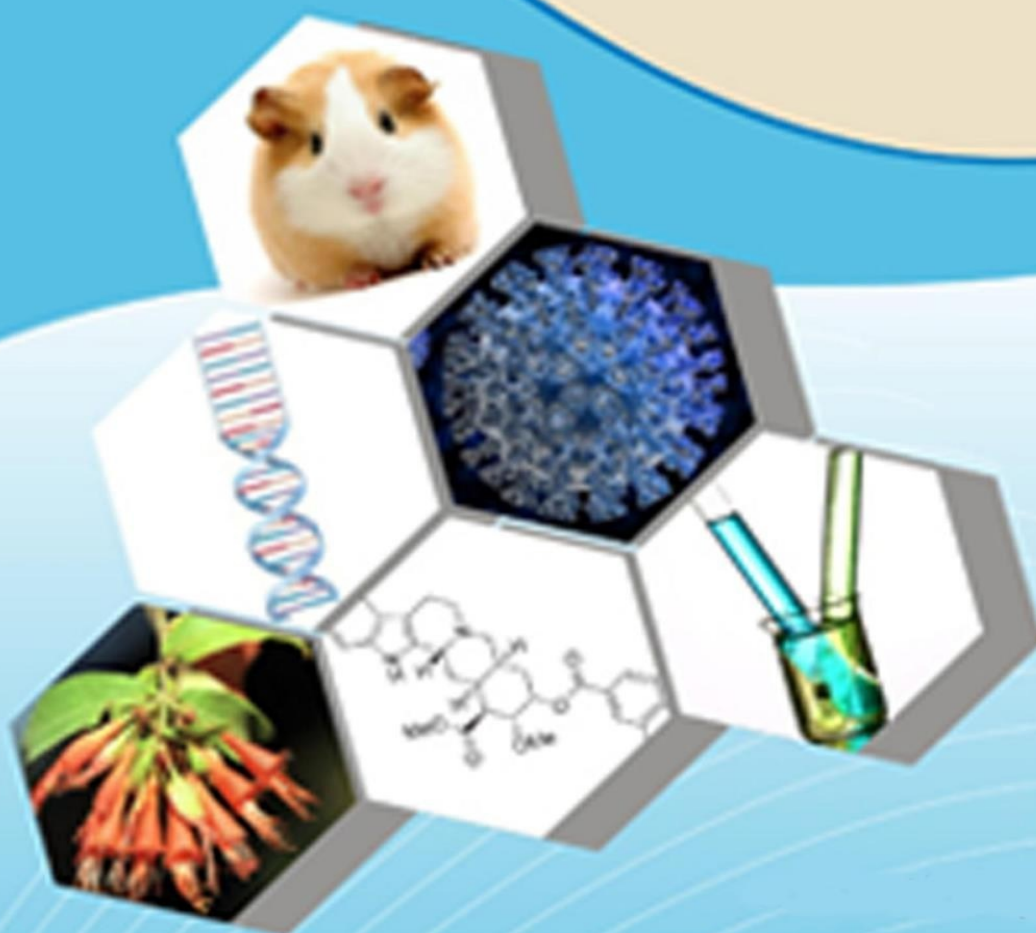




ISSN : 2347-2251
**Indo-American Journal of
Pharma and Bio Sciences**



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RISK-BASED APPROACHES IN GLOBAL REGULATORY SUBMISSIONS FOR RARE DISEASES

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Abstract: *Rehabilitation of rare disease treatments is fraught as US life-cycle costs for therapies are often determined without regard to international pricing or reimbursement policies, and the patient populations for most of these products are small and sporadic. The objective of this study is to look at risk-based regulatory methodologies such as adaptive trial design, real-world evidence and post-market surveillance that reduce the time to global submission at minimum cost to the patient. The findings point out the benefits of enabling flexible approval pathways to accelerate market entry. However, challenges do include regulatory incontinency and financial risk. The recommendations call for international harmonization, improved data sharing and financial incentives to the pharmaceutical companies. All these strategies can be implemented to support improving regulatory efficiency for the benefit of all patients in rare diseases.*

Index Terms: *Global harmonisation, real world evidence, risk-based approaches, adaptive trial design*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background to the Study

Orphan diseases, also called rare diseases, have a limited impact on the population but affect millions worldwide. Currently, the traditional drug-development and approval process will often be difficult due to the limited patient pool. Both of which have set up orphan drug designation programs to incentivise the research and expedited approvals, regulated by organisations such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) [15]. However, there are obstacles for pharmaceutical companies because regulatory requirements are inconsistent globally. The potential solution to the problem of streamlining the submission and approval process for rare disease treatments may be risk-based approaches, which are flexible regarding regulation while remaining focused on patient safety.

B. Overview

This research examines risk-based approaches in the global regulatory submissions for rare diseases and the negotiation of risk and urgency between pharmaceutical companies and the regulators. One of these approaches is adaptive trial designs, real world evidence, and conditional approvals on the basis of post-market surveillance [16]. Such a framework with rapid approval decisions for new medicines, when the costs and challenges of rare disease drug development are high, means that drug efficacy and safety are not compromised.

C. Problem Statement

Despite efforts to improve regulatory pathways for rare disease treatments, delays in approval and market entry remain a challenge. Most pharmaceutical firms have to deal with mutually changing requirements across different jurisdictions, which hamper the effective flow of global regulatory submissions [17]. The regulatory inefficiencies and delays in patient access to life-saving treatments are addressed by this study, showing how risk-based approaches can help to address such



regulatory inefficiencies and further enhance the global harmonisation.

D. Objectives

The primary goals of this study are: 1. To analyse the key regulatory challenges of pharma companies face in seeking global approval for rare disease treatments. 2. To assess how risk-based regulatory frameworks impact drug approval timelines and market assessment. 3. To examine the role of real-world evidence and post-market surveillance in risk-based regulatory decisions. 4. To explore strategies for enhancing international regulatory harmonisation while ensuring patient safety. All these objectives aim to evaluate the effectiveness of the risk-based approach in global regulatory submissions for rare diseases.

E. Scope and Significance

The scope of this study concentrates on global regulatory strategies for the approval of rare disease drugs. This will, in turn, help pharmaceutical firms, policymakers and healthcare professionals to better understand the areas that are currently inefficient, which can then improve regulatory efficiencies [18]. Main significance is analysis risk-based approach enhance treatment of rare disease.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Diverse regulatory issues of Rear disease global submission

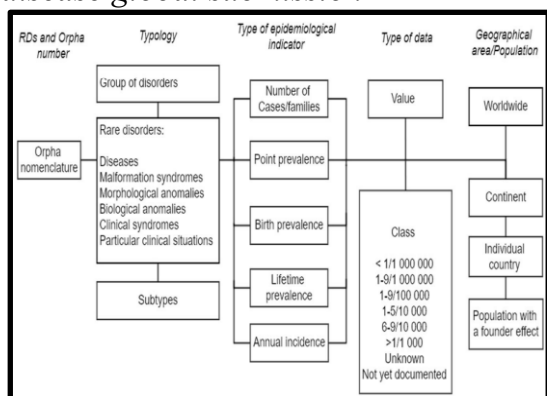


Figure 1: Challenges of rare disease [5]

Regulatory agencies vary in their treatment approvals of rare diseases; therefore, global

submissions are complicated and require time [4]. Because of the discrepancy in regulatory frameworks, clinical trials must have varied numbers of patients, varied sizes, and varied data to be presented, which contributes to the inconsistency in approval timelines. Additionally, there are very few patients who are available to sufficiently make clinical trials robust enough to satisfy the regulatory authorities [5]. In addition, global submissions involve further complicating the Phase III trials that some agencies require and others allow conditional approval on early-stage data. Regulatory compliance is very costly, and there is also a high financial risk of developing a drug for a rare disease.

B. Impact of Risk-based Regulatory frameworks on drug approval timelines

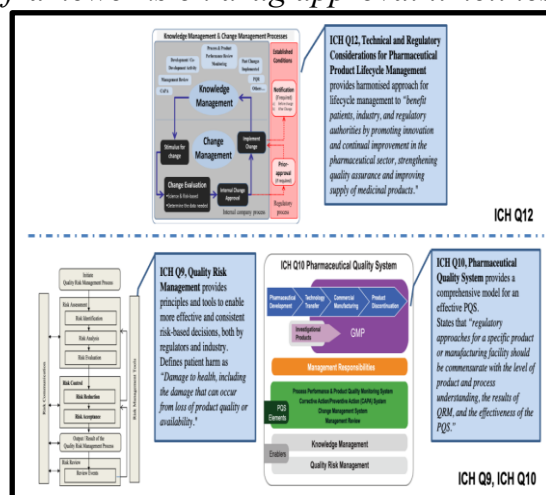


Figure 2: Risk-based Regulatory frameworks on drug approval timelines [6]

Risk-based approaches involve flexibility and adaptability in the regulatory requirements for drug approvals. They Favor patient needs but can ensure safety and efficacy. Another method is adaptive trial designs that diminish trial time and cost through interim results used to modify the design [6]. In these rare disease treatments, approvals play an important role in accelerated pathways like priority reviews and breakthrough designation. In some regions, they use rolling submissions, which means that companies can report



data in addition to waiting for full trial completion [7]. Risk-based regulatory strategies thus aid in having minimum delays in gaining access to innovative therapies and keeping rigorous safety assessments in place. But, even with these advantages, there are those managers who are reluctant to accept completely the risk-based models, fearing patients' long-term outcomes.

C. Role of real-world evidence and post-market surveillance in risk-based approaches

Real-world evidence (RWE) is important for risk-based regulatory decisions, especially when traditional clinical trials are not possible because of a small patient population [8]. Registry-based data collection from patient registries, Electronic Health Records, and post-market surveillance allows for the gathering of information on effectiveness and long-term safety of the drug. This evidence is increasingly relied on by regulators for the conditional approval and label expansions. Post-marketing drug surveillance mechanisms, such as risk management plans and mandatory follow-up studies, are responsible for maintaining drug safety and efficacy even after approval of drugs in the market. There are challenges in real-world data collection standardisation, as methodologies and reporting criteria differ across countries [9]. Strong collaboration between regulatory agencies, healthcare providers and pharmaceutical companies to address emerging risks also plays an effective role in post-market monitoring.

D. Strategies for enhancing international regulatory Harmonisation

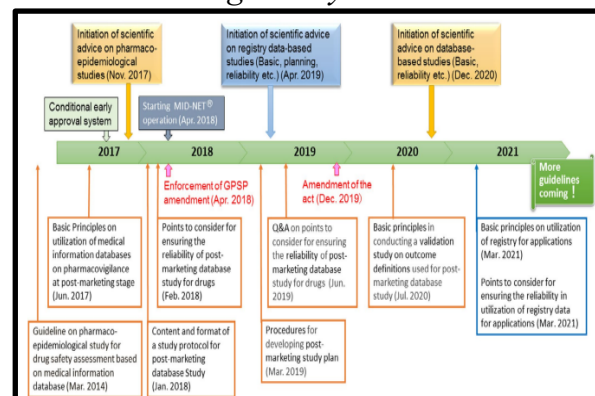


Figure 3: Proactive efforts to promote RWE/RWD drugs
[11]

Harmonisation in the global regulation of rare disease drugs is fundamental to reducing the efficiency costs of rare disease drug approvals [10]. This minimises the duplication of effort on both sides of the mutual recognition regulatory agreement. The adoption of common regulatory standards, such as those developed by international organisations, strengthens the consistency in evaluating rare disease treatments. With digital advancements, centralised regulatory databases facilitate information sharing and coordination among stakeholders. However, challenges remain in achieving full harmonisation due to legal frameworks, healthcare policies, and national interests [11]. Increased collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders can bridge these gaps, helping to create a more streamlined regulatory environment for rare disease therapies.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

The research design used in this study was an explanatory design to test the impact of risk-based approaches on global regulatory submission for rare diseases. In cases of explanatory research, cause and effect relationships between regulatory challenges, risk-based frameworks and the time it takes to approve new drugs are



explored. The models that are used by the regulatory model, the effectiveness of the model and the role of real-world evidence in the model are studied. Case studies of the industry will be used to gather qualitative and quantitative data from regulatory guidelines, industry reports and other sources to pinpoint the patterns and trends.

B. Data Collection

The entire research is dependent on both qualitative and quantitative secondary data collection methods. Some important academic journals, books, and articles have referred to the qualitative methods, and on the other hand, graphs, charts have also been displayed in this research, which highlights the quantitative data methods.

C. Case Studies/Examples

Case study 1: SynaptixBio's development of TUBB4A

SynaptixBio is a UK-based biotech company, aiming to develop therapies for TUBB4A-related leukodystrophies, a group of rare, severe, childhood killer neurodegenerative diseases. In 2022, Innovate UK granted £490,000 through its Biomedical Catalyst to help advance the research into less common variants of the disease [2]. SynaptixBio is building technologies that use antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) to modify gene expression to treat these conditions. So, the company is planning to begin first-in-human clinical trials.

Case study 2: AstraZeneca's treatment of transthyretin amyloidosis

In the year 2022, AstraZeneca treatment of transthyretin amyloidosis is a rare fatal disease was showed positive results in phase III trials [1]. This trial demonstrated a reduction of the transthyretin protein, which is the underlying cause of the condition. In the same year, AstraZeneca and Ionis Pharmaceuticals plan to file for FDA approval of the compound. The development of this shows AstraZeneca's dedication to addressing rare diseases using innovative therapies.

Case study 3: NICE's recommendation of Alnylam Amvuttra for hATTR

Amvuttra, manufactured by Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, was recommended in the UK by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) at the beginning of the year for the treatment of hereditary transthyretin-related amyloidosis (hATTR) [3]. Despite its high list price, Amvuttra was endorsed because it had a proven clinical effectiveness and an unbroken, confidentially agreed commercial discount with the NHS. The recommendation means that patients in England can have the treatment through the NHS, a sign of NICE's role in making rare disease therapies available to patients in England.

D. Evaluation Metrics

The evaluation metrics for the risk-based regulatory submissions in rare diseases are based on approval timelines, which measure the decrease in the regulatory approval time and the regulatory compliance rate, which refers to the adherence to the international submission standards [21]. Market access speed is based on the speed between the approval of a drug and when the patient can get it, while real-world evidence utilisation is about how well the post-market surveillance can ensure the safety of the drug. The last step involves calculating patient outcome improvement measures in the treatment success rates, which is how expedited approvals will affect patients' health.



IV. RESULTS

A. Data Presentation

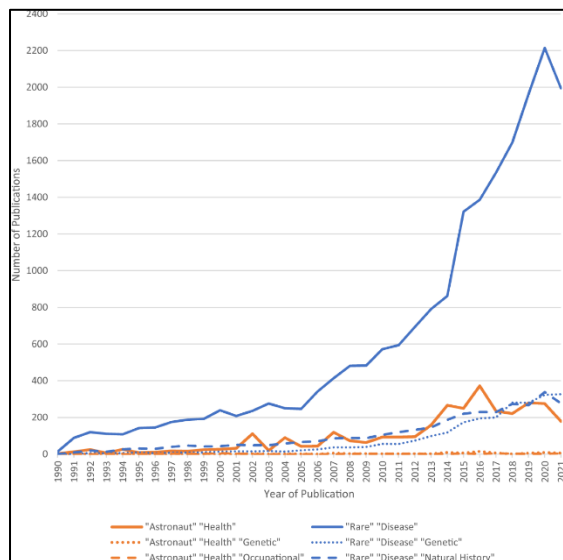


Figure 4: Rare diseases and space health [12]

It has been since 2000, when research on rare diseases engulfed vast amounts of the available money, surging far lion it faster than the space health studies. Genomic advances have been uncoupled from progress in astronaut health. More frequently, genetic and natural history elements are found in rare disease literature, but not one is dominant [12]. More pointedly, “natural history” is missing from discussions of space health, given the rarity of space exploration and that a rare disease is one characterized by a chronically rare or a variant of rare disease definition, and these are absent discussions in the evolving rare disease research landscape.

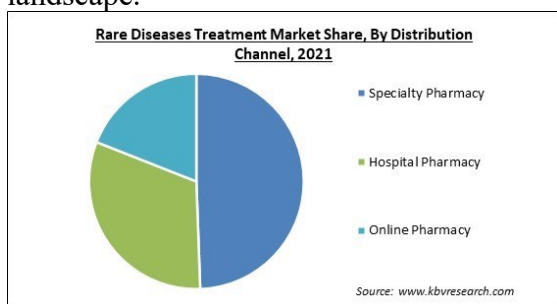


Figure 5: Rare Diseases Treatment Market Size & Growth Trends [13]

Today, the rare diseases treatment market, worth at USD 115.4 billion in 2021, has the potential to grow manifold up to 2028 owing to the growing R&D and prevalence of rare disease. Distribution is done mainly by specialty pharmacies while drugs with small molecules and oral administration are used most. Nevertheless, barriers continue to exist with high R&D costs, particularly in the developing regions and underserved populations [13].

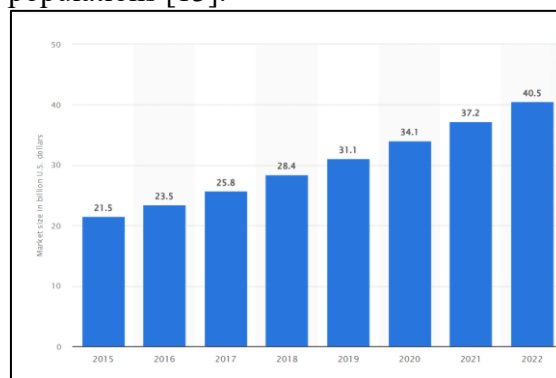


Figure 6: Global point of care diagnostics market size 2015-2022 [14]

Due to an impressive CAGR, the global point of care diagnostics market increased from \$21.5 billion in 2015 to \$40.5 billion in 2022, a nearly doubling [14]. The growth of this market is also a result of a growing need for rapid, decentralised testing, especially due to technological evolution and rise in world health consciousness, especially the COVID 19 pandemic. The key to future market expansion to become sustained innovation and accessibility.

B. Findings

rare disease studies are particularly heavily funded with disproportionately more research performed compared to space health, which have similarities to rare disease in the genetic complexity and ‘rarity’ [12]. The rare diseases treatment market is characterized by a great deal of potential as a result of R&D and specialized distribution, but by high costs and inequitable access, especially in the developing regions [13]. At the same time, point of care diagnostics market records a



rapid growth, fuelled by global health crises and demand for decentralization in the healthcare market [14], so innovation and accessibility are vital in defining healthcare markets.

C. Case Study Outcomes

Case study	Company	Key outcomes
SynaptixBio's Development of TUBB4A	SynaptixBio	Key Outcomes for 2022 mentioned that SynaptixBio has recently received a £490,000 grant from Innovate UK in 2022 to further the work researching "TUBB4A-associated leukodystrophies" [2]. This severe neurodegenerative condition is being addressed through the development of antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) therapies by the company, which is preparing for its first in-human clinical trial.

AstraZeneca's Treatment of Transthyretin in Amyloidosis	AstraZeneca	"AstraZeneca's phase III trials in 2022 showed key Outcomes that reduced the transthyretin protein, the cause of transthyretin amyloidosis" [1]. Ionis Pharmaceuticals stated that AstraZeneca intends to file the Aries compound with the FDA.
NICE's recommendation of Alnylam Amvuttra for hATTR	Alnylam Pharmaceuticals	In 2022, NICE advised "Amvuttra for hereditary transthyretin-related amyloidosis (hATTR) in England". It was approved despite its high price, but its clinical effectiveness, plus an NHS discount that was agreed, means patient access via



		the NHS [3].
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Table 1: Case study outcomes

(Source: Self-Created)

The above table shows the case study outcomes for the three companies, and highlights key 2022 outcomes for the three companies on funding clinical trials and regulatory approvals.

D. Comparative Analysis

<i>Author</i>	<i>Focus area</i>	<i>Key findings</i>	<i>Gaps</i>
[4]	Rare disease models of approval and oversight [4].	Difference in the Regulatory Framework leads to approval timelines and submission requirements that are not always the same.	Lacks strategies for overcoming inefficiencies in global submissions.
[5]	Submissions in global rare disease	Patients are not available, and there are different Phase III requirements, so approvals move slowly [5].	Does not address ways of improving trial feasibility.
[6]	Risk-based regulator	The Adaptive Trial	debate about risks

	y frameworks	Designs and Rolling Submissions help approval for quicker decisions	while ignoring the reluctance of the regulators to adapt risk-based approaches
[7]	The expected pathways for rare disease approvals of drugs	A Priority reviews and breakthrough designations speed up review processes	Lacks discussion on long-term patient safety monitoring [7].
[8]	Real World Evidence in the Regulatory Decisions	Registry-based data support approvals if they are not feasible in the clinical trials	Data are collected differently in various regions around the world and are not standardized.
[9]	Post-market drug surveillance	Risk management plans are key findings to drug safety after approval.	Slow the monitoring improvement between regulatory agencies [9].
[10]	International	Standard	National



	nal regulator y harmonis ation	ised framewo rks are novel ways by which the efficienc y of approval s for rare disease drugs is increased [10].	policies and legal constraint s are inaccurate to full harmonis ation.
[11]	Focuses on the regulator y coordinat ion in the current digital age.	Centralis ed database s help enhance global informati on sharing is the Key finding of the research.	The legal and political factors do not allow complete integratio n of digital regulatory systems.

Table 2: Comparative analysis

(Source: Self-Created)

The above table reflects challenges in rare disease drug approvals, including regulatory inconsistencies, slow approvals, and data standardisation issues, while adaptive trials, real world evidence and international harmonisation effects.

V. DISCUSSION

A. Interpretation of Results

Results are aligned well with the objectives, particularly concerning rare disease global submissions, thus shedding light on risk-based regulatory approaches. To achieve the first objective, the analysis of regulatory challenges identifies several inefficiencies in approval timelines. As evidence of direct support for the second objective on drug

approval timelines, the results on adaptive trial designs, rolling submissions, and regulatory flexibility respectively. The third objective of the proof of concept, which is providing support to regulatory decisions, is assured by the findings on real-world evidence and post-market surveillance. The fourth objective is met in the last step, the case studies and comparative analysis have underlined that international regulatory harmonisation is of crucial importance.

B. Practical Implications

The relative scarcity of space health research in comparison to rare diseases underlines a need for bio mediated strategies that integrate genomic phenomenology to enhance the success of both venues in bringing together a more representative scientific advance [12]. With the global pharmaceutical companies, clinical trial approaches, which are risk-based, such as rolling submissions and adaptive trial designs, decrease the time needed to approve drugs and thus benefit pharmaceutical companies and patients. This is further assured by real-world evidence and post-market surveillance, which provides evidence on the safety as well as the effectiveness of these drugs, after they are actually on the market.

C. Challenges and Limitations

Several challenges persist regarding the advantages of risk-based regulatory frameworks. The requirement for different agencies to have varying regulatory standards for approval takes more time, delays the process, and complicates submission strategies. In realizing true benefits, clinical trials risk being unable to generalise to large patient populations due to limited samples. Challenges related to secondary data include inconsistency in data collection across regions, ethical barriers, limited patient registries, integration difficulties, outdated systems, and inefficiencies in real-world evidence applications for approvals.



D. Recommendations

To overcome these challenges, regulatory agencies need to commit to increasing the degree of harmonisation of approval standards by working through an international collaboration. Risk-based approvals can be strengthened through expanding the use of real-world evidence and post-market surveillance [20]. Efficiency can be improved by digital regulatory databases for information sharing. To tackle challenges in secondary data for rare disease drug approvals, the standardisation of data collection, integration of data and approaches to ensure privacy measures are required. The growth of patient registries, regulatory turn, cross border partnership, use of AI, as well as newer frameworks will make approvals faster and increase the facts of evidence in the real world.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In the conclusion, there is a viable alternative to protecting the rare disease space by utilizing risk-based regulatory approaches to help global submissions. Since adaptive trial designs, real-world evidence, and post-marketing surveillance are incorporated in these frameworks, these processes for drug approval are streamlined without affecting the safety. Even with continued efforts, such as inconsistencies in regulations and insufficient patient populations, more international harmonisation and cooperation can be more efficient. Overall, this study emphasises the critical role of having regulatory flexibility to address the needs of rare diseases that allow patients to have faster access to life-saving therapies without compromising safety standards.

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