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# Technical Considerations for Additive Manufactured Medical Devices

Additive Manufacturing Working Group  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health

January 10, 2018

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# Guidance Documents

- Represent FDA's current thinking on a topic
- Do not create or confer any rights for or on any person
- Do not bind FDA or the public
- Allow you to use alternative approaches if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations

# This Guidance



Released in Draft  
(May 10, 2016)

Final Guidance  
(Dec 5, 2017)

A horizontal light blue arrow pointing to the right, with three blue circles along its length. The first circle is positioned under the text "Released in Draft (May 10, 2016)", the second under "Received & Addressed Comments", and the third under "Final Guidance (Dec 5, 2017)".

Received & Addressed  
Comments

- 294 comments from 29 commenters
- Multiple stakeholder interactions
  - Scientific and industry meetings
  - Standards Committees



# Significant Changes

- **Added** a brief section (V.B.4) on cybersecurity and personally identifiable information (PPI)
  - Points to existing guidance
  - Does not present new guidance
- **Updated** Labeling (VII)
  - Now consistent with other guidance documents
  - Clarified to apply only to patient matched devices



# Significant Changes

- **Replaced** most instances of “cleaning” with “removing manufacturing material residue” in Cleaning and Sterilization (VI.E)
  - Harmonize with the regulatory language in CFR 820.3
  - Does not refer to removing biological soil
  - Does not reflect a change in technical considerations





# Patient matching considerations

- **Not custom devices**
  - See §V.E of Custom Device Exemption Guidance
- Treated as a specified design envelope
  - Requires validation
  - Show Substantial Equivalence of worst case(s)
- Addresses patient matching in conjunction with AM
  - Does not address *all* concerns with patient matched devices



# Guidance Objectives

- Broadly address considerations for AM medical devices
  - Identify important aspects of the technologies and workflows
  - Provide a framework for evaluating processes using AM
- ***Not all considerations apply*** to every AM technology, material, or device

*Sponsors should apply individual considerations based on their specific situation*



# Guidance Objectives

- **Supplement** device specific guidance or testing
  - Identify AM-specific concerns
  - Aid in determining a worst case conditions
- **Be a resource** for
  - The device portion of combination products
  - Stakeholders who are new to medical device manufacture or AM of medical devices



# In Scope for this Guidance

- **Design and Manufacturing** Considerations
  - Provides technical considerations that should be addressed as part of QS requirements
  - QS requirements determined by existing regulatory classification/regulations
- **Device Testing** Considerations
  - Describes what AM specific information should be included in a premarket submission
  - Type of premarket submission is determined by regulatory classification

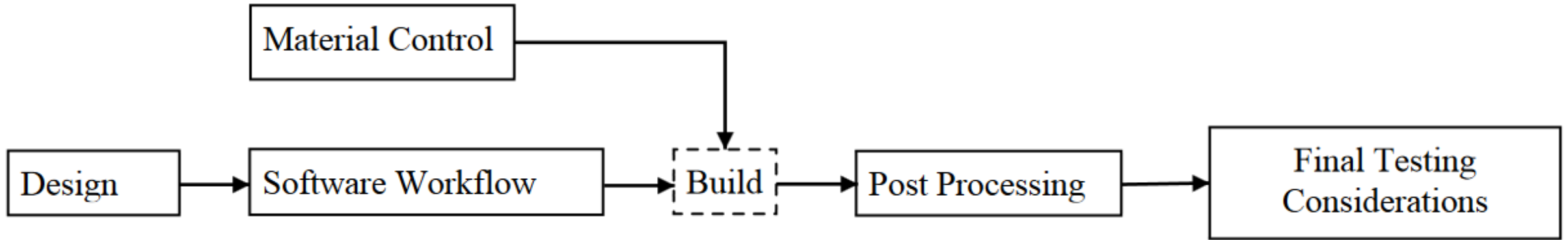


# Out of Scope for this Guidance

- Regulatory policy
  - Point of care/hospital printing
  - Device specific regulations
- Direct printing of cells/tissues
- Specific device/policy questions should be addressed through the pre-submission process:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/UCM311176.pdf>

# Additive Manufacturing Process Simplified Flowchart





# A Hypothetical Example Device

- Patient-matched cranial repair device
  - Fit to patient anatomical imaging
  - Uses patient-specific surgical guides
  - Manufactured using
    - Powder bed fusion process
    - Ti-6Al-4V



# **DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING CONSIDERATIONS**



# Device Design

- Additive manufacturing technologies have different design considerations
- Patient matching is easier, accomplished through many methods
- Technical Consideration
  - Device description includes
    - Description of additive manufacturing technology
    - Process flowchart
  - For patient matching
    - Describe patient-matched features
    - Provide design envelope

## Cranial device example:

- Brief description of the powder bed fusion technology & process flowchart
- Patient-matching design envelope
  - Curve of plate to match skull contours of the opposite side
  - Edges of plate to match cranial defect
  - Minimum allowable thickness = 2 mm
  - Sharpest corner = 3 mm radius
  - Maximum planar area = 25 mm<sup>2</sup>

# Software Workflow

- Software workflow is critical to Additive Manufacturing device design and production
- File conversions and translation from digital to printable forms
- Workflows often includes a human-in-the-loop
- Technical Consideration
  - Analyze workflow for effects on the Additive Manufacturing processes
    - Clearly describe analysis
  - How do any variations affect the final product

## Cranial device example:

- Patient imaging using standard protocol
- Segmentation of patient anatomy from the imaging by trained users
  - Process validated to known image set
- Resolution
  - Printer: 100 $\mu$ m in powder bed plane
  - Printer: 50 $\mu$ m layer thickness
  - Image resolution = 250  $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>

# Material Controls

- Final material is produced *in situ*
- Quality and consistency of starting materials are very important
- Each technology, process, and even intended use may have different material requirements
- Material reuse can affect the final part
- Technical Consideration
  - Ensure starting material and mixture of re-used material (if applicable) will yield the appropriate physical and chemical properties

## Cranial device example:

- Brief description of starting material requirements
  - meets ASTM F2924 chemistry requirements
  - powder size range from 10–40  $\mu\text{m}$
- Description and validation of powder reuse protocol
  - Powder is re-used a maximum of 5 times
  - Validation testing shows 5x re-used powder is similar to virgin, not a worst case test condition

# Post-Processing

- Post-processing steps can affect
  - Final device performance
  - Material properties
- Technical Consideration
  - Describe any post-processing steps
  - Identify any detrimental effects on final device performance
  - Describe mitigations

## Cranial device example:

- Post-Processing Steps:
  - Removal from powder bed
  - Cut from build plate
  - Annealed
  - CO2 blasted
  - Final machining
  - Final cleaning
  - Gamma sterilized

# Process Validation & Acceptance

- Device quality affected by numerous parameters
- Generally less experience in creating controlled Additive Manufacturing processes compared to traditional techniques.
- Technical Consideration
  - Evaluate how each step of the Additive Manufacturing process workflow affects the following steps.
  - Additive Manufacturing procedures may differ from other manufacturing techniques in
    - Process monitoring
    - Revalidation triggers
    - Acceptance testing criteria

## Cranial device example:

- Extreme cranial curvature -> altered placement angle
  - Validate a range of placement angles for design envelope
- Individual cranial device size can alter thermal profile of build
  - Ensure that coupons are validated for worst case
  - Use an infrared camera to monitor bed temperature profile

# **DEVICE TESTING CONSIDERATIONS**

# Performance Testing

- Technology-specific concerns affecting performance of final finished device including
  - Orientation
  - Build location
  - Other parameters
- Technical Consideration
  - Part orientation and location should factor into worst case consideration for testing
  - Can leverage validation testing of system using representative coupons

## Cranial device example:

- Validation of build space showed
  - Corners of build space had significantly poorer mechanical performance than rest of build space
  - Build orientation did not have a significant effect of mechanical performance
- Worst case selection consideration
  - No corners used, remaining space considered uniform
  - All devices printed same orientation,

# Material Characterization

- Additive Manufacturing Technologies alter the starting material to create the final material during build
- Need to understand if the Additive Manufacturing process creates any material risks
- Technical Considerations
  - Investigate the effect the printing process has on your material
  - Specifics vary based on the material and Additive Manufacturing technology
  - Additional considerations for resorbable or other active materials

## Cranial device example:

- Material Characterization
  - Virgin powder, 5x reused powder, and final part chemistry conform to ASTM F2924
- Final part conforms to mechanical and microstructural requirements of ASTM F2924



# Removing Manufacturing Residue, Device Cleaning and Sterilization

- Additive Manufacturing generally requires residue and support removal steps
- Complex geometries can make residue removal, cleaning, & sterilization a challenge
- Technical consideration
  - Describe your manufacturing residue removal process and validate
  - Should include worst case geometries (porosity/blind holes)
  - Placement of cleaning and sterilization test samples should be carefully considered

## Cranial device example:

- Manufacturing removal process
  - Removed from powder bed
  - Blasted with CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Final Machining
- Validation/worst case
  - Solid part with no porosity/blind holes and machined to final size.
  - Little risk of residual powder on final finished part
- Cleaning and Sterilization
  - Validated cleaning cycle similar to non-AM devices with minimally complex or internal geometries
  - Gamma irradiated

# Biocompatibility

- Ensure that Additive Manufacturing does not adversely affect biocompatibility
- Technical Consideration
  - ISO 10993 should be sufficient
  - Possible additional information/testing if
    - Known toxic substances (e.g. some photoinitiators)
    - Unknown long term effects
  - New FDA Guidance on Biocompatibility testing addresses use of ISO 10993

## Cranial device example:

- Material has a long history in similar clinical applications
- Perform cytotoxicity testing for new cell types in this indication for use

# **ADDITIONAL LABELING CONSIDERATIONS**



# Additional Labeling Considerations

- Patient matched devices are not always easily identified by clinician
- Technical Consideration
  - Patient matched device should be labeled with
    - patient identifier
    - anatomical location (or identifier)
    - design iteration used to produce the device
  -
- **Note: These are safety considerations and do not intersect with or alter UDI requirements**

## Cranial device example:

- Each printed device includes a tag with
  - Patient identifier
  - Anatomy identifier
  - Design designation

## Questions?

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Slide Presentation, Transcript and Webinar  
Recording will be available at:

<http://www.fda.gov/training/cdrhlearn>

Under the Heading: Specialty Technical Topics;  
subheading: Custom Devices