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A Comparison Study of Medical Devices Registration Process in India and US

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Abstract: *The regulation of medical devices plays a vital role in ensuring their safety, quality, and effectiveness before they reach the market. This review project provides a comparative analysis of the medical device registration processes in India and the United States. In India, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) regulates medical devices under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, whereas in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the process through pathways such as Premarket Approval (PMA), Premarket Notification [510(k)], and De Novo classification. The study highlights key differences in classification systems, regulatory requirements, documentation, timelines, and approval pathways between the two countries. The comparison emphasizes how the US system is more mature and structured, while India's evolving framework aims to align with global standards and promote domestic innovation. This review concludes that understanding both systems is essential for manufacturers seeking global market entry and regulatory compliance.*

Keywords*:* Medical Devices, Regulatory Affairs, CDSCO, FDA, Medical Device Rules 2017, Premarket Approval (PMA), 510(k), Device Classification, Regulatory Comparison, Market Authorization

I. INTRODUCTION

Medical devices encompass a wide range of products essential for diagnosing, preventing, and treating medical conditions, regulated by various authorities to ensure safety and efficacy.

A medical device can be any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, appliance, implant, reagent for in vitro use, software, material or other similar or related article, intended by the manufacturer to be used, alone or in combination for a medical purpose. Medical devices are widely used in all branches of medicine and are an essential part of healthcare. The history of medical devices dates back thousands of years, with early examples including simple tools like scalpels and forceps used by ancient civilizations for surgical procedures. The development of more advanced medical devices began in the 19th century, with the invention of the stethoscope and thermometer.

In the 20th century, rapid advancements in technology led to the creation of a wide range of medical devices, such as pacemakers, artificial joints, and MRI machines. These devices revolutionized the field of medicine, allowing for more accurate diagnoses, better patient outcomes, and improved quality of life for countless individuals.

Today, medical devices continue to evolve at a rapid pace, with innovations like wearable health monitors, robotic surgery systems, and 3D-printed implants pushing the boundaries of what is possible in healthcare. As technology continues to advance, the future of medical devices holds great promise for improving patient care and advancing medical science.

As the use of medical devices and medical equipment grew in the 19th and early 20th centuries in hospitals and doctor's offices, larger volumes of devices were being produced and sold. However, there was a paucity of any control or regulations of medical devices. Most regulations were drug related. It was not until the mid-20th century that several countries started implementing medical device- specific rules and regulations to ensure the safety of the general public. These regulations were completely separate from the drug-related regulations. Before World War I, several countries attempted to establish their individual, regional regulations. Most of these regulations were either included in or buried

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under drug regulations. Post- World War II, there was a need to establish a separate regulation for medical devices to ensure safety for patients and public health.

By the 1980s, there were specific pre-marketing approval requirements in most Western EU countries and the United States, but requirements varied from country to country and region to region. In the 1990s, an initiative was undertaken to harmonize these regulations and requirements by introducing conformity assessment procedures, with collaboration and representation from countries around the world.

The phrase "medical devices" encompasses everything from basic wooden tongue depressors to extremely complex digital medical equipment. Medical devices are still classified using a number of different worldwide methods today. A major influence on patient safety will result from the World Health Organization's and its partners' efforts to harmonize medical device nomenclature. This is especially crucial for recognizing recalls and unfavourable incident reports. For medical devices, the Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) has suggested the following harmonized definition (GHTF document SG1/N029R11).

• Identifying, preventing, tracking, treating, or reducing illness
• Maintaining or supporting life
• Control over conception
• Cleaning and disinfecting medical equipment
• The provision of medical information through in vitro analysis of human body specimens that do not accomplish their primary intended action in or on the human body through pharmacological, immunological, or metabolic means, but may be aided in their function by such means.

1.1 Classification of Medical device in India:(4)

Safety, quality and performance of medical devices are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules made thereunder. For the regulation of medical devices for their with respect to the import, manufacture, clinical investigation, sale and distribution, the Central Government, after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, has notified Medical Devices Rules, 2017

CLASS	RISK	EXAMPLE
Class A	Low Risk	Thermometers stethoscopes tongue depressors
Class B	Low- Moderate Risk	Hypodermic needles suction equipment blood pressure monitoring systems
Class C	Moderate- High Risk	Ventilators Orthopedic implants diagnostic X-ray equipment
Class D	High Risk	Heart valves implantable pacemakers coronary stents drug-eluting stents

1.2 Classification of Medical device in US:(10)

Medical devices were divided into three classifications (Class I through III) by the FDA according to the possible risks they pose to patients. The least dangerous medical equipment's are those classified as class I. Class II medical equipment are more dangerous than class I devices, and they are at a moderate risk. The most dangerous medical equipment's are classified as class III, which includes those that maintain or support life.

CLASS	RISK	EXAMPLE
Class A	Low Risk	Thermometers Manual Stethoscopes Tongue depressors
Class B	Moderate Risk	Pregnancy test kits Syringes Contact lenses Blood transfusion kits
Class C	High Risk	Breast implants Defibrillators Implantable pacemakers,

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II. AIM & OBJECTIVE

AIM

To compare and analyze the regulatory framework, registration process, and approval pathways for medical devices in India and the United States, highlighting key similarities, differences, and their impact on market access and patient safety.

Objective

1. To study the classification systems of medical devices in India and the US.
2. To analyze the regulatory authorities and their roles in the approval process (e.g., CDSCO in India and FDA in the US).
3. To compare the documentation and submission requirements for medical device registration in both countries.
4. To evaluate the timelines, costs, and approval procedures involved in the registration process.
5. To identify challenges faced by manufacturers in obtaining regulatory approval in India and the US.
6. To suggest recommendations for harmonizing or improving the medical device regulatory processes.

III. INDIA

3.1 Introduction:

Modern healthcare rests on three pillars – drugs, vaccines, and medical devices. Medical devices range from simple tools (bandages, syringes) to advanced technologies (AI powered imaging, nanotech, engineered cells). They are widely used in hospitals, surgeries, and homes.

In India, while pharma and biotech have grown strongly, the medical device industry (MDI) is still dependent on imports (about 75%). Local manufacturing mainly covers disposables, while advanced devices come from abroad. Imported devices often do not suit Indian conditions due to climate, power, and maintenance challenges.

The Government of India, under "Make in India" (2014), identified medical devices as a "Sunshine Sector" and emphasized their role in economic growth and healthcare (Budget 2019). Devices are vital for early disease detection and for supporting programs like Ayushman Bharat.

Unlike high-income countries where technology drives innovation, in India demand drives innovation. Hence, policies must integrate industrial growth, R&D, and healthcare needs.

Definition: "A medical device is any instrument, apparatus, implement, or software intended for medical purposes such as diagnosis, monitoring, treatment, or prevention of diseases."

3.2 Categories of Medical Devices:(2)

Medical devices are broadly categorised based on their complexity, function, and purpose. The Indian healthcare market recognises the following major categories:

1. Diagnostic Devices:

These devices are used to identify medical conditions or monitor health.

• Examples: X-ray machines, blood glucose monitors, and MRI scanners.

• Uses: Detecting diseases early, monitoring vital signs, and enabling accurate medical diagnoses.

2.Therapeutic Devices:

These devices assist in treating medical conditions and improving patient care.

• Examples: Pacemakers, insulin pumps, and nebulizers.

• Uses: Managing chronic conditions, supporting organ function, and delivering medications.

3. Surgical Devices:

Surgical instruments are essential for performing procedures in hospitals and clinics.

• Examples: Scalpels, robotic surgical systems, and endoscopes.

• Uses: Performing precise surgeries, reducing recovery time, and improving patient outcomes.

4. Monitoring Devices:

These tools track patients' health metrics in real- time.

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• Examples: Blood pressure monitors, ECG machines, and wearable heart rate monitors.
• Uses: Helping doctors and patients manage conditions like hypertension and heart disease.

5. Assistive Devices:

Assistive medical devices help individuals with disabilities lead independent lives.
Examples: Wheelchairs, hearing aids, and prosthetic limbs.
Uses: Improving mobility, sensory function, and quality of life for patients.

6. Implantable Devices:

Implantable devices are placed inside the body to support its function.
Examples: Dental implants, stents, and artificial joints.
• Uses: Supporting bone structure, restoring mobility, and maintaining cardiovascular health. Uses of Medical Devices in Healthcare, Early Disease Detection, Enhancing Treatment Precision, Supporting Chronic Disease Management, Rehabilitation and Recovery, Patient Monitoring and Home Care

3.3 The Importance of Medical Devices in Modern Healthcare(2)

The importance of medical devices cannot be overstated. In a growing economy like India, where healthcare demand is rapidly rising, medical devices:
• Improve Healthcare Access: Devices like portable diagnostic tools ensure care reaches rural and remote areas.
• Enhance Patient Outcomes: Better tools mean faster diagnosis and treatment, saving lives.
• Empower Preventive Care: Wearable devices encourage individuals to monitor their health and adopt preventive measures.

3.4 Medical Device Registration in India:(3)

Government Authority (CDSCO)Medical Device regulations in India are administered by the Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), under Directorate General of Health Services in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The CDSCO serves as the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. To register a Medical Device in India, any non-local company must appoint a Local Agent or Manufacturer to interface with the CDSCO to ensure regulatory compliance.
India Medical Device Regulations
• Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945
• Medical Device Rules,2017
• Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020

3.5 The detailed procedure for registering your medical device in India:(5)

Step 1: Device Classification and Risk Evaluation
Find the classification of your device according to CDSCO's classification system:
• Review the Medical Device Rules, 2017
• Check the CDSCO's device classification database
• Consider the intended purpose of use and how many patients you plan to interact with
• Evaluate the risks and contraindications associated with your device
The primary reason for an application being rejected is incorrect classification. When unable to determine, please use a regulatory expert to classify accurately.
Step 2: Appoint an Indian Authorized Agent (if you are a foreign manufacturer)
Foreign manufacturers must appoint an Indian Authorized Agent or incorporate an Indian company:
• Authorized agent responsibilities:
• Submitting documents and answering queries
• Communicating with CDSCO
• Coordinating facility inspections
• Overseeing compliance with procedural requirements post-approval.

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• Notifying you of regulatory changes Selection Criteria:
• Valid drug license
• Regulatory experience
• Geographic proximity to manufacturing sites
• Track record with similar devices

Step3: Comprehensive Documentation Preparation

Documentation preparation typically takes 3-6 months and requires meticulous attention to detail:
• ISO 13485 Certificate (current and valid)
• Quality manual and procedures
• Free Sale Certificate from country of origin
• Device Master File (DMF)
• Plant Master File (PMF
• Power of Attorney

Step 4: CDSCO Portal Submission

The CDSCO portal streamlines online application submission:
Submission Process:
1. Create manufacturer profile
2. Select appropriate form (MD-14, MD-15, MD-42)
3. Upload documents in specified formats
4. Pay applicable fees online
5. Submit application with digital signatures
6. Receive acknowledgment and tracking number

Common Submission Errors to Avoid:
• Incomplete form fields
• Incorrect document formats
• Missing digital signatures
• Inadequate file sizes
• Wrong form selection

Step 5: CDSCO Review and Assessment

Review Timeline: 90-180 working days depending on device class
Review Process:
• Initial document screening (15-30 days)
• Technical evaluation (30-60 days)
• Query generation and response (30-45 days)
• Final assessment and decision (15-30 days) Potential Outcomes:
• Approval: License issued with conditions
• Query: Additional information requested
• Inspection: Facility audit required
• Rejection: Application denied with reasons

Step 6: Manufacturing Facility Inspection

Inspection Triggers:
• Class C and D devices (mandatory)
• First-time manufacturers
• Quality system concerns
• Previous compliance issues Inspection Preparation:
• Update Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
• Ensure document traceability
• Prepare quality records

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• Train facility personnel
• Conduct pre-inspection audit

A Pune-based device manufacturer achieved zero major observations during inspection by implementing a comprehensive pre-inspection checklist, resulting in immediate license approval.

Step 7: License Issuance and Market Entry

Upon successful review and inspection, CDSCO issues relevant licenses:

License Types:

• MD-5: Manufacturing License (Domestic)
• MD-6: Manufacturing License (Export)
• MD-15: Import License
• MD-17: Import Registration Certificate Post-Approval Requirements:
• Maintain quality system compliance
• Submit periodic safety reports
• Update product information as needed
• Renew licenses before expiry

3.6 Key Documentation for Medical Device Approval(5)

Primary Documentation Categories

1. Quality Management Documents

• ISO 13485 Certificate: Demonstrates quality management system compliance
• Quality Manual: Comprehensive quality procedures and policies
• Manufacturing Licenses: Valid licenses from country of origin
• Facility Certificates: GMP compliance certificates

2. Product Technical Documentation

• Device Master File (DMF): Complete product technical information
• Design History File: Development and validation records
• Risk Management File: ISO 14971 compliant risk analysis
• Labeling and Packaging: CDSCO compliant product information

3. Clinical and Safety Evidence

• Clinical Evaluation Report: Safety and efficacy demonstration
• Post-Market Surveillance: Real-world performance data
• Literature Review: Published clinical evidence
• Biocompatibility Data: Material safety testing results

4. Regulatory Compliance Documents

• Free Sale Certificate: Marketing authorization from origin country
• Certificate of Analysis: Product testing and specifications
• Stability Data: Shelf-life and storage validation
• Software Documentation: For devices with embedded software
• CDSCO registration timeline and costs
• Registration Timelines by Device Class

Phase	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D
Documentation Prep	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-6 months	6-8 months
CDSCO Review	90 days	120 days	150 days	180 days
Inspection (if required)	N/A	N/A	30-45 days	45-60 days
Total Timeline	4-6 months	6-8 months	8-12 months	12-18 months

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3.7 Cost Structure Analysis Government Fees

Fees vary based on device class (A, B, C, D) and processing requirements.

Additional Costs

- Foreign manufacturer fee: 25% surcharge
- Multiple manufacturing sites: Additional fees per site
- Inspection costs: Travel and facility preparation
- Consultant fees: Professional regulatory assistance

Hidden Costs to Consider

- Document translation and notarization
- Legal representative fees
- Quality system upgrades
- Clinical study costs (if required)
- Rejection and resubmission costs

3.8 License Validity and Renewal(5) Validity Period

CDSCO medical device licenses are valid for 5 years from issuance date, covering both manufacturing and import licenses.

Renewal Process

Timeline: Submit renewal applications 6 months before expiry

Required Updates:

- Current ISO certifications
- Updated technical documentation
- Compliance with new regulations
- Post-market surveillance reports
- Quality system modifications

Renewal Success Rate: 95% for manufacturers maintaining continuous compliance

Why Choose Diligence Certifications? Reduced Timeline Risks

Professional consultants like Diligence Certifications can reduce approval timelines by:

- 30-40% through optimized documentation
- Minimizing query responses
- Ensuring first-time submission quality
- Coordinating inspection readiness
- Avoid rejection and resubmission costs
- Optimize documentation preparation
- Reduce internal resource allocation
- Minimize compliance risks
- Current regulation knowledge

IV. US (UNITED STATES)

4.1 Introduction:

The statutory objective of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States is to safeguard and advance public health. All medical devices sold in the US are subject to FDA regulation as part of this aim.

In the US, the FDA's Centre for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) is in charge of regulating medical devices. According to FDA 2891-21 CFR Part 807, the organization (manufacturer, first importer, specification developer, contract sterilizer, re- packager, and re-labeller) needs to be registered with the FDA.

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4.2 Device Regulations:

➢ Sections 800–1050 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

800 – 861: Cross – cutting device requirements

▪ Example: 812 – Investigational Device Exemption 862 – 1050: Device – specific requirements

▪ Examples: 876 – Gastroenterology and Urology Devices

➢ 21 CFR: Sections 1 through 99

Standards for general medicine that also apply to medical devices.

4.2 Types of regulations:(13)

Premarket Nations 510(K)

Premarket notification is required for most, but not all medical devices.

If a device requires the submission of premarket notification, it cannot be commercially distributed in the United States until it receives authorization from the FDA.

Premarket Approval (PMA)

The Premarket Approval (PMA) risk-based evaluation method should be applied to medical devices that provide a significant risk to patients' health.

Applications for premarket approval must be submitted by manufacturers of Class III devices (as well as devices that are not substantially identical to Class I or Class II).

Before getting premarket approval, the manufacturer is not allowed to begin any marketing initiatives.

While the FDA is not allowed to take more than 180 days to decide whether to approve or reject a filed PMA, this can take even longer.

Investigational Device Exemption (IDE)

Manufacturers are permitted to utilize a device under investigational device exemption (IDE) in clinical studies to gather data demonstrating the device's overall efficacy and safety.

The FDA and the Institutional Review Board (IRB) must authorize all research conducted on devices that carry a major risk before manufacturers can begin clinical trials and gather pertinent data.

Clinical research on lower-risk devices can only be approved by the IRB.

Quality system regulation

Methods, procedures, and facilities used in the design, manufacture, labeling, packaging, storing, purchasing, installing, and servicing of medical equipment are all subject to the Quality System Regulation. Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) is another name for the FDA's quality system.

Labeling Requirements

Applying labels to every device is required. The labeling includes literature and labels that convey information and descriptions related to the use of the equipment. The requirements are outlined in this rule in the form below,

• Labeling of General Devices
• Symbol Use
• Products for In Vitro Diagnostics
• Exemptions for Investigative Devices
• Individual Device Identification
• Good Manufacturing Practices
• Products for General Electronics

Medical Device Reporting (MDR)

In a number of situations where a medical device has the potential to cause death, serious harm, or malfunction, the FDA must be notified. The following reporting guidelines must be adhered to by importers, manufacturers, and owners of medical facilities:

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➢ **Manufacturers:**

When they discover that their device resulted in death or serious harm, they must notify the FDA using the 3500A form. When a major malfunction occurs that could result in death or serious harm and there is a chance that it will occur again, they are also required to notify the FDA.

➢ **Importers:**

Importers must notify manufacturers and the FDA in the event of a death or injury. If a device malfunctions, they must only notify the manufacturers.

➢ **Healthcare Facility:**

Hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, nursing homes, and other establishments that utilize medical devices must notify the FDA and the device's manufacturer if they believe the device could have resulted in a death.

4.3 The detailed procedure for registering your medical device in US:

Step 1: Identification of the medical device's class

• Based on the product's available market, FDA databases are utilized to identify the class to which the medical device belongs.

• The predicate devices must be identified by their three-letter Product Code and seven- digit Regulation Number.

• The De Novo or 513 (g) processes can be employed if no predicate is identified.

Step 2: Quality Management System (QMS)

• Implementation of 21 CFR Part 820 is necessary. FDA Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) is a common term that complies with FDA Quality System Regulations.

• Ensures that production processes are properly designed, supervised, and controlled.

Step 3: Pre-Submission feedback:

Before a product is put on the market, the FDA must provide pre-submission comments for class II and class III products to ascertain whether or not clinical studies are necessary.

Step 4: Investigational Device Exemption (IDE)

• Manufacturers must apply for IDE if clinical trials are required.

• The use of an experimental device by the manufacturer to gather safety and efficacy data that are necessary for PMA (Premarket Approval) and, in certain cases, PMN (Premarket Notification) submission is made possible by the IDE.

• The investigational device is distributed only in the regions specified in the IDE application, and the study is overseen by an Institution Review Board (IRB) made up of laypeople and health experts to ensure that ethical standards are upheld.

• The IRB establishes the initial risk factors and the degree of seriousness of the risk that is connected to the device.

• Any risk found by the IRB may be overruled by the FDA.

• The applicant is required to file an IDE application to the FDA if the IRB finds that a device or clinical study carries a significant risk.

Step 5: Premarket Notification (PMN) and Premarket Approval (PMA) submission:

Applications must be filed for class II 510 (k) or PMN (Premarket Notification) and class III PMA (Premarket Approval) along with the required submission fee.

Step 6: Inspection:

The FDA inspects the facilities of all suppliers involved in the design and manufacture of class III medical devices. Everything should adhere to FDA Quality System Regulation (QSM).

Step 7: Approval:

The FDA gives 510(k) clearance letters for class II and PMN clearance letters for class III. Letters of clearance are made available online.

Step 8: Form 483:

Once a registration certificate has been issued, the FDA performs random inspections. If the regulations are determined to be non-compliant, the FDA may issue Form 483.

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Step 9: Local Representative:
An FDA agent representative may be used as a local point of contact with the
FDA if the manufacturer does not have a local presence in the US.

Step 10: Registration:

• The FDA website's FURLS system allows companies to register and devices to be listed in compliance with 21 CFR Part 807.
• The designated US agent needs to be named.
• Annual renewals of the FDA Establishment Registration and Listing are required.

Step 11: Authorization:

• Authorization to market the device in the United States will be provided by the FDA listing on their website. The device is now available for purchase in the United States.
• Until significant modifications are made, such as to the design or intended usage, this authorization will remain in effect

4.4 Key Documentation for Medical Device Approval:(14)

1. Premarket Notification 510(k): The Most Common Pathway

The 510(k)submission process is the most widely used regulatory route, primarily for Class II devices, though certain Class I devices also require it.

• Purpose: To demonstrate that a new device is substantially equivalent (SE) in terms of safety and effectiveness to an already legally marketed device, called a predicate device.
• Documentation: Includes design specifications, intended use, non-clinical testing, and sometimes limited clinical data.
• Timeline: FDA generally reviews submissions within 50–120 days. Delays can occur if the documentation is incomplete or unclear.
• Key Advantage: Faster and less costly compared to PMA, making it suitable for most moderate-risk devices.

2. Premarket Approval (PMA): For High-Risk Devices

Devices in Class III or those lacking a suitable predicate require a PMA submission.

• Purpose: To provide valid scientific evidence, often including clinical trial data, that the device is safe and effective.
• Requirements: Extensive laboratory testing, biocompatibility studies, clinical data, manufacturing details, and labeling information.
• Timeline: Nominally 180 days, though reviews frequently extend due to FDA requests for additional data.
• Key Consideration: PMA is resource- intensive but ensures thorough evaluation of devices with the highest risk profile.

3. De Novo Pathway: For Innovative Devices

The De Novo classification process applies when a device is novel and no predicate exists.

• Purpose: To classify a new, low- to moderate-risk device into Class I or II by establishing special controls and requirements.
• Flexibility: Provides a mechanism for innovative products to enter the market without the burden of PMA.
• Evidence: Sponsors must demonstrate reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness, supported by robust risk analysis and mitigation strategies.
• Benefit: Typically faster than PMA and helps define regulatory standards for future devices in the same category.

4. Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE): For Rare Conditions

This pathway facilitates devices designed for rare diseases or conditions affecting fewer than 8,000 patients annually in the U.S.

• Requirement: Device must address an unmet medical need and have no existing equivalent product.
• Evidence: Safety must be demonstrated, but full effectiveness data may not be required due to the small patient population.
• Benefit: Provides a regulatory route for life-saving devices that would otherwise not be developed due to limited market potential.

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5. Custom Device Exemption (CDE): For Individualized Use

The CDE pathway allows devices that are specifically tailored for an individual patient or physician's unique needs.

• Limit: No more than five units of a device type per year.

• Regulations: Exempt from 510(k) or PMA, but must comply with design controls, labeling, and adverse event reporting.

• Use Case: Common for prosthetics, implants, or surgical tools requiring unique specifications.

6. Expanded Access Program (EAP): Compassionate Use

Also known as compassionate use, the EAP allows investigational devices to be used outside of clinical trials for patients with serious or life-threatening conditions.

• Purpose: Provides treatment options to patients lacking alternatives while generating real-world safety data.

• Regulatory Role: While not a marketing approval, it can support future label expansions or formal approvals.

7. Product Development Protocol (PDP): A Collaborative Approach

The PDP pathway is a specialized subset of PMA.

• Process: Functions as a binding agreement between FDA and the manufacturer outlining study design, development milestones, and acceptance criteria.

• Benefit: Offers regulatory clarity and reduces uncertainty by integrating FDA oversight early in the device development process.

V. CONCLUSION

The study's overall findings indicate that the US and INDIAN regulatory frameworks for medical devices have some intriguing parallels and distinctions. A significant amount of research must be conducted throughout the development phase of the medical device development process. However, the research- related activities must adhere to the protocols that the health department has established.

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