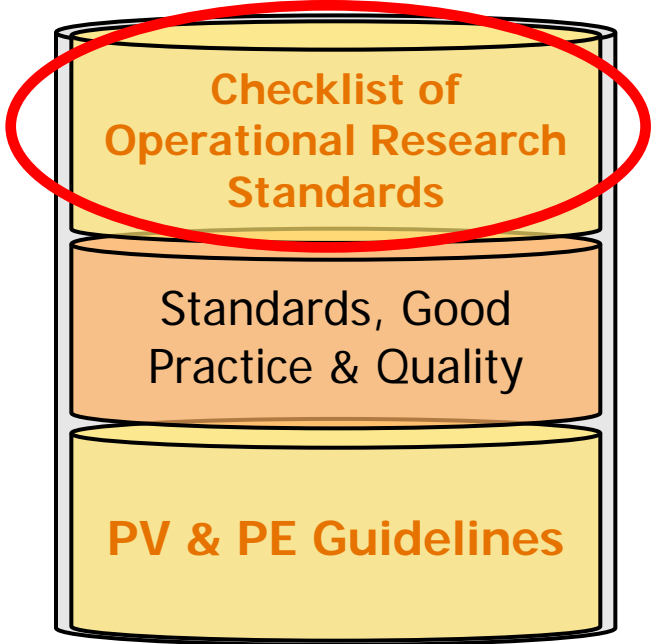
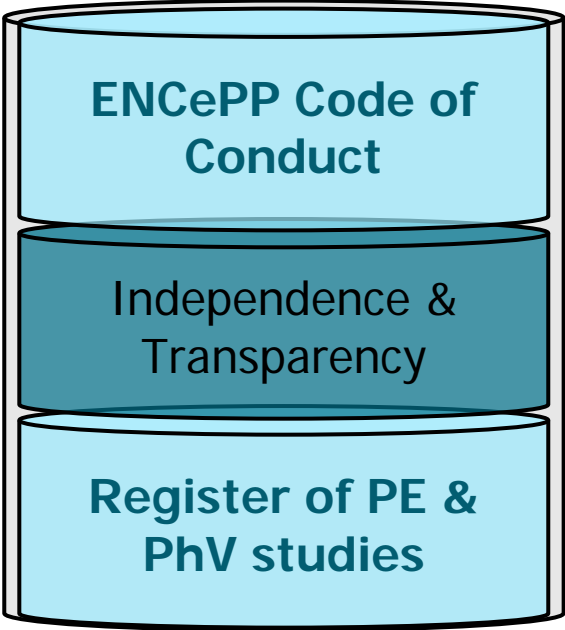
### Mandate

- Identify areas in which standards (quality, operational, methodology, ethics, publication, communication, etc.) relevant for ENCePP activities are needed.
- Develop standards and guidances as appropriate according to network's requirements.
- Disseminate and promote implementation of new and existing standards.
- Explore the merits of developing an accreditation system and its methodologies.
- Identify the training needs for the implementation of the ENCePP standards.
- Dissemination including input to the design of the ENCePP-EMEA web page.
- The objectives of this working group are to improve the quality of ENCePP activities and will be carried-out in cooperation with the relevant learned societies.

Database of Research Resources  
Centres – Data sets



# ENCePP Studies



## “Research standards & guidance”

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- Subgroup 1: Operational Research Standards (ORS),  
*Chair: Bert Leufkens*
- Subgroup 2: Existing Recommendations & Guidelines,  
*Chair: Susanna Perez-Gutthann*
- Main activities in 2009
  - Develop the Checklist of ORS
  - Further develop the Inventory of PE Guidelines (general application as well as more specific)

# Existing PE Guidelines

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## Objective

- To identify and compile existing Guidance in the field of PE & PhV which could be used to provide recommendations on specific aspects of study development and conduct
- The Inventory should include information about the origin of the Guideline, its availability, and a short description

## Result

- Inventory of 13 Guidance documents identified by the group as relevant
- Review of the Guidelines by individual members of the group

# Existing PE Guidelines

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## Next steps

- Further structure and populate the Inventory
- Eventually match the existing guidance with the need for guidance and identify gaps
- Development of summary recommendations for each domain of study development and conduct
  - link to appropriate existing guidance
  - development of new guidance according to the needs

⇒ **Next meeting: 13 November 2009**

# Checklist of ORS – Scope

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- All types of **PE and PhV studies**, with an emphasis on non-interventional Post-Authorisation Studies.
- **“ENCePP studies”** (mandatory)

# Checklist of ORS – Objectives

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- Provide for high level information on whether accepted standards and good practice are addressed in the study protocol, in a simplified and condensed way.
- Enable easy tracking of the location in the Study Protocol where the ORS are addressed
- Promote the application and implementation of the agreed ORS.



# History of the Checklist of ORS

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- **Step 1:** Identify key areas and methodological aspects to be considered when conducting PE & PhV research
  - Review of 4 selected publications (real-life examples)  
⇒ List of key points
- **Step 2:** Develop draft Checklist of ORS
  - Agree on scope & purpose
  - Translate key point into sections & questions

# Application & Compliance

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- Complete & sign Checklist (Declaration of honour)



- Submit together with Study Protocol before the study commences



# Checklist of ORS




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## 11 Sections


1. Research question
2. Study population
3. Study design
4. Data sources
5. Exposure ascertainment and measurement
6. Endpoint definition and measurement
7. Biases and effect modification
8. Analysis plan
9. Quality assurance
10. Interpretation and validity, implications for B/R
11. Ethical issues



# 2. Study population

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
2.1 Is the source population described?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2 Is the study population described in terms of:			
2.2.1 Age and gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2.2 Country of origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2.3 Method of identification (any inclusion/exclusion criteria or event used to sample the study population from the source population)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2.4 Disease/indication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2.5 Co-morbidity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments:



Next section 

# 3. Study design

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	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
3.1 Is the choice and rationale of study design explained? (e.g. cohort, case-control, RCT, others)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█

Comments:

Next section 



# 5. Exposure ascertainment and measurement

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
5.1 Does the protocol describe methods to be used for the identification and measurement of exposure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
5.2 Does the protocol discuss the validity of exposure measurement? (e.g. precision, accuracy, prospective or retrospective ascertainment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
5.3 Is exposure classified according to time windows (e.g. current user, former user, non-use) or biological mechanism of action?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█

Comments:

Next section





# 6. Endpoint definition

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
6.1 Is the choice of endpoint(s) under investigation described in terms of rationale in relation to the study hypotheses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
6.2 Does the protocol describe methods to be used for the identification and measurement of endpoints(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
6.3 Does the protocol discuss the validity of event measurement (e.g. precision, accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, prospective or retrospective ascertainment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█

Comments:

Next section



# 7. Bias and effect modification

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
7.1 Does the protocol provide a list of potential confounders and modifiers, and a rationale thereof?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.2 Does the protocol describe methods for addressing: 7.2.1 Selection biases 7.2.2 Information biases 7.2.3 Potential confounders 7.2.4 Potential effect or risk modifiers	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments:

Next section



# 8. Analysis Plan

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
8.1 Is a calculation of the sample size provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
8.2 Is statistical power calculated according to different assumptions for patient recruitment and results?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
8.3 Does the plan explain the choice of the measure(s) of effect? (e.g. RR/OR, deaths per 1000 person-years, absolute risk, excess risk, incidence rate ratio, hazard ratio, number needed to harm (NNH) per year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
8.4 Does the plan include measurement of absolute effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
8.5 Is the choice of statistical techniques explained in the plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
8.6 Does the statistical plan explain how confounders and interactions will be dealt with?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█

Comments:



# 9. Quality Assurance

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
9.1 Does the protocol provide information on the software and IT environment (incl. database maintenance and anti-fraud protection)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
9.2 Are methods of quality assurance described?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
9.3. Does the protocol adequately describe and or reference quality issues related to the actual data source?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█

Comments:

Next section 

# 10. Interpretation and validity; implications for B/R

	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
10.1 Are potential weaknesses of the study described as regards:			
10.1.3.Data sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
10.1.2 Internal validity (extent to which the potential biases have been dealt with, power of study)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
10.1.3 External validity (e.g. usefulness and generalisability of the study)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
10.2 Are the implications of the study for benefit-risk assessment of the medicines discussed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█

Comments:

Next section



# 11. Ethical issues

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	Yes	No	Page Number(s)
11.1 Does the protocol address potential ethical issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	█
11.2 Has the protocol been assessed by an ethical committee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a

Comments:

Next section



# Next steps

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Today !

- Agreement on core elements of the Checklist of ORS by ENCePP Plenary

October 2,  
2009

- Deadline for comments

October 12,  
2009

- Revised Checklist to be published at ENCePP web page for consultation

November 13,  
2009

- Additional comments discussed by WG1 and endorsed by ENCIAG

December 11,  
2009

- Final checklist approved by ENCEPP Plenary