

# Webinar

## Orphan Drugs

05 MAY  
2022



**BlueReg**  
PHARMA CONSULTING



How to take advantage of  
incentives to develop your  
orphan products in Europe?



# Welcome

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## The speakers



**Claire Ray**

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Director, Regulatory Affairs



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Director, Business Development



# Webinar Agenda

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Introduction

Orphan drugs: where are we?

What is the regulatory context for Orphan Medicinal products in EU?

Why use a third party to develop my orphan drug in the EU?

Q&A session with the BlueReg experts

*Please send your questions for the Q&A using the Q&A box*

**30 min**

**15 min**



# Introduction

# Introduction - Definitions

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- **What is an orphan drug?**

- An Orphan drug is a drug or a biological product used for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of a rare disease

- **What is a rare disease?**

- A disease that affects a small percentage of the population
- This small percentage – and thus definition of rare – varies across countries/legislations
- Most rare diseases are genetic, and thus are present throughout the person's entire life, even if symptoms do not immediately appear



# Introduction - Definitions

- What is an orphan drug?

Definition of « rare » based on prevalence depending on regional/national legislations/policies



**<200,000**

per Orphan drug Act of 1983

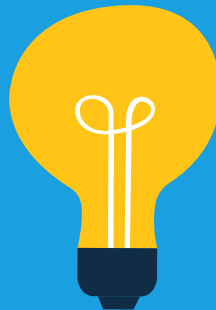


**<5/10,000**

per Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999



**0.65-1/1,000**



**A rare disease in one region may not be so in another**

either for legislative reasons, or because this disease - often genetic  
- is simply less rare in one region than another

# Introduction - Definitions

European alliance of  
rare disease patient  
organisations :

<https://www.eurordis.org/>



1/17

People in the EU has a rare disease

Around 30 million patients suffer from rare diseases out  
of a population of 510 million in the EU



# Orphan drugs: where are we?



*OMP* → *Orphan Medicinal Product*



# Introduction of OMP regulation in EU today shows a visible positive impact

## Orphan designation application



80

2001



3678

2020

## Authorized OMPs



3

2001



192

2020



For more than 15 years, Orphan drugs have been one of the fastest growing segments of the pharmaceutical market

# Rare disease patients have significant unmet needs

**30 M**

Europeans suffer from rare diseases

**6 000**

rare diseases - 5 new every week

**95%**

of rare diseases → no authorized treatments



**Most OMP developments focus on disease areas where treatments already exist**

Of all the authorised OMPs between 2000 and 2017, only 28% targeted rare diseases without any authorised OMPs

**OMP development benefits only a limited number of diseases**

Between 2000-2019, 67% of OMP designation applications targeted same three disease areas (Blood; antineoplastic/immunomodulating agents, dermatology)

**OMP development is not equally focused**

No less than 70% of rare diseases occur exclusively in paediatrics. Only 12% of orphan designations between 2000-2019 related to conditions that only affect children

**OMP development concentrates on the least rare diseases**

96% rare diseases have a prevalence of <1 in 10,000. Between 2000-2019, 56% of authorised OMPs targeted rare diseases with a prevalence >1 in 10,000

**OMP tend to be developed in certain more profitable therapeutic areas**

# Cost of bringing OMPs to the market

Cost of bringing OMPs to the market  
outweigh potential market revenue



OMPs developed between  
2000 - 2017

> 50%

orphan drugs would not have been economically viable  
in the absence of the OMP regulation and its incentives

# OMP regulation encourages pharma and biotech to develop OMPs

## RESEARCH



Access to EU grants

Improved communication & cross border collaboration



## REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT



Benefit from protocol assistance

Important fee reductions on regulatory activities

Tax reduction/exemption

Access to centralized procedure, potential conditional approval, compassionate use program

Additional incentives if SME

## COMMERCIAL



Enhanced exclusivity period 10 years market exclusivity +2 if PIP completed

Pricing committee may agree to a high price

# Incentives in concrete numbers

## EU Funded research



**> 620 M€**

in funding over 120 research projects between 2007 and 2013

## Fee reductions

**78 M€ between 2000 and 2015**

**2000**  
700 K€

**2015**  
13 M€

**2010**  
6,7 M€

**2020**  
> 11 M€

## Access to “High” price

annual per patient treatment costs of OMP range between **755€ to over 1M€** in the EU (24% >10 000€, 18% >100 000€, 58% between this range)

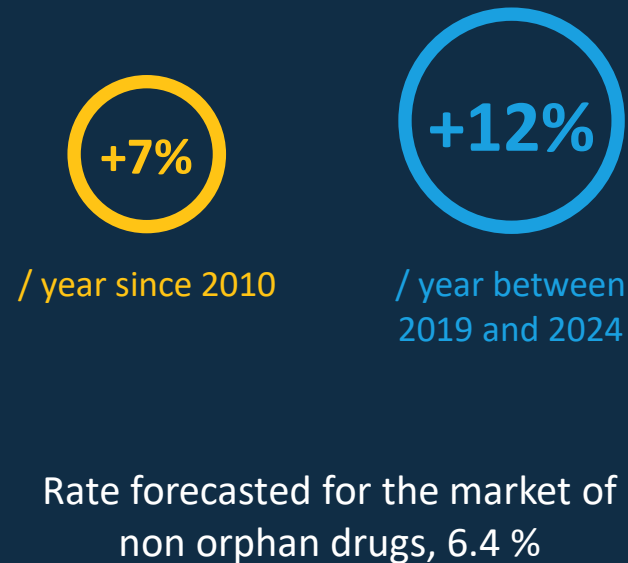
**OMP Regulation, EU driven funding and access to high price have made OMPs a cornerstone of pharmaceutical markets**

# Orphan drugs – a highly profitable market

## Orphan drug market



## Growth/year



## Market share



**OMP regulation stimulated pharma/biotech to enter the rare disease space**

# Is there a limit to the system?



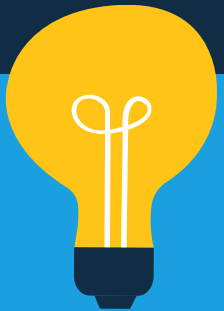
From a patient perspective: left with 95% of rare diseases without authorized treatment options



Health system - growing economic burden of orphan diseases not indefinitely sustainable



Regulations have not adequately managed to support development in areas where the need for medicines is greatest



EU orphan legislation is currently being revised and is expected to enter into force in the coming years.

OMP regulation in the EU has been largely inspired by the US Orphan Drug Act but the EU can be very complex when it comes to regulation



Our goal today: to raise your attention to the complexity of the system in EU










What is the specific regulatory context for Orphan Medicinal products in the EU?

# Orphan Drug Designation – Legal basis

## ● What is the legal basis?

- US as a pioneer in Orphan drug regulation
- Complex and multiple documents, particularly for EU
- Differences between US & EU

	 USA	 EU
AGENCIES / COMMITTEES	FDA / OOPD	EMA / COMP
LEGISLATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Orphan Drug Act (1983) codified in 21 CFR Part 316</li><li>● Orphan Drug Regulations Final Rule 6/12/2013</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Orphan Medicinal Products of 16 December 1999</li><li>● Commission Regulation (EC) No 847/2000 of 27 April 2000</li><li>● Commission Communication July 2003 (2003/C 178/02)</li><li>● Commission Communication on Art 8(1) and (3) (C(2008) 4077)</li></ul>

# Orphan Drug Designation – Guidance

## ● Guidance

- Numerous publications covering all aspects of orphan drug development, registration, maintenance and incentives





USA	EU
Clarification of Orphan Designation of Drugs and Biologics for Pediatric Subpopulations of Common Diseases Guidance for Industry	Points to consider on the estimation and reporting on the prevalence of a condition for the purpose of orphan designation EMA/COMP/436/01 Rev. 1 (June 2019)
	Recommendation on elements required to support the medical plausibility and the assumption of significant benefit for an orphan designation EMA/COMP/15893/2009 Final (March 2010)
Meetings with the Office of Orphan Products Development – Guidance for Industry, Researchers, Patient Groups, and Food and Drug Administration Staff	Decision of the Executive Director on fee reductions for designated orphan medicinal products EMA/135645/2020
	European Medicines Agency Guidance for Applicants EMA/4260/2001 Rev. 12 (February 2022)
FDA Webpages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing Products for Rare Diseases &amp; Conditions</li> <li>• Public Identification of Orphan Drug Designation – Notice to Certain Orphan-Drug Designation Holders</li> <li>• Designating an Orphan Product: Drugs and Biological Products</li> <li>• Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Designating an Orphan Product</li> <li>• Orphan Drug Designation: Disease Considerations</li> </ul>	Procedural advice for orphan medicinal product designation EMA/420706/2018 Rev. 11 (Sept. 2021)
	IRIS Guide to registration and RPIs – Preliminary requirements for all IRIS submissions, including substance and Research Product Identifier registration (Feb. 2022)
	Procedural advice for post-orphan medicinal product designation activities EMA/469917/2018 Rev. 11 (Jun. 2021)
	European Medicines Agency pre-authorisation procedural advice for users of the centralized procedure EMA/821278/2015 (Feb. 2022)

# Orphan Drug Advantages

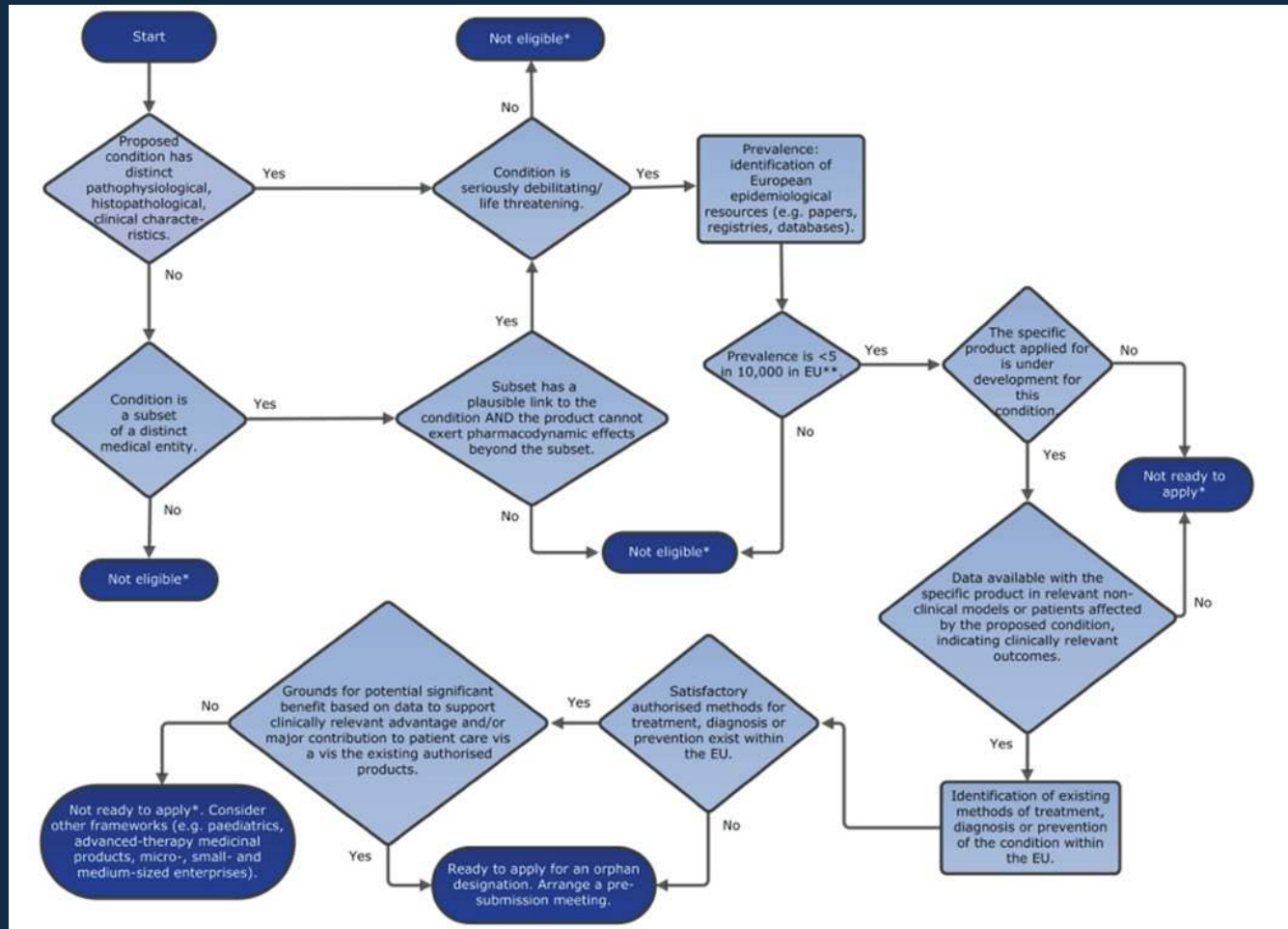
		 USA	 EU
Financial incentives	Fee	Fee waivers (NDA/BLA)	Fee reductions/waivers (SMEs) (PA, MA, PV, ...)
	Tax credits	Yes, 50% on clinical research costs	No (EMA)
	Grants for research	FDA Orphan Products Grant Program NIH grants	EC framework Programmes (Horizon Europe: EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation); EJP RD
Scientific advice		Yes	Yes, Protocol assistance
Regulatory tools to accelerate approval		Fast-track approval; Breakthrough designation; Accelerated approval pathway; Priority review designation	Priority medicines (PRIME); Mandatory access to the Centralised Procedure; Conditional approval; Approval under exceptional circumstances; facilitated access to accelerated assessment
Marketing exclusivity		7 years	10 years (+2 if PIP)

# Orphan Drug Designation - Eligibility

 EU	 USA
<b>Rarity (prevalence)</b> Medical condition affecting not more than 5 in 10, 000 persons in the community	A drug/biologic may be “designated” by the Office of Orphan Products Development if it is to prevent, treat, or diagnose a disease/condition that occurs in <200,000 people in U.S.
OR	OR
<b>Seriousness / return of investment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Life –threatening or chronically debilitating</li><li>- Without incentives it is unlikely that the marketing of the product would generate sufficient return to justify the necessary investment</li></ul>	Drugs that will not be profitable within 7 years following approval by the FDA
AND	
<b>Alternative methods authorized</b> If satisfactory methods exist, the sponsor should establish that the product will be of significant benefit	



# Orphan Drug Designation - Eligibility



# Orphan Drug Designation - Eligibility

## ● Databases

Community register of orphan medicinal products for human use

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/documents/community-register/html/reg\\_od\\_act.htm?sort=a](https://ec.europa.eu/health/documents/community-register/html/reg_od_act.htm?sort=a)



Orphanet

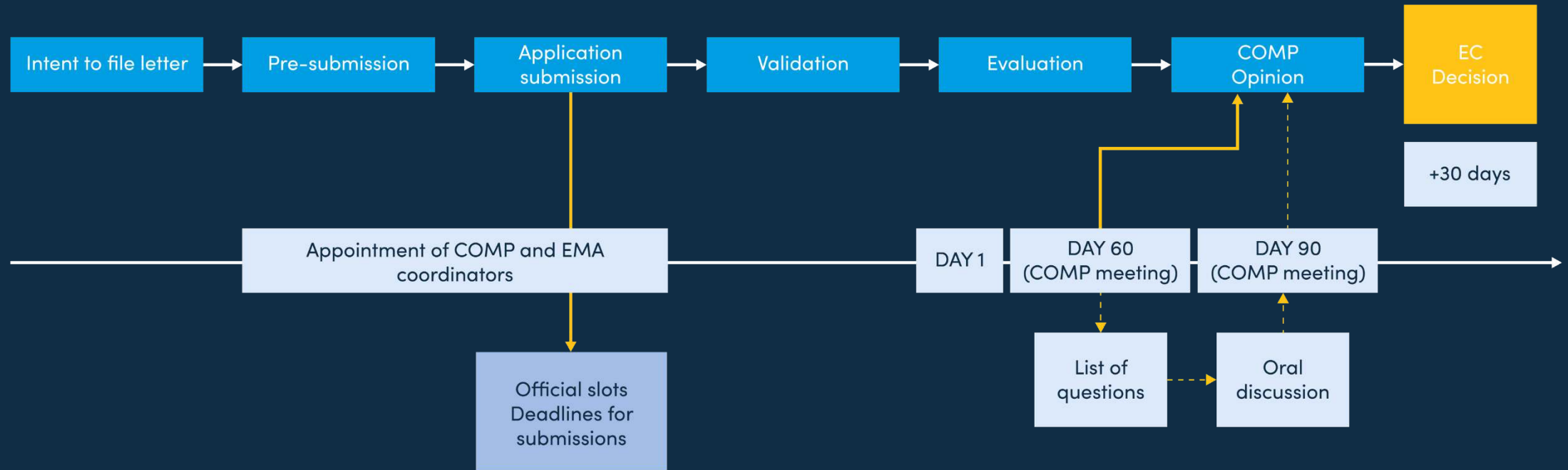
<https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/index.php?lng=EN>

orphanet



## ● Bibliographic research

# ODD Application – Regulatory Procedure – EU



COMP meetings timetable for valid applications (available on <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/committees/comp/comp-meetings>)



# ODD Application – When and how to submit in the EU

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## Sponsor of an Orphan designation

- Sponsor **should be established in the EEA** (EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)

If the sponsor is an organization: the sponsor should have a permanent physical address in one of the countries of the EEA with a contact person at the sponsor premises able to receive any documents in person, if needed.



**BlueReg can be your  
Sponsor!**

# ODD Application

## – When and how to submit in the EU

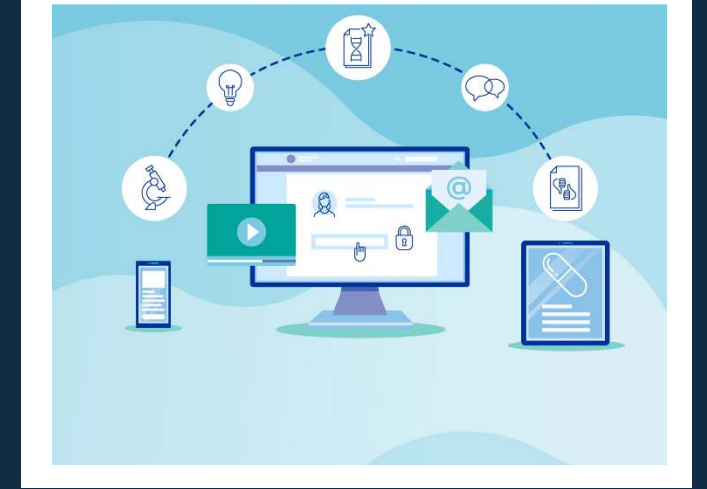
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### IRIS Portal

- From September 19, 2018, **sponsors must use the EMA's IRIS system** when applying for orphan designation and to submit all post-designation activities
- **Pre-submission requirements:**
  - Do you have an active EMA customer account number?
  - Is your organization registered in the EMA's Organization Management Service (OMS)? (SPOR database)
  - Is the active substance registered in SMS?
  - Is the RPI (Research Product Identifier) already created?



**Multiple registration steps**



# After Orphan Drug Designation – EU

Several activities can take place after ODD

- Annual report
  - Sponsors must submit an annual report to the Agency summarising the status of development of the medicine
- Additional indication or extension of the existing orphan designation
- Changing of the name or address of a sponsor
- Transferring a designation to a new sponsor
- Marketing Authorisation application (+ protocol assistance)
- Maintenance of the orphan designation/Evaluation of orphan similarity
  - At the time of a MA, sponsors need to submit an application for maintenance of the OD and an evaluation of orphan similarity



# After Orphan Drug Designation – EU

Maintenance of the OD at the time of the MA application

- **Evaluation of Orphan similarity**

Sponsors need to submit an evaluation of orphan similarity if needed



- Check the [Community register of orphan medicinal products](#)
- **Complex regulatory and scientific report** addressing the possible similarity between drug candidate for MA and orphan medical product(s) which already have a MA



- **Review of Orphan designation at time of MA**

Sponsors also need to **submit a report on maintenance of OD** in order to be eligible for the ten-year market exclusivity incentive. Thus, the EMA can assess whether a medicine continues to meet the criteria for maintaining its orphan status in parallel with assessing the MA application.

# Summary: ODD key differences in the US vs the EU

	 USA	 EU
<b>Legal framework</b>	Orphan Drug Act (1983)	Regulation (CE) N°141/2000 (2000)
<b>Administrative authorities involved</b>	FDA / OOPD	EMA / COMP
<b>Sponsor establishment</b>	Not required	Proof of establishment in the EU
<b>Timetable</b>	No timetable - Any time	Timetable published by EMA (COMP meeting)
<b>Prevalence of the disease/condition</b>	< 200, 000 patients in the US	< 5 in 10,000 patients in the EU
<b>Key application criteria</b>	Prevalence, Scientific rationale	Prevalence, Medical plausibility, Significant benefit
<b>Incentives</b>	Fee waivers, Tax credits, Grants for research, Scientific advice, Regulatory tools to accelerate approval, Marketing exclusivity for 7 years	Fee reductions/waivers (SMEs), no grants from EMA but EC framework Programmes, Protocol assistance, Regulatory tools to accelerate approval, Marketing exclusivity for 10 years (+2 if PIP)
<b>Translation</b>	Not required	Translations of product name and proposed orphan indication into the 24 official languages of the EU

# ODD in the product lifecycle in EU





Why use a third party to  
develop my orphan drug  
in EU?

# Why outsource such key activity?

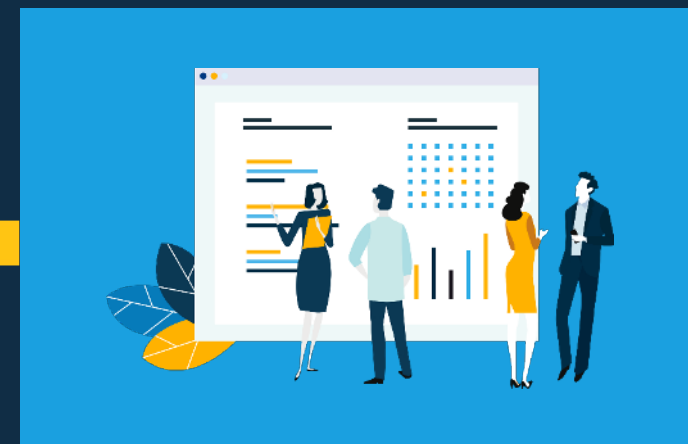
## ORPHAN DRUG DESIGNATION



## INCENTIVES



## SME STATUS



ODD status and the related incentives will be key to the viability of your OMP program by reducing the RnD costs and leading to a reasonable return on investment

**It is a major milestone in your journey to bring the OMP to the patients**



# Why outsource such key activity?

- You are a mid-size US company, developing an innovative orphan product
- Limited EU structure and not financially/business viable to have EU structure prior to product launch
- You were granted the orphan designation in the US, your development plan in the US is all set and you are now preparing development in the EU

## EXPERTISE & ADVICE



- You are responsible for delivering a development path that is cost-effective, optimizes time to market and maximizes probability of success
  - Alignment of the EU with US strategy (capitalize, minimize change & cost) while ensuring compliance with EU regulation – mitigate risks
  - Understand pathway towards approval in the proposed market and targeted therapeutic indication
  - Take advantage of your orphan status; SME status
  - Engage with regulators at the right moment

## EU REPRESENTATIVE



# Why outsource such key activity?

## TAILORED SOLUTIONS

### EXPERTISE & ADVICE

- Expertise in OMP regulation in the EU
- One program regulatory lead – EU single point of contact – strategic/operational
- Facilitation of Competent Authority interactions – protocol assistance, MAA, annual reports etc

### EU REPRESENTATIVE

- Support access to ODD – BlueReg as sponsor
- Support access to SME status and SME incentives

FULL MANAGEMENT



# Why outsource such key activity?

- You will take advantage of European Knowledge & Expertise to optimize EU development and secure compliance
- You will secure access to all the incentives you are eligible for
- You will ensure your product reaches the patient at the earliest opportunity



Early access is an important path to provide patients with treatment before marketing authorisation



# Q & A Session



# Let's stay in touch !

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- [www.blue-reg.com](http://www.blue-reg.com)
- [contact@blue-reg.com](mailto:contact@blue-reg.com)



# Thank you !

