



# **Technical Report No. 74**

## **Reprocessing of Biopharmaceuticals**

## **PDA Reprocessing of Biopharmaceuticals Technical Report Team**

---

### **Authors**

---

**Peter Wojciechowski**, Ph.D., Baxalta, Team Leader

**Amy Stanton**, Amgen, Project Manager

**John Bennan**, ComplianceNet

**Glen Bolton**, Ph.D., Amgen

**Andrew Chang**, Ph.D., Novo Nordisk

**Steve Dziennik**, Merck

**Brett Hanna**, Johnson & Johnson

**Carl Hitscherich**, Ph.D., Biogen

**Brian Kelley**, Ph.D., Genentech

**Stephen Notarnicola**, Ph.D., Biotechnology Process Development and CMC Consultant

**Susan Vargo**, Ph.D., Amgen

**Allison Wolf**, Eli Lilly

**DISCLAIMER:** The content and views expressed in this Technical Report are the result of a consensus achieved by the authoring task force and are not necessarily views of the organizations they represent.

# Reprocessing of Biopharmaceuticals

**Technical Report No. 74**

ISBN: 978-0-939459-88-9

© 2016 Parenteral Drug Association, Inc.

All rights reserved.



# Table of Contents

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>		
1.1 Purpose .....	1		
1.2 Scope .....	1		
<b>2.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS .....</b>	<b>2</b>		
<b>3.0 REPROCESSING CONSIDERATIONS.....</b>	<b>4</b>		
3.1 Reprocessing Frequency .....	4		
3.2 Continuation vs. Reprocessing (Repetition) of a Unit Operation .....	5		
3.3 General Steps to Consider for a Proactive Design and Validation of a Reprocessing Step..	5		
<b>4.0 REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>		
4.1 Regulatory Submissions Considerations.....	11		
4.1.1 Regulatory Agency Reporting Requirements – Preapproval.....	11		
4.1.1.1 EMA Preapproval Requirements .....	11		
4.1.2 Regulatory Agency Reporting Requirements – Post Approval .....	11		
		4.1.2.1 FDA Post-Approval Reporting Requirements .....	11
		4.1.2.2 EMA Post-Approval Reporting Requirements .....	12
		4.1.2.3 Health Canada Post-Approval Reporting Requirements .....	12
<b>5.0 APPENDIX I: HYPOTHETICAL CASE STUDY — ANION EXCHANGE CHROMATOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>13</b>		
5.1 Unit Operation Characteristics.....	13		
<b>6.0 APPENDIX II: CASE STUDY — REFILTRATION ...</b>	<b>23</b>		
6.1 Case Study: Proactive Nonsterile Drug Substance Refiltration .....	23		
6.2 Case Study: Proactive Virus Removal Refiltration .....	23		
<b>7.0 REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>25</b>		

## FIGURES AND TABLES INDEX

<b>Figure 3.3-1</b>	Sequence of Events – Proactive Reprocessing .....	6	<b>Table 5.1-5</b>	Summary of Design Parameter for AEX Step .....	16
<b>Table 5.1-1</b>	Summary of Quality Attribute Risk Assessment Topics.....	13	<b>Table 5.1-6</b>	AEX Reprocessing Step FMEA.....	18
<b>Table 5.1-2</b>	FMEA Scoring Criteria .....	14	<b>Table 5.1-7</b>	AEX Reprocessing Step Process Parameter FMEA.....	18
<b>Table 5.1-3</b>	AEX Reprocessing Step FMEA.....	15	<b>Table 5.1-8</b>	Regulatory Submission Content.....	21
<b>Table 5.1-4</b>	Summary of Process Parameter Classification and Ranges Affecting HCP Clearance .....	16			

# 1.0 Introduction

A validated reprocessing step is a tool pharmaceutical/biopharmaceutical manufacturers can use to bring an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API, aka drug substance) or intermediate that does not meet specification (aka out of specification) into spec or to return a process that has shifted outside its validated operating range to an acceptable state of quality.

The definition of reprocessing for the purpose of this technical report is defined by ICH Q7 (*1*). Any strategy for reprocessing must be supported by product and process knowledge. The reason, frequency, and nature of the reprocessing procedure should be carefully evaluated and documented. Costs and risks associated with reprocessing a unit operation must be carefully weighed. Currently, available literature to guide manufacturers in the details associated with implementing a reprocessing procedure is limited.

## 1.1 Purpose

This technical report presents a reprocessing strategy based on the experiences and practices of a PDA Task Force representing a cross-section of industry professionals. The intent is to provide guidance in the design, development, controls, procedures, validation, regulatory submission, and implementation of reprocessing procedures for recombinant biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

The concepts related to developing a reprocessing strategy are illustrated in two case studies. The first more detailed hypothetical case study involves a chromatography step and provides a data-driven illustration of how the depth and quantity of product/process knowledge influences the reprocessing approach including the regulatory strategy. The second case study is related to refiltration, a more common scenario in manufacturing.

The document is organized to allow the reader to develop a reprocessing strategy for inclusion in their dossier(s) for regulatory approval, standard operating procedures, and validation master plans. The following information represents what the authors consider as a balance of scientific, regulatory, and business considerations in reprocessing.

## 1.2 Scope

This technical report focuses on recombinant biopharmaceutical products including proteins and polypeptides produced via recombinant and non-recombinant cell-culture expression systems. The guidance is general in nature, and the two case studies illustrate how the general principles may be applied. No attempt is made to encompass all types of unit operations for which reprocessing could be considered.

The reprocessing scenarios considered are generically categorized as reactive and proactive. Although a brief discussion on reactive reprocessing is provided in **Section 3.0**, the primary focus is on proactive reprocessing.

Rework as defined by ICH Q7 (see glossary for definition) is outside the scope of this technical report.

This technical report is not intended to establish mandatory standards but serves as a single-source overview that complements existing guidance documents listed in the reference section. Although the manufacture of APIs intended for use in clinical trials is not specifically addressed, many of the principles may still apply. It is advisable to consult with the appropriate regulatory authority for agreement on the strategies employed for any reprocessing operation.