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# Non-Penicillin Beta-Lactam Drugs: A CGMP Framework for Preventing Cross-Contamination Guidance for Industry

## ***DRAFT GUIDANCE***

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)**

**June 2022  
Pharmaceutical Quality/Manufacturing Standards (CGMP)  
Revision 1**

# Non-Penicillin Beta- Lactam Drugs: A CGMP Framework for Preventing Cross-Contamination Guidance for Industry

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*Contains Nonbinding Recommendations*

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1 **Non-Penicillin Beta-Lactam Drugs:**  
2 **A CGMP Framework for Preventing Cross-Contamination**  
3 **Guidance for Industry<sup>1</sup>**  
4  
5  
6

7  
8 This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug  
9 Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not  
10 binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the  
11 applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible  
12 for this guidance as listed on the title page.  
13

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16  
17 **I. INTRODUCTION**  
18

19 This guidance describes methods, facility design elements, and controls that are important in  
20 preventing drugs<sup>2</sup> from being cross-contaminated with compounds containing a beta-lactam  
21 ring.<sup>3</sup> This guidance also provides information regarding the relative health risk of, and the  
22 potential for, cross-reactivity in the classes of non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs and  
23 non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds.<sup>4</sup>  
24

25 This guidance recommends complete and comprehensive separation<sup>5</sup> of the manufacturing  
26 operations of non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs from the manufacturing operations of  
27 other drugs. For manufacturers of non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds, this guidance  
28 provides recommendations on cross-contamination prevention strategies, including examples of  
29 relevant design features and control approaches for those seeking to justify a cross-contamination  
30 prevention strategy other than complete and comprehensive separation when appropriate.  
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<sup>1</sup> This guidance has been prepared by the Office of Pharmaceutical Quality in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this guidance, the term *drugs* includes biological products.

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix A, Chemical Structures of Representative Beta-Lactam Compounds.

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this guidance, the term *non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drug(s)* refers to any drug that is not a penicillin, has a chemical structure that includes one or more beta-lactam rings, and has an antibacterial mechanism of action. The term *non-antibacterial beta-lactam compound(s)* refers to any compound, including an intermediate or derivative, that is not a penicillin, has a chemical structure that includes one or more beta-lactam rings, and has a mechanism of action other than an antibacterial mechanism of action.

<sup>5</sup> See the definition of *complete and comprehensive separation* in the Glossary.

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32 Penicillin can be a sensitizing agent that triggers hypersensitivity or an allergic reaction in some  
33 people.<sup>6</sup> Drug cross-contamination is the contamination of one drug with one or more different  
34 drugs or compounds. Accordingly, facilities and controls must be designed to prevent cross-  
35 contamination of other drugs with penicillin in accordance with the current good manufacturing  
36 practice (CGMP) regulations (i.e., 21 CFR 211.42(d), 21 CFR 211.46(d), and 21 CFR 211.176).  
37 Because non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs and non-antibacterial beta-lactam  
38 compounds can also be sensitizing agents, drug cross-contamination with such compounds could  
39 initiate the same types of drug-induced life-threatening allergic reactions that penicillins can  
40 trigger. Therefore, manufacturers handling any non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs or  
41 non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds should treat such drugs or compounds similarly to  
42 penicillin to prevent cross-contamination, thereby reducing the potential for drug-induced, life-  
43 threatening allergic reactions.

44  
45 The information in this guidance is intended for human drug manufacturers (including finished  
46 pharmaceutical manufacturers, active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturers, re-  
47 packagers, and outsourcing facilities<sup>7</sup>) with operations that include one or more beta-lactam  
48 compounds.

49  
50 The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind  
51 the public in any way, unless specifically incorporated into a contract. This document is  
52 intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law.  
53 FDA guidance documents, including this guidance, should be viewed only as recommendations,  
54 unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of the word *should* in  
55 Agency guidance means that something is suggested or recommended, but not required.

56  
57 This guidance revises the guidance for industry of the same title issued in April 2013. When  
58 finalized, this guidance will replace the April 2013 guidance. Significant changes from the 2013  
59 guidance include:  
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<sup>6</sup> The term *sensitizing* (allergenic) is commonly used in guidances for industry in discussions related to immunology.

<sup>7</sup> Section 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act describes the conditions that must be satisfied for drug products compounded by a registered outsourcing facility to be exempt from certain statutory requirements. For the purposes of this guidance and for outsourcing facilities only, *processing of* beta-lactam compounds does not refer to mixing, reconstituting, or other such acts performed in accordance with directions contained in the manufacturer's approved labeling and other manufacturer directions consistent with that labeling at the immediate point of dispensing for administration to the intended patient if these limited activities are performed via closed fluid-pathway, single-use sterile transfer devices under appropriate local containment controls to prevent facility exposure to beta-lactam compounds. Although use of these sterile transfer devices (accomplishing transfers through the use of needles and needleless connectors) greatly mitigates risk of lost containment while preparing a drug in accordance with labeled directions, it is possible that breakage or spillage of the content of a pharmacy bulk package occurs. To prevent the risk of facility (e.g., surfaces, air) and product contamination with beta-lactam compounds, the outsourcing facility should have in place additional containment strategies, including restricting all preparation activities to only dedicated isolators, barrier units, or containment hoods to strictly localize any potential exposure. Use of appropriate procedures is also essential, including employing detailed steps for managing any localized aerosolization from a breakage/spillage incident by immediate and thorough decontamination with beta-lactam inactivating cleaning agent(s). The containment and decontamination procedures should be validated for their intended purposes of strictly preventing cross-contamination with beta-lactam compounds.

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- 61 • Clarifying that the scope of the guidance also includes all compounds, including  
62 intermediates or derivatives, that are not a penicillin, have a chemical structure that  
63 includes one or more beta-lactam rings, and have a mechanism of action other than an  
64 antibacterial mechanism of action  
65
- 66 • Providing FDA’s interpretation of terms, such as *allergic reaction*, *cross-reactivity*, and  
67 *complete and comprehensive separation*, used in this guidance  
68
- 69 • Clarifying the distinction between non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drug(s) and  
70 non-antibacterial beta-lactam compound(s) — in terms of the cross-contamination and  
71 patient exposure risks and the strategies appropriate for manufacturing operations  
72 involving each category  
73
- 74 • Providing recommendations for drug manufacturers that seek to justify alternative cross-  
75 contamination prevention strategies for non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds  
76

## 77 **II. BACKGROUND**

### 78 **A. Regulatory Framework**

81  
82 Section 501(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351(a)(2)(B))  
83 requires that drugs (including APIs) be manufactured in compliance with CGMP. Drugs that are  
84 not manufactured in compliance with CGMP are considered adulterated. Furthermore,  
85 manufacturers of finished pharmaceuticals are required to comply with the CGMP regulations at  
86 21 CFR parts 210 and 211.  
87

88 Several CGMP requirements for finished pharmaceuticals address facility and equipment design,  
89 controls, and cleaning. For example, regarding design and construction features, § 211.42(c)  
90 requires building and facility provisions in general to prevent cross-contamination of drug  
91 products. Specifically, the regulation states that “[t]here shall be separate or defined areas or  
92 such other control systems for the firm’s operations as are necessary to prevent contamination or  
93 mixups . . . .”  
94

95 With respect to penicillin, § 211.42(d) requires that “[o]perations relating to the manufacture,  
96 processing, and packing of penicillin shall be performed in facilities separate from those used for  
97 other drug products for human use.”<sup>8</sup>  
98

99 Similarly, § 211.46(d) requires air-handling systems for the manufacture, processing, and  
100 packing of penicillin to be completely separated from those for other drugs for human use.  
101 Additionally, § 211.176 requires manufacturers to test non-penicillin drug products for penicillin

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<sup>8</sup> See the definition of *complete and comprehensive separation* in the Glossary.

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102 where the possibility of cross-contamination exists and prohibits manufacturers from marketing  
103 such drugs if detectable levels of penicillin are found.<sup>9</sup>

104  
105 Although FDA has not issued CGMP regulations specific to APIs, section 501(a)(2)(B) of the  
106 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act requires all drugs (including APIs) to be manufactured in  
107 compliance with CGMP. FDA recommends that drug manufacturers follow the International  
108 Council for Harmonisation (ICH) guidance for industry *Q7 Good Manufacturing Practice*  
109 *Guidance for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients* (September 2016).<sup>10</sup> Because some APIs are  
110 sensitizing compounds that may cause anaphylactic reactions, preventing cross-contamination in  
111 APIs is as important as preventing cross-contamination in finished drug products. Accordingly,  
112 ICH Q7 recommends using dedicated production areas, which can include facilities, air handling  
113 equipment, and processing equipment, in the production of highly sensitizing materials, such as  
114 penicillins and non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs like cephalosporins.<sup>11</sup>

### **B. Beta-Lactam Compounds**

115  
116  
117  
118 Beta-lactam antibacterial drugs, including penicillin and the non-penicillin classes, share a basic  
119 chemical structure that includes a three-carbon, one-nitrogen cyclic amide structure known as the  
120 beta-lactam ring. The side chain associated with the beta-lactam ring is a variable group that  
121 contributes to antibacterial activity. (Appendix A shows the chemical structures of some beta-  
122 lactam compounds.)

123  
124 The beta-lactam ring and side chains are also responsible for the allergenic properties of beta-  
125 lactam antibacterial drugs. These structures can induce the formation of antigenic determinants  
126 that lead to the production of specific immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies that can induce Type 1  
127 hypersensitivity (allergic) reactions in susceptible individuals.

128  
129 There are compounds other than beta-lactam antibacterial drugs that contain the beta-lactam ring.  
130 Some of these compounds are derivatives and intermediates used or produced in the manufacture  
131 of beta-lactam drugs. Some beta-lactamase inhibitors contain a beta-lactam ring, as do some  
132 drugs that have no antibacterial activity, such as certain lipid-lowering and antiviral drugs.

133  
134 Like beta-lactam antibacterial drugs, non-antibacterial compounds containing a beta-lactam ring  
135 could have similar sensitizing and allergenic properties and may pose a significant health risk to  
136 patients. For many beta-lactam compounds the immunopathological mechanisms leading to  
137 cross-reactivity and hypersensitivity reactions have not been studied extensively or are not well  
138 understood. This, and the combined effect of multiple variables (e.g., dosage forms, patient

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<sup>9</sup> See “A Review of Procedures for the Detection of Residual Penicillins in Drugs” (Appendix I, *Procedures for Detecting and Measuring Penicillin Contamination in Drugs*, FDA By-Lines No. 8 (November 1977)). Alternative validated test methods to detect penicillin residues may be used if demonstrated to be equivalent to or better than the referenced method. For example, the LC-MS/MS method has been validated for detecting several beta-lactam compounds, and could be validated for detecting others as well (Qiu et al. 2018).

<sup>10</sup> We update guidances periodically. For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA guidance web page at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents>.

<sup>11</sup> See section IV.D Containment (4.4) of ICH Q7.

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139 history of sensitization, differences in pharmacokinetics), make it difficult to determine the  
140 sensitizing potential of many beta-lactam compounds. Nevertheless, the potential life-  
141 threatening hazard associated with beta-lactam compounds indicates that manufacturers should  
142 establish beta-lactam manufacturing operations that are completely and comprehensively  
143 separate from those of other drugs, to prevent cross-contamination.

### 144 145 *1. Beta-Lactam Antibacterial Drugs*

146  
147 Currently, beta-lactam antibacterial drugs include:

- 148
- 149 • Penicillins (e.g., ampicillin, oxacillin)
- 150 • Cephalosporins (e.g., cephalexin, cefaclor)
- 151 • Penems (e.g., imipenem, meropenem)
- 152 • Monobactams (e.g., aztreonam)
- 153

154 Beta-lactam antibacterial drugs display properties of cross-reactivity, in which the secondary  
155 exposure need not be to the same compound. For example, patients with a history of  
156 hypersensitivity to a drug in one of the above classes, for example penicillin, may also  
157 experience an IgE-mediated reaction to a drug in another class, such as cephalosporins and  
158 penems (Saxon et al. 1988; Saxon et al. 1987; Prescott et al. 2004).

159  
160 Although the frequency of allergic reactions due to cross-reactivity between beta-lactam classes  
161 can be lower than the risk within a class (Salkind et al. 2001), the hazard posed still may be life-  
162 threatening (Khan and Solensky 2010). Further similarities between non-penicillin beta-lactam  
163 antibacterial drugs and penicillins are as follows:

- 164
- 165 • It is difficult to define the minimal dose below which allergic responses are unlikely to  
166 occur in humans (Dayan 1993; Blanca et al. 1996)
- 167
- 168 • There is a lack of suitable animal or receptor testing models that are predictive of human  
169 sensitivity (Olson et al. 2000)
- 170
- 171 • The threshold dose at which allergenic response could occur is extremely low and  
172 difficult to detect with commonly used analytical methods (Perez Pimiento et al. 1998;  
173 Shepard 1991)
- 174

175 Although beta-lactam antibacterial drugs may be chemically similar, they can differ in  
176 pharmacokinetics, antibacterial activity, and the potential to cause serious allergic reactions  
177 (Bernstein et al. 2008). It is clinically difficult to determine the occurrence and rate of allergic  
178 cross-reactivity among beta-lactam antibacterial drugs in humans. Therefore, undiagnosed or  
179 underreported cases of cross-reactivity may exist. Some beta-lactam antibacterial drugs may  
180 have negligible potential for cross-reactivity with beta-lactam antibacterial drugs of other classes,  
181 whereas beta-lactam derivatives may potentially exhibit sensitizing activity before the  
182 incorporation of side chains that confer antibacterial activity. Regardless of the rate of cross-  
183 reactivity among beta-lactam antibacterial drugs or the mechanism of action by which such  
184 cross-reactivity may occur, a potential health risk to patients — life-threatening anaphylaxis —

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185 can result from cross-contamination among all classes of drugs and compounds containing a  
186 beta-lactam ring.<sup>12</sup>

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### 188 2. *Non-Antibacterial Beta-Lactam Compounds*

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#### 190 a. Beta-lactamase inhibitors

191

192 Beta-lactam compounds such as clavulanic acid, tazobactam, and sulbactam are irreversible  
193 inhibitors of many beta-lactamases. These compounds, which are potential sensitizing agents,  
194 are typically used in combination with specific beta-lactam compounds to reduce degradation  
195 and preserve antibacterial activity (e.g., amoxicillin-clavulanate, piperacillin-tazobactam).

196 Because beta-lactamase inhibitors typically are used in combination with specific beta-lactam  
197 antibacterial drugs, clinical observations of hypersensitivity reactions may be attributed to the  
198 beta-lactam antibacterial component rather than to the beta-lactamase inhibitor. Yet  
199 hypersensitivity reactions to clavulanic acid are reported in the literature, sometimes in the  
200 absence of a hypersensitivity reaction to the co-administered beta-lactam antibacterial drug,  
201 amoxicillin (Salas et al. 2017).

202

#### 203 b. Beta-lactam intermediates and derivatives

204

205 Some beta-lactam intermediate compounds and derivatives possess similar sensitization and  
206 cross-reactivity properties to those of beta-lactam compounds. Beta-lactam intermediate  
207 compounds usually are precursor materials that undergo molecular change or purification before  
208 they are used in the manufacture of beta-lactam APIs. As a result of these molecular changes,  
209 intermediate compounds containing a beta-lactam ring in their structures may be recognized by  
210 the immune system as an antigen that triggers an allergic response. For example, 6-  
211 aminopenicillanic acid (6-APA) serves as the intermediate for the formation of all synthetic  
212 penicillins that are formed by attaching various side chains. The structure of 6-APA includes  
213 beta-lactam and thiazolidine rings. The beta-lactam ring is relatively unstable and can open. In  
214 the case of 6-APA, the opening of the beta-lactam ring leads to the formation of a penicilloyl  
215 moiety, which is the major antigenic determinant of penicillin. This moiety is thought to be a  
216 common cause of penicillin urticarial reaction (Çelik et al. 2008).

217

218 Beta-lactam derivatives are by-products that may arise during manufacturing (i.e., an impurity or  
219 degradant) that include a beta-lactam ring structure. Like intermediates, beta-lactam derivatives  
220 could have sensitizing properties and may develop antigenic properties that can produce allergic  
221 reactions. Beta-lactam manufacturing processes (e.g., fermentation and synthesis) may create  
222 beta-lactam intermediates or derivatives with unknown health consequences.

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<sup>12</sup> After reviewing relevant scientific and medical literature, FDA determined that the relative risk of cross-reactivity associated with aztreonam, when compared to other beta-lactams, is a matter of scientific uncertainty. Recently there is an increased body of evidence in published scientific literature describing that patients with ceftazidime hypersensitivity can experience cross-reactivity to aztreonam. Accordingly, this guidance does not recommend manufacturing controls that treat aztreonam differently from other beta-lactam drugs. As with any nonbinding recommendations offered in guidance to industry, manufacturers can use an alternative approach if the alternative approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. Manufacturers should discuss with FDA as early as possible about alternative separation designs and control strategies for a non-penicillin beta-lactam monobactam, such as aztreonam.

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### c. Other products containing a beta-lactam structure

As discussed above, compounds containing a beta-lactam ring have a sensitizing potential, and subsequent exposure to those compounds or related compounds due to cross-contamination may result in severe allergic reactions in some patients. Therefore, manufacturers should manage the risk of cross-contamination throughout the products' life cycles, not only non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs, but also products with no antibacterial activity that may be potential sources of a beta-lactam ring (e.g., degradants that contain a beta-lactam ring even though the parent compound may not).

## **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Because of the potential health risks of cross-reactivity and hypersensitivity reactions associated with beta-lactam compounds, manufacturers' risk management strategies should include stringent controls to prevent cross-contamination.

The risks associated with the cross-reactivity of beta-lactam antibacterial drugs have been described (Terico and Gallagher 2014; Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters 2010; Çelik et al. 2008); however, the risks associated with the cross-reactivity of non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds are less well understood. Accordingly, FDA addresses beta-lactam antibacterial drugs and non-penicillin beta-lactam compounds separately in this guidance. Specific recommendations for beta-lactam antibacterial drugs and non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds are further detailed below.

### **A. Non-Penicillin Beta-Lactam Antibacterial Drugs**

The manufacturing operations of any class of non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs should be completely and comprehensively separated from areas in which any other drugs for human use are manufactured, including any other class of beta-lactam antibiotics. This separation includes independent air handling systems. Manufacturing operations that are restricted solely to products within a specific class of non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs (e.g., cephalosporins) generally would not mandate separate facilities and air handling systems for each of those products; production campaigning in the same facility and appropriate cleaning (including qualification to demonstrate removal of beta-lactams) after each campaign may be sufficient to prevent cross-contamination.

### **B. Non-Antibacterial Beta-Lactam Compounds**

As with non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs, non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds have the potential to induce allergic reactions. Similar difficulties exist in characterizing and quantifying the potential health risks posed by non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds (i.e., defining the minimal dose below which allergic responses are unlikely to occur in humans, lack of suitable animal or receptor testing models predictive of human sensitivity, and the likelihood that the threshold dose for human allergenic response could be extremely low and difficult to

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269 detect with current analytical methods). Nevertheless, consideration should be given to the  
270 potential health risks that may be life-threatening. Thus, when there is uncertainty regarding the  
271 risks associated with non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds, or there is a known risk of  
272 adverse effect in patients, FDA recommends that drug manufacturers implement a complete and  
273 comprehensive separation cross-contamination prevention strategy, as is recommended for non-  
274 penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drugs, to prevent beta-lactam cross-contamination.  
275

276 However, there may be conditions under which manufacturers may justify the use of alternative  
277 cross-contamination prevention strategies for certain non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds.<sup>13</sup>  
278 For example, non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds can have widely varying molecular  
279 structures, and there may be cases where direct studies have shown no incidence of, or  
280 exceedingly low potential for, adverse events involving hypersensitivity or allergic reactions in  
281 patients. In such cases, if a manufacturer considers a prevention strategy other than complete  
282 and comprehensive separation to suffice, robust data to support no incidence or a clear threshold  
283 below which adverse reactions are exceedingly unlikely to occur should be available for FDA  
284 assessment. An extensive body of data to evaluate this potential approach can include in vitro  
285 data, animal studies, clinical studies,<sup>14</sup> experience with related products, and published scientific  
286 literature. Manufacturers should use appropriate risk management tools to assess the risks and to  
287 design and implement prevention strategies that prevent cross-contamination and mix-ups. This  
288 would include consideration of a combination of rigorous facility design, segregation, process,  
289 and procedural controls, and ongoing life cycle risk review.<sup>15</sup> Examples of such design and  
290 controls provisions are provided in Appendix B.  
291

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<sup>13</sup> See the definition of *control strategy* in the Glossary.

<sup>14</sup> If a clinical investigation is necessary to demonstrate the safety or effectiveness of a proposed drug product, generally this type of study goes beyond the scope of information that may be relied upon as necessary for approval of an abbreviated new drug application.

<sup>15</sup> Consideration of alternative cross-contamination prevention strategies will be subject to assessment by FDA, on a case-by-case basis, at the time of application review.

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**GLOSSARY**

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**Allergic reaction:** An immunologic reaction experienced by an individual to a drug or compound mediated by a number of mechanisms, including, for example, IgE-mediated activation of mast cells and basophils; direct activation of mast cells and basophils; sensitized T-cell-induced inflammation; complement activation; contact system activation; or coagulation system activation. In any given patient, exposure to a drug or compound may trigger an allergic reaction caused by more than one mechanism. Allergic reactions may be life-threatening events, such as anaphylaxis and other syndromes associated with cardiovascular collapse and death.

**Complete and comprehensive separation:** A cross-contamination prevention strategy that consists of: (1) the complete physical separation of beta-lactam production area(s) (including separate air handling system(s)) from production areas for other drugs; and (2) additional design and procedural controls for facilities, equipment, material, and personnel that are necessary to support and maintain the integrity of the physical separation (e.g., dedicated equipment; utilities management (waste flow, including the potential for beta-lactam production exhaust to contaminate an adjacent building air intake, vacuum systems); people/material/equipment flow; personnel gowning, decontamination; monitoring containment; testing; compliance with procedures; investigations). It is required by regulation for penicillin manufacturing, including § 211.42(d): separation of facility and equipment, and § 211.46(d): separate air handling systems, and it is recommended to prevent cross-contamination with other non-penicillin and non-antibacterial beta-lactam drugs and compounds. The essential element and foundation of this strategy is complete physical separation (i.e., “isolation and sealing off”) as described in paragraph 142 of the preamble to the final rule, “Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacture, Processing, Packing, or Holding” (43 FR 45014 at 45038, September 29, 1978):

Separation can be achieved . . . by effectively isolating and sealing off from one another these two types of operations. This does not necessarily mean separation by geographical distance or the placement of these operations in separate buildings. Effective means can almost certainly be developed to separate such activities from one another to prevent cross-contamination problems within a single building.

In other words, although separate buildings would ensure separation of beta-lactam operations from non-beta-lactam operations, it is feasible for one building to contain a dedicated area for beta-lactam manufacturing that is completely isolated and sealed off from the rest of the building. For example, separate entries and exits to the beta-lactam segment of the building would be necessary to ensure comprehensive separation. In the limited cases in which this design concept could be considered, a risk assessment should demonstrate that the design provides as much protection against cross-contamination as is achieved by manufacturing in a separate building.

**Control strategy:** As defined in the ICH guidances for industry *Q8(R2) Pharmaceutical Development* (November 2009), *Q10 Pharmaceutical Quality System* (April 2009), and *Q11 Development and Manufacture of Drug Substances* (November 2012), a control strategy is established through use of quality risk management and consists of a planned set of controls that ensure process performance and product quality. These controls can be related to facility and

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338 equipment operating conditions, monitoring and testing of incoming materials, process  
339 performance and product quality, and personnel following procedures.

340  
341 As stated above, *complete and comprehensive separation* is itself both a facility design strategy  
342 and a control strategy for preventing beta-lactam cross-contamination. In the sense that the  
343 strategy consists of complete segregation of manufacturing operations, it is unique among cross-  
344 contamination prevention strategies, distinguished from those *alternative strategies* that would  
345 be employed in shared or multiuse facilities. Alternative strategies rely primarily on design and  
346 procedural controls involving facilities, equipment, material, and personnel, and do not  
347 necessarily include the physical separation of manufacturing areas.

348  
349 **Cross-reactivity:** The process by which a compound induces a hypersensitivity immune  
350 response, such as an allergic reaction, due to the sensitizing effects of a prior exposure to a  
351 different, but chemically related, antigen. Also referred to as *cross-sensitivity* or *cross-*  
352 *sensitization*.

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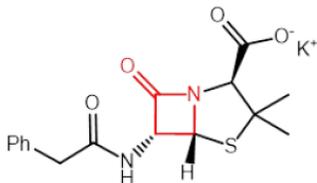
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### APPENDIX A: CHEMICAL STRUCTURES OF REPRESENTATIVE BETA-LACTAM COMPOUNDS

The beta-lactam ring (shown in red on the figures below) can result in widely varying molecular structures having a sensitizing potential. Cross-contamination occurring during the manufacture of any of these compounds could pose a potentially life-threatening health risk to patients.

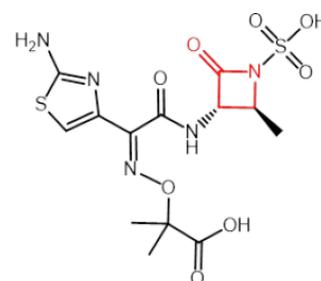
#### Penicillin G Potassium (beta-lactam antibacterial drug)

Monopotassium (2*S*,5*R*,6*R*)-3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-6-(2-phenylacetamido)-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylate



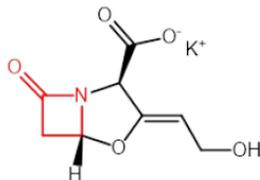
#### Aztreonam (non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial drug)

(*Z*)-2-(((2-Amino-4-thiazolyl))((2*S*,3*S*)-2-methyl-4-oxo-1-sulfo-3-azetidiny])carbonyl)methylene]amino)oxy)-2-methylpropionic acid



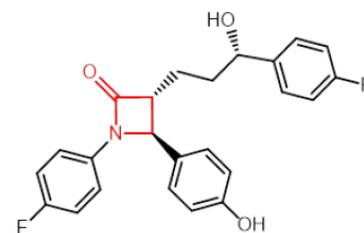
#### Clavulanate Potassium (beta-lactamase inhibitor)

Potassium (*Z*)-(2*R*,5*R*)-3-(2-hydroxyethylidene)-7-oxo-4-oxa-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylate



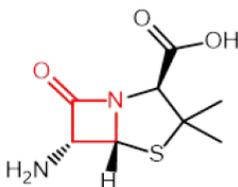
#### Ezetimibe (non-antibacterial beta-lactam compound)

(3*R*,4*S*)-1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-[(*S*)-3-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-hydroxypropyl]-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-azetidin-2-one



#### 6-aminopenicillanic acid (intermediate)

(2*S*,5*R*,6*R*)-6-Amino-3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-4-thia-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylic acid



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**APPENDIX B:  
DESIGN FEATURES AND CONTROLS TO  
PREVENT CROSS-CONTAMINATION<sup>1</sup>**

When considering alternative strategies to prevent cross-contamination with non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds, the appropriate combination of controls depends on various factors such as the state of material (e.g., liquid, powder), stage of manufacturing (e.g., incoming sampling, blending, filling and sealing), and the dosage form.<sup>2</sup> Design features and control approaches that manufacturers should consider implementing to prevent cross-contamination include, but are not limited, to:

- Integration of a series of design provisions and controls to form a robust holistic contamination prevention system, rather than implementing controls in a piecemeal fashion, or relying on one single design or control element.
- Use of closed systems, such as an isolator with its own air handling system, and the use of adequate dust control removal systems from exhaust air from rooms and use of air purification systems such as the use of high-efficiency particulate air filters (or better) on exhaust ducts.
- Separation and containment of different manufacturing processes or process steps; use of barrier technology, including glove boxes.
- Maintaining adequate pressure differentials, in tandem with use of airlocks, between areas manufacturing non-antibacterial beta-lactam compounds and those manufacturing non-beta-lactam drugs.
- Segregated suite of rooms and other facility design features to create redundancy of separation.
- Use of dedicated equipment and air systems.
- Establishing rigorous and validated monitoring, cleaning, and decontamination procedures including routine verification surface testing using appropriate acceptance

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<sup>1</sup> This appendix is intended as a resource for developing alternative facility design and control strategies for preventing cross-contamination involving non-antibacterial beta-lactam manufacturing operations. Some of the measures discussed could also be part of a strategy involving complete and comprehensive separation that should be used to prevent cross-contamination involving non-penicillin beta-lactam antibacterial manufacturing operations.

<sup>2</sup> As an example, see ISPE (International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering) Baseline Guide Volume 7, Risk-Based Manufacture of Pharmaceutical Products (2010) for additional discussions about sources of cross-contamination, procedures for assessing risks associated with cross-contamination, and strategies — including analyses of options for manufacturing controls — for mitigating this risk.

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- 459 criteria for residual levels of the specific non-antibacterial beta-lactam compound.  
460 Modern methods with appropriate levels of sensitivity should be used.<sup>3</sup>  
461
- 462 • Use of measures to deactivate the beta-lactam ring structure (i.e., breaking the ring) to  
463 further reduce the risk of cross-contamination from residual beta-lactam levels that could  
464 be present below the limit of detection of analytical methods.  
465
  - 466 • Dedicated personnel and control of material and personnel movement (e.g., staff entries  
467 and exits).  
468
  - 469 • Procedures for maintenance personnel and contractors regarding garment and  
470 decontamination controls if they are working in, and moving between, multiple areas  
471 where beta-lactams may be present.  
472
  - 473 • Strict controls over cross-over points for personnel, products, waste, materials, and  
474 equipment.  
475
  - 476 • Examination and testing of environment for potential cross-contamination routes.  
477
  - 478 • Quality control testing of non-beta-lactam drugs for potential beta-lactam contamination  
479 at adequate detection levels at stages of manufacturing determined by a risk assessment  
480 to be susceptible to cross-contamination; however, testing for the presence of beta-  
481 lactams in drugs or the manufacturing environment is not a substitute for adequate  
482 control systems.  
483
  - 484 • Procedural controls to prevent mix-ups of materials and products.  
485
  - 486 • Risk assessment of changes in manufacturing products/processes, introduction of new  
487 products, and procedures in the event of a breach of controls.  
488
- 489 If a reasonable possibility exists that a non-beta-lactam drug has been cross-contaminated with a  
490 non-antibacterial beta-lactam compound, the non-beta-lactam drug(s) should be tested for the  
491 presence of beta-lactam and should not be marketed if detectable levels are found.  
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<sup>3</sup> C Qiu, H Zhu, C Ruzicka, D Keire, and H Ye, 2018, A General LC-MS/MS Method for Monitoring Potential  $\beta$ -Lactam Contamination in Drugs and Drug-Manufacturing Surfaces, AAPS J, 20(4):70, published May 15, 2018, doi:10.1208/s12248-018-0224-7.