

All about Pre-filled Syringe Systems

From Initial Development to Final Fill Finish

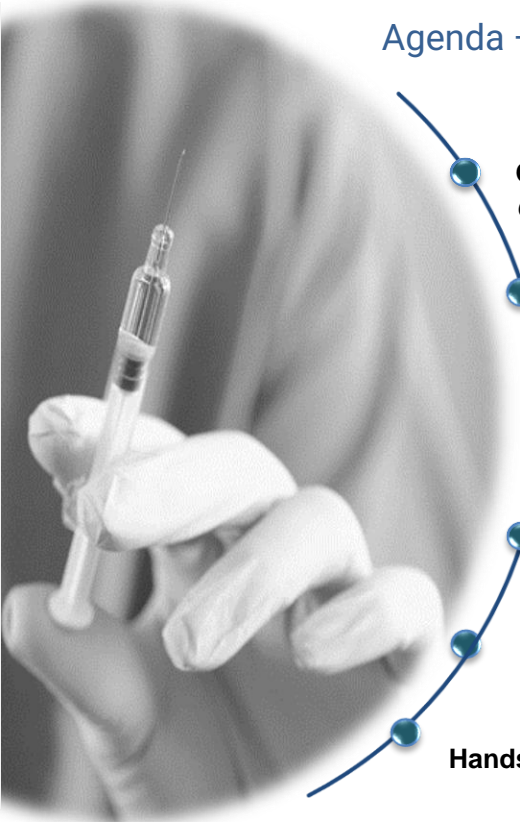
Manufacturing Process of PFS

Bernd Zeiss

Gothenburg, October 19th and 20th 2023



Agenda – DAY 1



Overview and Introduction into Pre-filled Syringe Market

Overview & Trends • Stakeholders • User's perspective

Technical Aspects

*Syringe • Plunger • Needle • Needle shield or Tip cap • Autoinjector •
Regulatory guidelines and technical standards*

Overview & Introduction into Drug-Syringe Interactions

Aggregation • Degeneration • Oxidation • Viscosity • Bubbles

Overview & Introduction to manufacturing Process of PFS

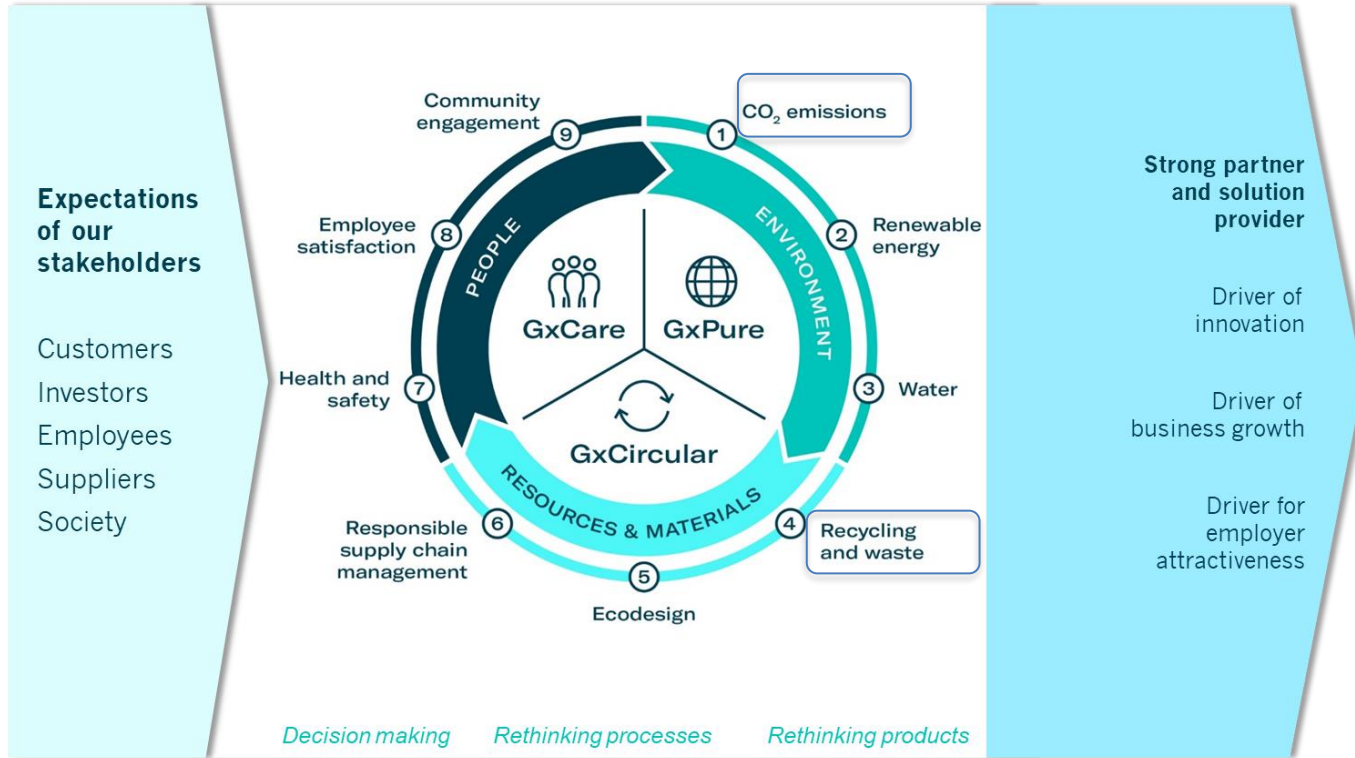
*Syringes Barrel Forming • Washing • Siliconization • Sterilization • Regulatory
guidelines and technical standards ...*

Fill and Finish

Filling • Stoppering • Assembly • Technical Standards

Hands-on Session 1

Sustainability – top prio at converters

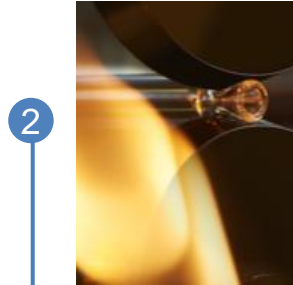


Barrel forming of prefillable syringes



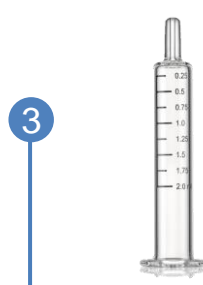
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Glass cutting



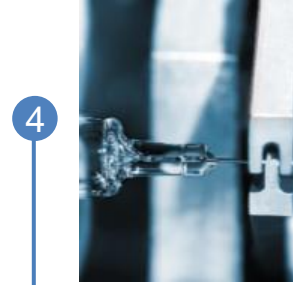
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Barrel forming



3

Printing



4

Cannula
Assembly

Glass barrel production

Needle assembly, clean
room class D (acc. GMP)

- 100 % in-process control (several camera stations for dimensions and cosmetic defects)
- Quality control

Washing and Siliconization of prefillable syringes

1



Washing (WFI)

RTF processing
Clean room ISO class 7 acc.
class B under laminar flow

2



Siliconization

3



Closure setting

- 100 % in-process control
- Quality control

4



Nesting, Coding, Packaging

Sterilization by
EtO treatment

5



ETO Sterilization

- Pre-conditioning
- Desorption
- Final quality control
- Sterility testing
- Certificate of Conformity (CoC)

Video

Regulatory Guidelines for Prefillable Syringes

ISO 9001:
Quality
management

Containers and Closures had not been defined in the cGMP regulations *but*

ISO 15378:
Primary
packaging
materials for
medicinal
products

Interpreted as the primary packaging of a finished drug product and treated acc. 21 CFR 211 Subpart E – Control of Components and Drug Product Containers and Closures: glass, plastic or metal containers, bottles, vials, ampules, screw caps, lids, stoppers, seals, desiccants, fillers, etc.

**21 CFR 211
Subpart E**

- Products, methods procedures follow Ph. Eur. USP and JP
- Description of products, process and procedures in DMF type III
- Not fully covered with EU Medical Device Regulations, combination products regulations do not apply



Regulatory Guidelines for Prefillable Syringes

21 CFR 211
Subpart E
Control of
Components
and Drug
Product
Containers
and Closures

1. Ensure compatibility/suitability of containers and closures
2. Maintain inventory control
identification, storage,
handling, sampling, testing
3. Written and approved procedures
4. Prevent contamination
Aseptic Processing cGMPs
(high purity for rinse water)
Water system validation,
USP <1231> Water for
Pharmaceutical Purposes
5. Know suppliers and supply chain
6. Appropriate sampling and testing



New Annex 1 – also applicable to Prefillable Syringes

Annex 1
EU GMP

1. Get away from „sterility“ testing in end process
2. Work towards deep process understanding, considering all potential sources of contamination, facility design
3. Implement Contamination Control Strategy
 - Identify and evaluate contamination risks
 - Plan for corrective actions
 - Prevention plan

ICH Q9
Riskmanagement

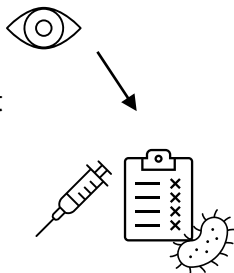
ICH Q10
Pharma Quality System

Already existing at Pharma suppliers: BUT means more documentation, change of mind set

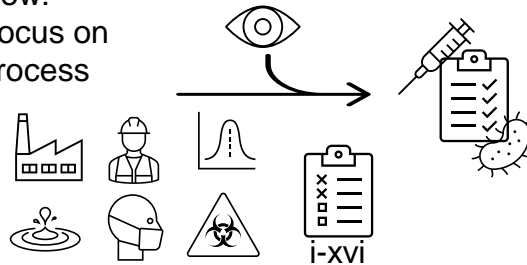
Contamination Control Strategy (CCS)
also at supplier:

- i. plant and processes documentation
- ii. Premises and equipment
- iii. Personnel
- iv. Utilities
- v. Raw material controls
- vi. Product containers and closures
- vii. Vendor approval – such as key component suppliers, sterilisation of components
- viii. Management of outsourced activities
- ix. Process risk management (e.g air, WFI)
- x. Process validation
- xi. Validation of sterilisation processes
- xii. Preventative maintenance
- xiii. Cleaning and disinfection
- xiv. Monitoring systems
- xv. Prevention mechanisms (CAPA)
- xvi. Continuous improvement

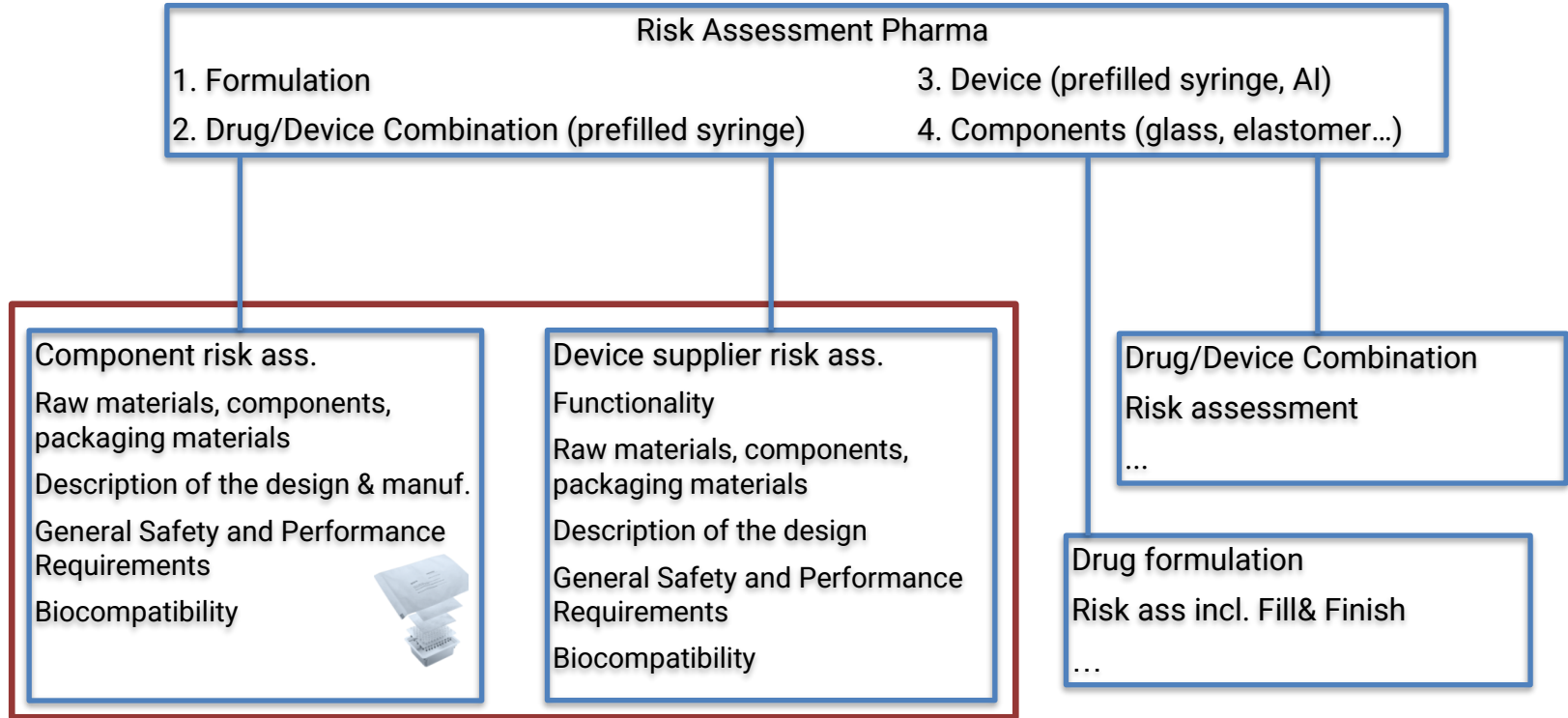
Old:
Focus on end product



New:
Focus on process



Overall risk assessment



Risk assessment 1

1. Product contact materials
 - Container and process
 - Potential leachables

2. Risk factors
 - Material compatibility
 - Duration and distance to drug product contact
 - Surface area/volume
 - Temperature, contact time (storage)
 - ...

3. Risk score
 - ICH Q9 Quality Risk Management
 - USP <1665>



Component	Patient contact	Clinician/User contact	Drug contact
Syringe barrel	Indirect	Direct	Direct
Plunger stopper	Indirect	No contact	Direct
Front Closure System (rubber part)	Indirect	Direct	Direct
Plunger rod	No contact	Direct	No contact
Backstop	No contact	Direct	No contact

Dedicated workshop recommended

Risk assessment 2

1. Drug Critical Quality Attributes
2. Product risk - Hazard risk
3. Use risk: dose accuracy, overdose, underdose, chemical, biological, mechanical hazards?
4. Risk benefit analysis
5. Production and post-production analysis

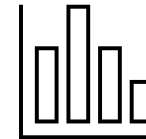
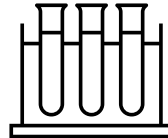
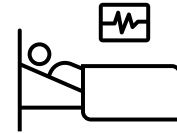
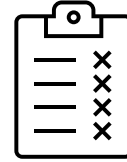
Sources:

Supplier data:

Design history file, test data, reports, dossiers, specifications

Manufacturer data:

Chemical evaluation
Complaint/market data if available



Risk assessment 3

ISO 14971

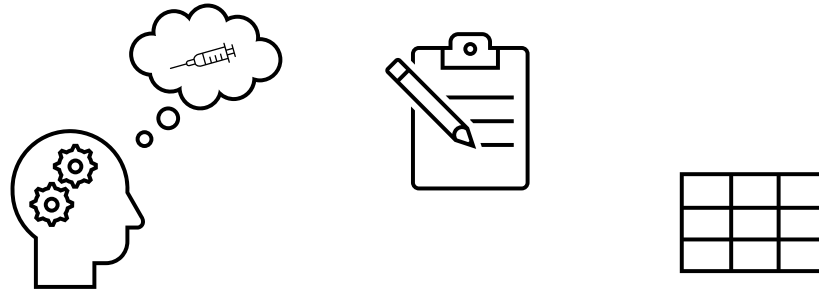
Medical devices

Application of
risk management
to medical devices

ICH Q9

Quality risk management
Scientific guideline

1. Define possible failure modes
2. Assign numerical values to it - “criticality”
3. What can go wrong?
4. What can be done to lower the risk – “CAPA”
5. What supportive data is available/is needed?



Risk assessment *FMEA example*

Failure mode	Severity	Probability	Detection likelihood	Cause	"CAPA"	Input from syringe supplier
Needle detachment	8	2	10	poor assembly of the needle to the syringe barrel	Test, define method validate human factor study manual	ISO 11040-4 test certificate ISO 80369-7 connector
Leaking of drug product	7	4	8	faulty seal or closure system	Test, define method validate human factor study manual	ISO 11040-4 test certificate
Inaccurate dosing	9	8	6	variability in the manufacturing process or incorrect filling volume	...	n/a Exact positioning of markings (Test with Placebo acc. ISO 11040-8)
Presence of particulate matter in the drug product	9	6	5	contamination during the manufacturing process or use of poor quality raw materials	raw materials process	Test acc. USP 788/789 or Pharm. Eur. 2.9.19/20 Stability testing, input from supplier limited
Breakage or cracking of the syringe barrel	8	1	10	poor material selection or inadequate design	Define intended use - autoinjector? When does breakage occur? Breakage during production - adapt line?	Test with device, input from syringe supplier limited
Mislabeled or -incorrect labeling	6	2	4	human error during the labeling process or use of incorrect label	SOP, training of operators Poka Yoke?	Quality assurance, input limited
...		

Risk assessment *FMEA exercise*

Failure mode	Severity	Cause	"CAPA"	Input from syringe supplier

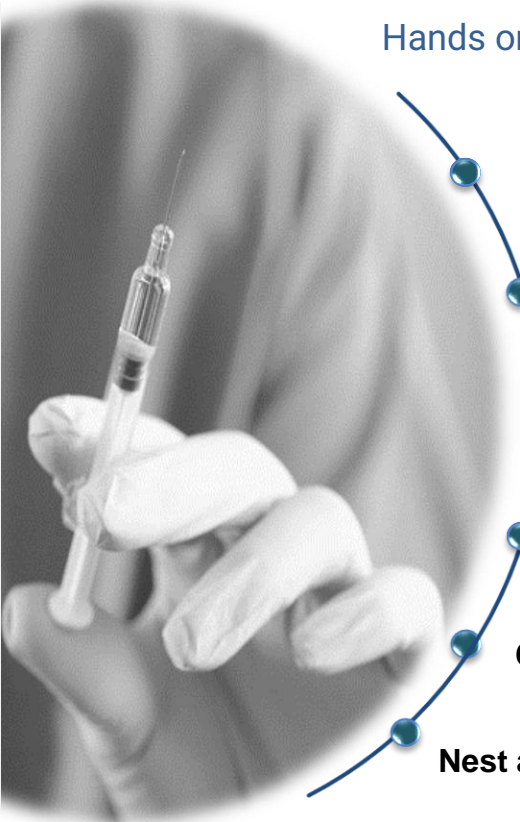
Summary – Manufacturing

- Glass tubes are converted into syringe barrels
- Syringe barrels are washed, siliconized, capped, put in nest and tub, into bags
- Sterilization with EtO (glass syringe) ->“RTF”
- As syringe becomes a sterile product after filling, high GMP requirements to be fulfilled even for empty containers
- Risk management of supplier to be linked to Pharma filling risk management
- Closer cooperation with component manufacturers necessary in future

Sources

- <https://www.gerresheimer.com/en/sustainability/sustainability-strategy>
- Gerresheimer internal manufacturing information
- ISO 9001: Quality management
- ISO 15378: GMP Primary packaging
- 21 CFR 211 Subpart E
- ISO 14971: Medical devices. Application of risk management to medical devices
- ICH Q9: Quality risk management, Scientific guideline
- ICH Q10 Pharmaceutical quality system - Scientific guideline
- [Annex 1: 2008_11_25_gmp-an1.doc \(europa.eu\)](#)
- ISO 11607-1:2019:Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices – Part 1: Requirements for materials, sterile barrier systems and packaging systems (ISO 11607-1:2019)
- ISO 11607-1:2019: Packaging for terminally sterilized medical devices – Part 2: Validation requirements for forming, sealing and assembly processes (ISO 11607-2:2019)
- BSI's perspective on Article 117 and Drug/ Device Combination:
<https://bsi.learncentral.com/shop/Course.aspx?id=25841&name=BSI%27s+perspective+on+Article+117+and+drug-device+combinations+webinar>
- <https://www.packagingdigest.com/medical-packaging/medical-device-packaging-exec-guides-you-through-eu-mdr-compliance>

Hands on Session I



Risk Assessment exercise

Mount syringe, use syringe – feel and push

Glass vs. Plastic syringe

Assembly of Syringe into Safety device

Compare Safety Devices

Nest and tub

Hands-on Session 1

- Prefilled syringes
- Test break loose and gliding force, “just inject”
- Safety devices

