The FDA Medical Device User Fee Program: MDUFA IV Reauthorization

Judith A. Johnson
Specialist in Biomedical Policy

June 6, 2016
Summary

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for regulating medical devices. Medical devices are a wide range of products that are used to diagnose, treat, monitor, or prevent a disease or condition in a patient. A medical device company must obtain FDA’s prior approval or clearance before marketing many medical devices in the United States. The Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) within FDA is primarily responsible for medical device review and regulation. CDRH activities are funded through a combination of appropriations from Congress and user fees collected from device manufacturers.

Congress first gave FDA the authority to collect user fees from medical device companies in the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-250). Congress reauthorized medical device user fees for five years (FY2013-FY2017) via the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 (MDUFA III, Title II of Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, FDASIA, P.L. 112-144). The purpose of the user fee program is to reduce the time necessary to review and make decisions on medical product marketing applications. Lengthy review times affect the industry, which waits to market its products, and patients, who wait to use these products. The user fee law provides revenue for FDA. In exchange for the fees, FDA and industry negotiate performance goals for the premarket review of medical devices.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) requires premarket review for moderate- and high-risk devices. There are two main paths that manufacturers can use to bring such devices to market. One path consists of conducting clinical studies and submitting a premarket approval (PMA) application that includes evidence providing reasonable assurance that the device is safe and effective. The other path involves submitting a 510(k) notification demonstrating that the device is substantially equivalent to a device already on the market (a predicate device) that does not require a PMA. The 510(k) process results in FDA clearance and tends to be less costly and less time-consuming than the PMA path. Substantial equivalence is determined by comparing the performance characteristics of a new device with those of a predicate device. Demonstrating substantial equivalence does not usually require submitting clinical data demonstrating safety and effectiveness. In FY2015, FDA approved 98% of PMAs accepted for review and 85% of 510(k)s accepted for review were determined to be substantially equivalent.

On July 13, 2015, FDA held a public meeting on the reauthorization of the medical device user fee program. In September 2015 the agency began a series of negotiation sessions with industry on the reauthorization agreement as well as meetings with patient and consumer stakeholders on the status of the reauthorization process. If and when an agreement between FDA and industry is reached, the draft MDUFA IV package would likely consist of proposed statutory language and any agreement on FDA performance goals and procedures. The MDUFA IV draft agreement would be posted on the FDA website; after a public meeting and a 30-day comment period on the draft, a final MDUFA IV recommendation would be submitted to Congress.

Since medical device user fees were first collected in FY2003, they have comprised an increasing proportion of FDA’s device budget. All user fees (as enacted) accounted for 43% of FDA’s total FY2016 program level. Medical device user fees accounted for 28% of the device and radiological health program level, which is $450 million in FY2016, including $107 million in medical device user fees and $20 million in other fees.

Over the years, concerns raised about user fees have prompted Congress to consider issues such as which agency activities could use the fees, how user fees can be kept from supplanting federal funding, and which companies should qualify as small businesses and pay a reduced fee.
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Introduction

In 2002, the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act (MDUFMA, also called MDUFA I) gave the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to collect fees from the medical device industry.1 User fees and direct appropriations from Congress fund the review of medical devices by the FDA. Medical devices are a wide range of products that are used to diagnose, treat, monitor, or prevent a disease or condition in a patient. FDA describes medical devices as ranging “from simple tongue depressors and bedpans to complex programmable pacemakers with micro-chip technology and laser surgical devices.” Medical devices also include in vitro diagnostic products, reagents, test kits, and certain electronic radiation-emitting products with medical applications, such as diagnostic ultrasound products, x-ray machines, and medical lasers.

Manufacturers of moderate and high risk medical devices must obtain FDA approval or clearance before marketing their device in the United States. The Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) has primary responsibility within FDA for medical device premarket review.3 The purpose of user fees is to support the FDA’s medical device premarket review program and to help reduce the time it takes the agency to review and make decisions on marketing applications. Between 1983 and 2002, multiple government reports indicated that FDA had insufficient resources for its medical devices premarket review program.4 Lengthy review times affect the industry, which waits to market its products, and patients, who wait to use these products. The user fee law provides revenue for FDA. In exchange for the fees, FDA and industry negotiate performance goals for the premarket review of medical devices. The medical device user fee program was modeled after the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA).5

Like the prescription drug and animal drug user fee programs, the medical device user fee program has been authorized in five-year increments.6 FDA’s medical device user fee authorities were last reauthorized through September 30, 2017, by the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 (MDUFA III). MDUFA III was enacted as Title II of Food and Drug

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2 FDA, Medical Devices, “Is the Product a Medical Device,” at http://www.fda.gov/device/medicalregulationandguidance/overview/classifyyourdevice/ucm051512.htm.

3 The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), regulates devices associated with blood collection and processing procedures, cellular products, and tissues. See CRS Report R42130, FDA Regulation of Medical Devices, by Judith A. Johnson.


5 PDUFA came about following negotiations among the FDA (under Commissioner David Kessler), the drug industry, and key congressional committee Members and staff. The aim was “getting enough qualified doctors onto the FDA staff to carry out drug reviews, and getting the company staffs to cooperate in meeting higher standards. The solution that emerged was one intended to bypass the anachronistic and unreliable congressional system that always underfinanced the FDA.” Phillip J. Hilts, Protecting America’s Health (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003), p. 278. Other key features of PDUFA include ensuring that the user fee revenue would not go to general funds but could be spent only on the drug review program, a sunset provision ensuring the user fee program would be reevaluated every five years, and “an implicit contract by Congress not to exploit the availability of the user fee monies and then reduce FDA appropriations for drug review-related purposes.” Daniel Carpenter, Reputation and Power: Organizational Image and Pharmaceutical Regulation at the FDA (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010), pp. 459-460.

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Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA, P.L. 112-144), which became law on July 9, 2012.

FDASIA also reauthorized PDUFA, created new user fee programs for generic and biosimilar drug approvals, and modified FDA authority to regulate medical products. Because of the importance of user fees to FDA's budget, PDUFA and MDUFA are considered to be “must pass” legislation, and Congress has in the past included language to address a range of other concerns. For example, MDUFA II included provisions about the extent to which FDA can delegate activities to third parties (inspections and the review of premarket notifications); the establishment of registration requirements (timing and electronic submission); a unique device identification system; and reporting requirements for devices linked to serious injuries or deaths.7

This report describes current law regarding medical device user fees and the impact of MDUFA on FDA review time of various medical device applications and the agency’s medical device program budget. Appendix A and Appendix B provide additional details on the MDUFA III fees and performance goals. Appendix C provides a list of acronyms used in this report.

Current Law

The Medical Device Amendments of 1976 (P.L. 94-295) was the first major legislation passed to address the premarket review of medical devices. Congress first authorized user fees to support the FDA's medical device premarket review program in 2002, 10 years after Congress had provided the authority for prescription drug user fees via PDUFA. For prescription drugs, the manufacturer must pay a fee for each new drug application (NDA) that is submitted to FDA for premarket review. In contrast, according to data published by the Government Accountability Office in January 2009, most medical devices listed with FDA are exempt from premarket review and do not pay a user fee (see Figure 1). Premarket review and payment of the associated fee is required for about a third of the medical devices listed with FDA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Device User Fee Authorization and Reauthorizations</th>
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<td>P.L. 107-250, October 26, 2002</td>
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<td><strong>MDUFA II (FY2008-FY2012)</strong></td>
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<td>Title II of the FDA Amendments Act of 2007 (FDAAA)</td>
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<td>P.L. 110-85, September 27, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MDUFA III (FY2013-FY2017)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Title II of the FDA Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.L. 112-144, July 9, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MDUFA IV (FY2018-FY2022?)</strong></td>
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7 For a complete listing of provisions that were included in FDASIA, see CRS Report R42680, The Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA, P.L. 112-144), coordinated by Susan Thaul.
FDA Premarket Review of Medical Devices

FDA classifies devices based on their risk to the patient: low-risk devices are Class I, medium-risk are Class II, and high-risk are Class III. Low-risk medical devices (Class I) and a very small number of moderate-risk (Class II) medical devices are exempt from premarket review. In general, for moderate-risk and high-risk medical devices, there are two pathways that manufacturers can use to bring such devices to market with FDA’s permission.  

One pathway consists of conducting clinical studies, then submitting a premarket approval (PMA) application with evidence providing reasonable assurance that the device is safe and effective. The PMA process is generally used for novel and high-risk devices and, if successful, it results in a type of FDA permission called approval. In FY2015, 98% of PMAs accepted for filing were approved by FDA.  

Another pathway involves submitting a premarket notification, also known as a 510(k) after the section in the FFDCA that authorized this type of notification. With the 510(k), the manufacturer demonstrates that the device is substantially equivalent to a device already on the market (a predicate device) that does not require a PMA. Substantial equivalence is determined by...

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8 Novel devices lacking a legally marketed predicate are automatically designated Class III. FFDCA Section 513(f) established an expedited mechanism for reclassifying these devices based on risk, reducing the regulatory burden on manufacturers. The de novo 510(k), though requiring more data than a traditional 510(k), often requires less information than a PMA application. For more information on device classification and the FDA review process, see CRS Report R42130, FDA Regulation of Medical Devices, by Judith A. Johnson.

comparing the performance characteristics of a new device with those of a predicate device. The 510(k) process is unique to medical devices and, if successful, results in FDA clearance. According to FDA data, 85% of 510(k)s accepted for review in FY2015 were determined to be substantially equivalent. The standard for clearance of a 510(k) is substantial equivalence with a predicate device.

Medical Device User Fees

Premarket review by FDA—both PMA and 510(k)—requires the payment of a user fee. FDA typically evaluates more than 4,000 510(k) notifications and about 40 original PMA applications each year. According to CDRH Director Jeffrey Shuren, fees collected under MDUFA III fund about a third of the medical device premarket review process.

In addition to premarket review fees, there are also fees for when a manufacturer requests approval of a significant change in the design or performance of a device approved via the PMA pathway. Examples of PMA supplements include a Panel-Track Supplement, when it is necessary for FDA to evaluate significant clinical data in order to make a decision on approval, and a 180-Day PMA Supplement, if a manufacturer requests approval of a change in an approved device that does not require FDA to evaluate new clinical data or requires limited clinical data.

The original 2002 user fee law had only authorized FDA to collect fees for premarket review, such as for PMA applications, PMA supplements, or 510(k) notifications. The 2007 reauthorization—MDUFA II—added two types of annual fees in order to generate a more stable revenue stream for the agency. According to FDA, there were fluctuations in the number of applications submitted from year to year, and fee revenues repeatedly fell short of expectations. MDUFA II added establishment registration fees, paid annually by most device establishments registered with FDA, and product fees, paid annually for high-risk (Class III) devices for which periodic reporting is required. MDUFA II also added two application fees—the 30-Day Notice and 513(g) application—and substantially lowered all existing application fee amounts (see Table A-1). A 30-Day Notice is used by a manufacturer to request modifications in manufacturing procedures and a 513(g) application is used by a manufacturer to request information on the classification of a device.

13 FFDCA §738(a)(2)(A).
14 For further information, see CRS Report R42130, FDA Regulation of Medical Devices, by Judith A. Johnson.
15 FDA, “Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act; Public Meeting,” 72 Federal Register 19528, April 18, 2007.
16 The annual fees were projected to generate about 50% of the total device fee revenue from FY2008 to FY2012. FDA, “Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act; Public Meeting,” 72 Federal Register 19528, April 18, 2007.
17 FFDCA §738(a)(2)(A).
Other than the establishment fee, the amount of each type of user fee is set as a percentage of the PMA fee, also called the base fee. The law sets both the base fee amount for each fiscal year, and the percentage of the base fee that constitutes most other fees. Under MDUFA III, the 510(k) fee was changed from 1.84% of the PMA fee to 2% of the PMA fee. MDUFA III changed the PMA fee amount to $248,000 in FY2013 rising to $263,180 in FY2016 and $268,443 in FY2017 (prior to inflation adjustment)\(^1\) (see Table A-1). The amount of the establishment registration fee was changed under MDUFA III to $2,575 in FY2013 rising to $3,872 in FY2016 and FY2017 (prior to inflation adjustment)\(^2\) (see Table A-1). MDUFA III also changed the definition of “establishment subject to a registration fee;” according to FDA, this would increase the number of establishments paying the fee from 16,000 to 22,000.\(^3\)

Under MDUFA III, total fee revenue is set at $97,722,301 for FY2013 and rises to $130,184,348 for FY2017.\(^4\) The total fees authorized to be collected over the five-year period FY2013 through FY2017 is $595 million. MDUFA III adjusts the total revenue amounts by a specified inflation adjustment, similar to the adjustment made under PDUFA, and the base fee amount is adjusted as needed on a uniform proportional basis to generate the inflation-adjusted total revenue amount. After the base fee amounts are adjusted for inflation, the establishment fee amount is further adjusted as necessary so that the total fee collections for the fiscal year generates the total adjusted revenue amount. The new adjusted fee amounts are published in the Federal Register 60 days before the start of each fiscal year along with the rationale for adjusting the fee amounts.

### Exemptions and Discounted Fees

Certain types of medical devices and medical device manufacturers or sponsors are exempt from paying fees, and small businesses pay a reduced rate.\(^5\) Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE) applications are exempt from user fees, other than establishment fees.\(^6\) An HDE exempts devices that meet certain criteria from the effectiveness requirements of premarket approval. Devices intended solely for pediatric use are exempt from fees other than establishment fees.\(^7\) If an applicant obtains an exemption under this provision, and later submits a supplement for adult use, that supplement is subject to the fee then in effect for an original PMA.

State and federal government entities are exempt from certain fees such as PMA, PMA supplement, 510(k), and establishment registration unless the device is to be distributed commercially. Indian tribes are exempt from having to pay establishment registration fees, unless

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\(^1\) FFDCA §738(b)(2).

\(^2\) Under MDUFA III, the HHS Secretary has the authority to further adjust the establishment fee in FY2014 through FY2017 if “necessary in order for total fee collections for such fiscal year to generate the total revenue amounts.” FFDCA §738(c)(3). Total revenue amounts were set by MDUFA III as follows: FY2013, $97,722,301; FY2014, $112,580,497; FY2015, $125,767,107; FY2016, $129,339,949; and FY2017, $130,184,348. FFDCA §738(b)(3). MDUFA III also allows for adjustment of the total revenue amounts by a specified inflation adjustment, with PMA and establishment fees adjusted accordingly. FFDCA §738(c)(2).

\(^3\) FFDCA §737(13). March 2012 public meeting on MDUFA III, presentation slide 22, found at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/UCM299018.pdf.

\(^4\) FFDCA §738(b)(3).

\(^5\) FFDCA §738(a)(2)(B); 21 USC 379j(a)(2)(b).

\(^6\) FFDCA §738(a)(2)(B)(i). HDE is intended to encourage the development of devices that aid in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases or conditions that affect fewer than 4,000 individuals in the United States per year. FFDCA §520(m); 21 USC 360(m). The research and development costs of such devices could exceed the market returns for products that address diseases or conditions affecting small patient populations.

\(^7\) FFDCA §738(a)(2)(B)(v).
the device is to be distributed commercially. Other than an establishment fee, the FDA cannot charge a fee for premarket applications for biologics licenses and licenses for biosimilar or interchangeable products if products are licensed exclusively for further manufacturing use.\textsuperscript{25}

Under a program authorized by Congress, FDA accredits third parties, allowing them to conduct the initial review of 510(k)s for the purpose of classifying certain devices.\textsuperscript{26} The purpose is to improve the efficiency and timeliness of FDA's 510(k) process. No FDA fee is assessed for 510(k) submissions reviewed by accredited third parties, although the third parties charge manufacturers a fee for their services.\textsuperscript{27}

In MDUFA II, Congress amended the process of qualifying for small business user fee discounts in response to frustrations expressed by domestic and foreign companies that had difficulties with the requirements. Small businesses—those with gross receipts below a certain amount—pay reduced user fees and have some fees waived altogether.\textsuperscript{28} These fee reductions and exemptions are of interest because many device companies are small businesses.\textsuperscript{29}

Whether a device company is considered a small business eligible for fee reductions or waivers depends on the particular fee. Small businesses reporting under $30 million in gross receipts or sales are exempt from fees for their first PMA. Proof of receipts may consist of IRS tax documents or qualifying documentation from a foreign government. Companies with annual gross sales or receipts of $100 million or less pay at a rate of 50\% of the 510(k) user fee, 30-day notice, request for classification information, and 25\% of most other user fees.\textsuperscript{30} Small businesses must pay the full amount of the establishment fees.

MDUFA III included a provision that allows FDA to grant a waiver or reduce fees for a PMA or establishment fee “if the waiver is in the interest of public health.” According to the FDA presentation at the March 28, 2012, public meeting, the fee waiver is intended for laboratory developed test (LDT) manufacturers.\textsuperscript{31} This provision will sunset at the end of MDUFA III.

\textbf{Condition (or Trigger)}

A key element of FDA user fee laws—MDUFA and PDUFA—is that the user fees are to supplement congressional appropriations, not replace them. The law includes a condition, sometimes called a trigger, to enforce that goal. FDA may collect and use MDUFA fees only if the direct appropriations for the activities involved in the premarket review of medical devices and for FDA activities overall remain at a level at least equal (adjusted for inflation) to an amount specified in the law.\textsuperscript{32}

\begin{itemize}
  \item[26]FFDCA §523.
  \item[27]FFDCA §738(a)(2)(B)(iv).
  \item[28]FFDCA §738(d)-(e); 21 USC 379j(d)-(e).
  \item[29]FDA, “Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act; Public Meeting,” 72 Federal Register 19528, April 18, 2007.
  \item[30]FDCFA §738(d); 21 USC 379j(d).
  \item[31]For more information on LDTs, see CRS Report R43438, Regulation of Clinical Tests: In Vitro Diagnostic (IVD) Devices, Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs), and Genetic Tests, by Amanda K. Sarata and Judith A. Johnson.
  \item[32]FFDCA §738(h).
\end{itemize}
Other MDUFA Requirements

Over time, Congress has changed PDUFA to allow user fee revenue to be used for FDA activities related to not only premarket review but also the review of postmarket safety information associated with a drug. In contrast, MDUFA revenue can be used only for activities associated with FDA premarket review of PMAs, 510(k)s, and PMA supplements. The law states that fees “shall only be available to defray increases in the costs of resources allocated for the process for the review of device applications.”

MDUFA II added FFDCA Section 738A regarding required reports and outlining the reauthorization process. This section, updated by MDUFA III, requires the Secretary to submit annual fiscal and performance reports for the next five fiscal years (FY2013 thru FY2017) to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Fiscal reports address the implementation of FDA’s authority to collect medical device user fees, as well as FDA’s use of the fees. Performance reports address FDA’s progress toward and future plans for achieving the fee-related performance goals identified in the agreement with industry.

FFDCA Section 738A also directs the FDA to develop a reauthorization proposal for the following five fiscal years in consultation with specified congressional committees, scientific and academic experts, health care professionals, patient and consumer advocacy groups, and the regulated industry. Prior to negotiations with industry, FDA is required to request public input, hold a public meeting, and publish public comments on the agency’s website. During negotiations with industry, FDA must hold monthly discussions with patient and consumer advocacy groups to receive their suggestions and discuss their views on the reauthorization. After negotiations with industry are completed, FDA is required to present the recommendations to certain congressional committees, publish the recommendations in the Federal Register, provide a 30-day public comment period, hold another public meeting to receive views from stakeholders, and revise the recommendations as necessary. Minutes of all negotiation meetings between FDA and industry are required to be posted on the FDA website.

Minutes of MDUFA IV industry discussions as well as patient and consumer stakeholder discussions, which began in September 2015, are posted on the FDA website.

As was the case in MDUFA II and again under MDUFA III, FDA meets with industry on a quarterly basis to present data and discuss progress in meeting performance goals. These quarterly performance reports are posted on the FDA website.

MDUFA III included a provision for streamlined hiring of FDA employees who would support the review of medical devices. The authority for streamlined hiring terminates three years after enactment. Under the MDUFA III agreement, user fees will be used to “reduce the ratio of review

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33 FFDCA §738(i)(2)(A)(ii) (emphasis added). The law specifically defines “costs of resources allocated for the process for the review of device applications” and what activities are considered part of the “process for the review of device applications.” For example, costs include management of information and activities associated with the process for review include inspections of manufacturing establishments. FFDCA §737(8)-(9) (emphasis added). The process for review of device applications focuses solely on activities involved in premarket approval, with one exception: the evaluation of postmarket studies that are required as a condition of approval of certain premarket applications or reports. FFDCA §737(8)(I).

34 Minutes can be found at http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/UserFees/MedicalDeviceUserFee/ucm454039.htm.

staff to front line supervisors in the pre-market review program.” FDA will enhance and supplement scientific review capacity by hiring reviewers and using external experts to assist with device application review. Using the streamlined hiring authority, FDA will work with industry to benchmark best practices for employee retention via financial and non-financial means. User fees will supplement (1) management training; (2) MDUFA III training for all staff; (3) Reviewer Certification Program for new CDRH reviewers; and (4) specialized training to provide continuous learning for all staff. FDA will improve its IT system to allow real-time status information on submissions.

Under MDUFA III, FDA was required to hire a consultant to perform a two phase assessment of the medical device review process; Booz Allen Hamilton was chosen as the consultant. The first phase of the assessment focused on the identification of best practices and process improvements. A preliminary report published in December 2013 made four priority recommendations that were likely to have a significant impact on review time. A final report, released to the public in June 2014, detailed additional recommendations for improvements in the review process as well as other areas. In December 2014 CDRH published a final Plan of Action to address each of the Phase 1 recommendations. The consultant was required to evaluate FDA’s implementation and publish a report no later than February 1, 2016; the report was published by the deadline.

**Performance Goals under MDUFA III**

The main focus of the MDUFA III agreement is FDA’s commitment to completing the review of the various medical device submissions—such as PMA reviews and 510(k) notifications—within specified timeframes in exchange for an industry fee to support the review activity. Performance goals are specified for each type of submission for FY2013 through FY2017; each goal specifies the percentage of applications FDA will complete within a given time period.

The purpose of the programs and initiatives outlined in the MDUFA III agreement is to reduce the average total time to decision for PMAs and 510(k)s. FDA and applicants share the responsibility for achieving these goals which are shown in Table 1.

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37 The four priority recommendations were: (1) Develop criteria and establish mechanisms to improve consistency in decision making throughout the review process; (2) Provide mandatory full staff training for the three primary IT systems that support MDUFA III reviews; (3) Identify metrics and incorporate methods to better assess review process training satisfaction, learning, and staff behavior changes; and, (4) Adopt a holistic, multi-pronged approach to address five quality component areas to standardize process lifecycle management activities and improve consistency of reviews. Booz Allen Hamilton, *MDUFA II/III Evaluation – Priority Recommendations*, December 11, 2013, at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/Overview/MDUFAIIII/UCM378202.pdf.


41 See Appendix B for further details.
Table 1. FDA & Industry Shared Outcome Goals: Average Total Time to Decision

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Under MDUFA III, FDA agreed to put in place a structured process for managing pre-submissions, providing feedback to applicants via email and a one-hour meeting or teleconference. The agency will continue to use interactive review to encourage informal communication with the applicant to facilitate timely completion of the review process. FDA will continue to apply user fees to the guidance document development process, and may apply user fees to delete outdated guidance, note which are under review, and provide a list of prioritized device guidance documents intended to be published within a year. It will work with interested parties to improve the current third-party review program. FDA will implement final guidance on factors to consider when making benefit-risk determinations in device premarket review, including patient tolerance for risk and magnitude of benefit. FDA will propose additional low-risk medical devices to exempt from the 510(k) process. FDA will work with industry to develop a transitional in vitro diagnostics (IVD) approach for the regulation of emerging diagnostics.

**MDUFA Impact on Total Review Time and FDA/CDRH Budget**

The amount of time it takes FDA to reach a review decision to clear a 510(k) notification or approve a PMA application is a measure of how well the agency is meeting the goals defined in the MDUFA agreement between FDA and the medical device industry. The time it takes to review a medical device—total review time—is composed of the time FDA handles the application—FDA time—plus the amount of time the device sponsor or submitter takes to respond to requests by FDA for additional information about the device.

Figure 2 shows that the total amount of time a device is in the 510(k) review process has decreased from a peak in FY2010. The amount of time a 510(k) submission spends in FDA's hands has remained fairly stable; time in the submitter’s hands peaked in FY2010 and has slowly declined. FDA reviewers frequently need to ask for additional information—called an AI Letter—from 510(k) device sponsors due to the incomplete or poor quality of the original submission. In FY2010, 77% of 510(k) sponsors received an AI letter; in FY2015, 70% received an AI letter.

According to FDA, these quality issues have involved “the device description, meaning the sponsor either did not provide sufficient information about the device to determine what it was developed to do, or the device description was inconsistent throughout the submission.”


43 Ibid.

44 FDA/CDRH, Analysis of Premarket Review Times Under the 510(k) Program, July 2011, p. 3 at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDRH/CDRHRports/UCM263386.pdf. Page 15 of the 2011 FDA/CDRH 510(k) report provides more detail on these deficiencies: “(i) the sponsor did not submit required information without justification – such information includes supporting data required under current (continued...)
The device sponsor may not provide a complete response to the AI letter, in which case the FDA will send a second AI letter. In FY2010, 35% of 510(k)s received an AI letter on the second FDA review cycle; in FY2015, 6% received an AI letter in the second review cycle. Use of the AI letter by the FDA allows the device sponsor the opportunity to respond, and although the time to final decision is longer, the submission has the opportunity to be approved. The only alternative to requesting additional information is for FDA to reject the 510(k) submission.

**Figure 2. Average Time to Decision: 510(k)s**

(as of December 31, 2015)

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**Notes:** FDA Days + Submitter Days = Total Time to Decision; times may not add to total due to rounding. FY2009 and FY2014-FY2015 cohorts are still open; percentage of cohort closed: FY2009 = 99.9%, FY2014 = 99.4%, FY2015 = 74.2%. Average times for FY2014 and FY2015 will increase.

(...continued)

guidance or performance data that FDA consistently requires for certain device types; (ii) the sponsor failed to identify a predicate; or (iii) the sponsor employed different device descriptions or indications for use for the subject device throughout its submission. In all of these cases, FDA could not reach a substantial equivalence determination without the sponsor providing additional information or rectifying deficiencies in the submission.

Figure 3. Average Time to Decision: PMAs
(as of December 31, 2015)

![Average Time to Decision: PMAs](image)


Notes: FDA Days + Submitter Days = Total Time to Decision; times may not add to total due to rounding. FY2013-FY2015 cohorts are still open, average times will increase; percent of cohort with MDUFA decision: FY2013 = 97% (28/29); FY2014 = 89% (25/28); FY2015 = 45% (19/42).

Figure 3 provides information on the amount of time FDA spends reviewing PMAs. It shows that the average total days for PMA application review has been decreasing since FY2009 (except for a single year spike in FY2013). However, for PMAs and 510(k)s the final two to three cohort years are still open and average review time will increase; this will impact whether the shared goals shown in Table 1 are met.

Figure 4 presents the total program level for FDA’s device and radiological health program for FY2002 through FY2017 with dollars adjusted for inflation (based on 2009 dollars). Figure 4 also shows the contribution of medical device user fees, which began in FY2003, to the device and radiological health program budget, as well as fees collected for the inspection of mammography facilities under the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA), which began in FY1996.
The FDA Medical Device User Fee Program: MDUFA IV Reauthorization

Figure 4. Devices and Radiological Health Program Budget, by Funding Source, for FY2002 to FY2017
(Adjusted to 2009 dollars)

Source: FDA Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees documents, FY2004 through FY2017 (President’s Request).


All user fees (as enacted) account for 43% of FDA’s total FY2016 program level.\textsuperscript{46} Medical device user fee revenue, $107.2 million in FY2016, provides about 24% of the FDA medical device and radiological health program level budget, which is $450.3 million in FY2016.\textsuperscript{47} In contrast, user fees comprise about 65% of the human drug program level budget in FY2016.\textsuperscript{48}

User fees are an increasing proportion of FDA’s device-related budget, as shown in Table 2. User fees were 7.1% of FDA’s devices and radiological health program level budget in FY2002 when MQSA was the sole user fee, and 28.2% of FDA’s devices and radiological health program level budget in FY2016, with both MQSA and medical device user fees being collected by the agency. Table 2 shows that over the period of FY2003 to FY2016, the amount of user fees increased more than 5 fold while the amount of direct appropriations (budget authority) increased at a slower rate.

\textsuperscript{46}Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Fiscal Year 2017 Food and Drug Administration: Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, February 2016, p. 20. In addition to medical device user fees, Congress has authorized user fees for prescription drugs, generic drugs, biosimilars, animal drugs, animal generic drugs, tobacco products, mammography, color and export certification, and, most recently, several food-related programs.

\textsuperscript{47}See Table 2. Of the $137.7 million in medical device user fees for FY2016, $107.2 million (78%) goes to the devices and radiological health program (funding 439 full-time equivalent employees [FTEs]), $11.7 million (8%) to the biologics program (44 FTEs), $6.3 million (5%) to FDA headquarters (30 FTEs) and the remaining $12.5 million to rent (9%). Data from Fiscal Year 2017 Food and Drug Administration: Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, February 2016, pp. 17-19.

\textsuperscript{48}FY2016 human drug user fees are $903.3 million, human drug program level budget is $1.395 billion. Fiscal Year 2017 Food and Drug Administration: Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, February 2016, p. 65.
### Table 2. FDA Devices and Radiological Health Program, Fees as a Percentage of Total Program Level
(Unadjusted dollars in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>MDUFA&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; Fees</th>
<th>MQSA&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt; and Other Fees&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Total Fees</th>
<th>Total Fees as % of Total Program Level</th>
<th>Total Program Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$180.0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$13.7</td>
<td>$13.7</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>$193.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$193.4</td>
<td>$11.1</td>
<td>$12.9</td>
<td>$24.0</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>$217.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$191.1</td>
<td>$17.9</td>
<td>$12.5</td>
<td>$30.4</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>$221.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$215.0</td>
<td>$16.4</td>
<td>$13.0</td>
<td>$29.3</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>$244.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>$220.6</td>
<td>$20.7</td>
<td>$13.8</td>
<td>$34.5</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>$255.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$230.7</td>
<td>$23.3</td>
<td>$13.6</td>
<td>$36.9</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>$267.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$237.7</td>
<td>$24.3</td>
<td>$13.3</td>
<td>$37.6</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>$275.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$298.5</td>
<td>$33.3</td>
<td>$13.5</td>
<td>$46.8</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>$345.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$313.5</td>
<td>$42.7</td>
<td>$13.8</td>
<td>$56.5</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>$370.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$322.2</td>
<td>$42.0</td>
<td>$14.4</td>
<td>$56.3</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>$378.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$322.6</td>
<td>$54.1</td>
<td>$14.3</td>
<td>$68.3</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>$391.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$296.2</td>
<td>$69.0</td>
<td>$14.4</td>
<td>$83.4</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>$379.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$320.8</td>
<td>$82.0</td>
<td>$14.7</td>
<td>$96.8</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>$417.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$320.8</td>
<td>$106.5</td>
<td>$15.4</td>
<td>$121.9</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>$442.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$323.3</td>
<td>$107.2</td>
<td>$19.9</td>
<td>$127.1</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>$450.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enacted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 request</td>
<td>$325.8</td>
<td>$113.5</td>
<td>$24.2</td>
<td>$137.6</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
<td>$463.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** FDA Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees documents, FY2004 through FY2017,

- MDUFA = Medical Device User Fee Act.
- MQSA = Mammography Quality Standards Act.
- For FY2017, the Obama Administration proposes a new International Courier User Fee.
MDUFA IV Process

An initial public meeting on the reauthorization of the medical device user fees was held by FDA on July 13, 2015. The negotiation process between FDA and industry began on September 9, 2015; minutes of this first meeting and each subsequent meeting are available on the FDA website. Monthly meetings with non-industry stakeholders, such as health care professional associations and patient and consumer advocacy groups, began on September 15, 2015, and these minutes are also posted on the FDA website. At the first meeting with Industry in September 2015, FDA stated that the goal was to reach an agreement that can go into administration clearance by March 31, 2016, and then conduct the public review process of the “draft recommendations by fall of 2016, so that the final recommendations can be delivered to Congress no later than January 15, 2017, as required by law.”

At the January 20, 2016 meeting with Industry, FDA provided a cost estimate of $456 million for the additional enhancements to the medical device program made by Industry’s proposal presented at the November 2015 meeting. The cost estimate is in addition to the baseline cost for MDUFA III, plus adjustments for inflation. At the January 27, 2016 meeting, FDA provided a cost estimate of approximately $500 million for an integrated proposal including elements of interest to both Industry and FDA. Again, the cost estimate is in addition to the baseline cost for MDUFA III, plus adjustments for inflation. At the February 2016 meeting, Industry made a counter proposal that did not include several areas of interest to FDA. At the March 2016 meeting FDA presented a proposal that contained the agency’s highest priorities and would add $329

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49 For further information about the public meeting, including agenda, webcast, transcript, and slide presentations, see http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/NewsEvents/WorkshopsConferences/ucm445541.htm.
50 See http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/UserFees/MedicalDeviceUserFee/ucm454039.htm.
51 Ibid.
million over five years to the MDUFA III baseline amount. Industry expressed “concern over the small overlap on high priority areas.”

During its meetings with FDA, the non-industry stakeholders, among other things, “stressed the importance of expanding the use of registries and other means of collecting data on device use once a device is broadly available on the U.S. market.” The non-industry stakeholders also “continued to suggest consideration of user fees to cover the cost of post market surveillance, and underscored the importance of ensuring efficient and effective postmarket data collection and use in light of efforts to shift data collection in certain situations from premarket.”

55 Ibid.
Appendix A. Medical Device User Fees

Table A-1. MDUFA I, MDUFA II, and MDUFA III Fees, Selected Fiscal Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees Structure</th>
<th>MDUFA I</th>
<th>MDUFA II</th>
<th>MDUFA III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMA (i.e., base fee)</td>
<td>$281,600</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
<td>$256,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$107,008</td>
<td>$46,250</td>
<td>$64,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panel Track Supplement b</td>
<td>$281,600</td>
<td>$138,750</td>
<td>$192,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$107,008</td>
<td>$34,688</td>
<td>$48,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180-Day Supplement c</td>
<td>$60,544</td>
<td>$27,750</td>
<td>$38,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$23,007</td>
<td>$6,938</td>
<td>$9,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Time Supplement d</td>
<td>$20,275</td>
<td>$12,950</td>
<td>$17,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$7,705</td>
<td>$3,237</td>
<td>$4,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510(k)</td>
<td>$4,158</td>
<td>$3,404</td>
<td>$4,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$3,326</td>
<td>$1,702</td>
<td>$2,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Day Notice d</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$2,960</td>
<td>$4,102</td>
<td>$3,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>513(g) f</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$2,498</td>
<td>$3,461</td>
<td>$3,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fee for Periodic Report</td>
<td>$6,475</td>
<td>$8,973</td>
<td>$8,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business a</td>
<td>$1,619</td>
<td>$2,243</td>
<td>$2,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment Registration</td>
<td>$1,706</td>
<td>$2,364</td>
<td>$2,575</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


a. Small Business—indicates the reduced small business fee associated with the item listed above.

b. Panel-Track Supplement—manufacturer requests approval of a significant change in the design or performance of a device approved via the PMA pathway; significant amount of clinical data evaluated.

c. 180-Day PMA Supplement—manufacturer requests approval of a change in aspects of an approved device, such as its design, specifications, or labeling; new clinical data not required or only limited clinical data.

d. Real-Time PMA Supplement—manufacturer requests approval for a minor change to an approved device, such as a minor change in the design or labeling.

e. 30-Day Notice—manufacturer requests permission to make modifications to manufacturing procedures or methods of manufacture affecting the safety and effectiveness of the device.

f. 513(g)—manufacturer requests information on the classification of a device.
### Appendix B. MDUFA III Performance Goals

#### Table B-1. Summary of MDUFA III Performance Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission Type</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008-2012</th>
<th>2013-2017 all in FDA Days except Average Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2008-2012</td>
<td>FY13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>510(k)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier I</td>
<td>80% in 90 days</td>
<td>90% in 90 days</td>
<td>91% in 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>98% in 150 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>90% in 75 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>65% in 60 days</td>
<td>75% in 60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Total Time</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>135 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 Day PMA Supplement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier I</td>
<td>90% in 180 days</td>
<td>85% in 180 days</td>
<td>85% in 180 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>95% in 210 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>90% in 120 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>65% in 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Total Time</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>395 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original PMAs &amp; Panel Track Supplements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>Tier 1 - 50% in 180 days</td>
<td>Tier 1 - 60% in 180 days</td>
<td>No Panel - 70% in 180 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>Tier 2 - 90% in 320 days</td>
<td>Tier 2 - 90% in 295 days</td>
<td>With Panel - 50% in 320 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>75% in 150 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>65% in 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Total Time</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>395 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expedited PMAs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>90% in 300 days</td>
<td>50% in 180 days</td>
<td>Included with &quot;Original PMAs&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>90% in 280 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle</td>
<td>70% in 120 days</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission Type</td>
<td>2007 End of MDUFMA I</td>
<td>2008-2012 MDUFA II</td>
<td>2013-2017 all in FDA Days except Average Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Real Time PMA Supplements</strong></td>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>80% in 60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tier 2</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>90% in 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLIA Waiver Applications</strong></td>
<td>Dual CLIA/510(k)</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLIA – no panel</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLIA – with panel</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** FDA, MDUFA Reauthorization Public Meeting, Slide 17, March 28, 2012.

**Note:** N.A. = Not Applicable.
Appendix C. Acronyms Used in This Report

510(k) Premarket Notification
513(g) Request for Information About Device Classification
BLA Biologics License Application
CBER Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
CDRH Center for Devices and Radiological Health
CLIA Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments
FDA United States Food and Drug Administration
FFDCA Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 USC Chapter 9)
FTE Full Time Equivalent Employee
GAO Government Accountability Office (formerly General Accounting Office)
HDE Humanitarian Device Exemption
HELP Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
HHS United States Department of Health and Human Services
IDE Investigational Device Exemption
MDTCA Medical Device Technical Corrections Act
MDUFMA Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act
MDUFA II Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2007
MDUFSA Medical Device User Fee Stabilization Act of 2005
MQSA Mammography Quality Standards Act
NSE Non-Substantial Equivalence
PDP Product Development Protocol
PDUFA Prescription Drug User Fee Act
PL Public Law
PMA Premarket Approval
RIF Reduction in Force
SE Substantial Equivalence
SUD Single-Use Device
USC United States Code

Author Contact Information

Judith A. Johnson
Specialist in Biomedical Policy
jajohnson@crs.loc.gov, 7-7077