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Dental Composite Resin Devices - Premarket Notification (510(k)) Submissions

Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

DRAFT GUIDANCE

This draft guidance document is being distributed for comment purposes only.

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You should submit comments and suggestions regarding this draft document within 60 days of publication in the *Federal Register* of the notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance. Submit electronic comments to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, (HFA-305), Rockville, MD 20852. Identify all comments with the docket number listed in the notice of availability that publishes in the *Federal Register*.

For questions about this document, contact OHT1: Office of Ophthalmic, Anesthesia, Respiratory, ENT and Dental Devices/DHT1B: Division of Dental and ENT Devices at 301-796-5620.

When final, this guidance will supersede “Dental Composite Resin Devices – Premarket Notification [510(k)] Submissions” issued October 26, 2005.



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Devices and Radiological Health**

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Preface

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This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic.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

I. Introduction

This draft guidance document provides draft recommendations for 510(k) submissions for dental composite resins used in dentistry. The device is intended to fill and restore defects or carious lesions in teeth. The device may be supplied as a two-part base and catalyst system that is self-cured or a one-part system that is cured via photoinitiation. The recommendations reflect current review practices and are intended to promote consistency and facilitate efficient review of these submissions.

This draft guidance, when final, will supersede the guidance “[Dental Composite Resin Devices – Premarket Notification \[510\(k\)\] Submissions](#)” issued October 26, 2005. This document supplements other FDA documents regarding the specific content requirements and recommendations of a 510(k) submission. You should also refer to 21 CFR 807.87 and FDA’s guidance, “[Electronic Submission Template for Medical Device 510\(k\) Submissions](#).”

For the current edition of the FDA-recognized consensus standard(s) referenced in this document, see the [FDA Recognized Consensus Standards Database](#). If submitting a Declaration of Conformity to a recognized standard, we recommend you include the appropriate supporting documentation. For more information regarding use of consensus standards in regulatory submissions, refer to the FDA guidance titled “[Appropriate Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards in Premarket Submissions for Medical Devices](#).”

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34 In general, FDA’s guidance documents do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities.
35 Instead, guidances describe the Agency’s current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only
36 as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of
37 the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but
38 not required.
39

40 **II. Scope**

41 The scope of this document is limited to dental composite resins regulated under 21 CFR
42 872.3690 and 21 CFR 872.3765 and with product codes listed in the table below:
43
44

Table 1: Applicable Product Codes

Product Code	Product Code Name	Regulation Number
EBF	Tooth Shade Resin Material	21 CFR 872.3690
EBC	Pit and Fissure Sealant and Conditioner	21 CFR 872.3765

45
46 The scope of this guidance does not include the resin restoratives intended for other uses, such as
47 cementing, coating, fixation, and temporary restoration (i.e., devices classified in 21 CFR
48 872.3200; 21 CFR 872.3275; 21 CFR 872.3310; 21 CFR 872.3750; and 21 CFR 872.3770). This
49 guidance applies to dental composite resins that are combination products; however, it does not
50 address specific considerations unique to combination products.
51

52 **III. Premarket Submission Recommendations**

53 **A. Device Description**

54 We recommend that you identify your device by the applicable regulation number and product
55 code indicated in Section II above and include the information described below.
56

57 We recommend you provide a complete description of all formulations, components, and
58 accessories that are intended to be marketed with the device including:
59

- 60 • A description of the device’s principle of operation for achieving its intended purpose,
61 e.g., a description of the curing chemistry and any substances that may be eluted from the
62 device;
- 63 • A complete chemical composition for each formulation of the device, including all
64 polymers, monomers, initiators, curing agents, stabilizers, plasticizers, eluting agents,
65 filler, colorants, and other additives, and a complete quantification of these substances by
66 percent mass, with the sum totaling to 100 percent by mass (*see* Section III.F.(1));

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- 67 • Descriptions of any accessories that are packaged with the device, e.g., dispensers,
68 mixing tips, and mixing pads;
- 69 • Labeled images and/or illustrations of all components or accessories that are included as
70 part of the packaged device; and
- 71 • Identification of the 510(k) clearance status (including the 510(k) number, if available) of
72 any accessory devices that are to be used or packaged with the device, if applicable.
73

74 **B. Predicate Comparison**

75 For devices reviewed under the 510(k) process, manufacturers must compare their new device to
76 a similar legally marketed predicate device to support its substantial equivalence (section 513(i)
77 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act); 21 CFR 807.87(f)). This comparison
78 should provide information to show how your device is similar to and different from the
79 predicate. Side by side comparisons, whenever possible, are desirable. See below for an example
80 of how this information may be organized. This table is not intended to represent an exhaustive
81 list of comparative parameters; ensure you provide all relevant device descriptive and
82 performance characteristics.
83

84 **Table 2: Sample predicate comparison table to outline differences and similarities between**
85 **the subject and predicate devices**

Description	Subject Device	Predicate Device (Kxxxxxx)
Indications for Use		
Principle of operation		
Mechanism of action		
Materials – the chemical composition of patient-contacting portions of the device		
Compressive strength		
Flexural strength		
Depth of cure		
Hardness		
Water absorption		
Water solubility		
Other relevant characteristics...		

86

87 **C. Labeling**

88 The premarket notification must include proposed labeling in sufficient detail to satisfy the
89 requirements of 21 CFR 807.87(e). Proposed labels and labeling, sufficient to describe the dental
90 composite resin device, its intended use, and the directions for use must be provided.
91

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92 As prescription devices, dental composite resins are exempt from the requirement to have
93 adequate directions for lay use required under section 502(f)(1) of the FD&C Act as long as the
94 conditions in 21 CFR 801.109 are met. For instance, to be so exempt, labeling that furnishes
95 information for use of the prescription device must, among other things, contain adequate
96 information for such use, including indications, effects, routes, methods, and frequency, and
97 duration of administration and any relevant hazards, contraindications, side effects, and
98 precautions, under which practitioners licensed by law to employ the device can use the device
99 safely and for the purposes for which it is intended (21 CFR 801.109(d)).

100
101 We recommend that the instructions for use include the following information, when applicable:
102

- 103 • compressive strength (MPa);
 - 104 • flexural strength (MPa);
 - 105 • light intensity (mW/cm²) for curing;
 - 106 • wavelength (nm) for curing;
 - 107 • depth of cure (mm);
 - 108 • curing times for all resin shades (sec);
 - 109 • working time (sec);
 - 110 • setting time (min); and
 - 111 • any other properties relevant to your device.
- 112

D. Shelf Life

113
114 Significance: Shelf life testing is conducted to support the proposed expiration date through
115 evaluation of any changes to device performance or functionality.

116
117 Recommendation: With respect to evaluating the effects of aging on device performance or
118 functionality, shelf life studies should evaluate the critical device properties to ensure it will
119 perform adequately and consistently during the entire proposed shelf life. To evaluate device
120 functionality, we recommend that you assess each of the bench tests described in Section III.F
121 and repeat all tests that evaluate design components or characteristics that are potentially affected
122 by aging using aged devices.

123
124 We recommend that you provide a summary of the test methods used for your shelf life testing,
125 results and the conclusions drawn from your results. If you use devices subject to accelerated
126 aging for shelf life testing, we recommend that you specify the way in which the device was aged
127 and provide a rationale to explain how the results of shelf life testing based on accelerated aging
128 are representative of the results if the device were aged in real time. We recommend that you age
129 your devices as per the currently FDA recognized version of ASTM F1980 *Standard Guide for*
130 *Accelerated Aging of Sterile Barrier Systems for Medical Devices* and specify the environmental

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131 parameters established to attain the expiration date. Since dental composite resins are composed
132 of polymeric materials, you should conduct testing on real-time aged samples to confirm the
133 results of the accelerated aging study. This testing should be conducted in parallel with 510(k)
134 review and clearance with results documented to file in the design history file¹ (i.e., complete
135 test reports do not need to be submitted to FDA).
136

137 **E. Biocompatibility**

138 Significance: Dental composite resins contain patient-contacting materials, which, when used for
139 their intended purpose, (i.e., contact type and duration), may induce a harmful biological
140 response.

141 Recommendation: You should determine the biocompatibility of all patient-contacting materials
142 present in your device. If your device is identical in chemical composition, manufacturing and
143 processing methods to dental composite resins with a history of safe use, you may reference
144 previous testing experience or the literature, if appropriate. For some device materials, it may be
145 appropriate to provide a reference to either a recognized consensus standard, or to a Letter of
146 Authorization (LOA) for a device Master File (MAF). You should refer to the following FDA
147 webpage for additional information on using device MAFs: [https://www.fda.gov/medical-](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/premarket-approval-pma/master-files)
148 [devices/premarket-approval-pma/master-files](https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/premarket-approval-pma/master-files).

149 If you are unable to identify a legally marketed predicate device with the same nature of contact
150 and contact duration that uses the same materials and manufacturing process as used in your
151 device, we recommend you conduct and provide a biocompatibility evaluation as described in
152 ISO 7405 *Dentistry - Evaluation of biocompatibility of medical devices used in dentistry* for the
153 endpoints outlined below. Per FDA’s guidance, “[Use of International Standard ISO 10993-1, ‘Biological evaluation of medical devices - Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process’](#),” when FDA-recognized consensus standards exist for a particular device
154 type, the biocompatibility recommendations in the device-specific consensus standard should be
155 used instead of the recommendations outlined in ISO 10993-1. The biocompatibility evaluation
156 should explain the relationship between the identified biocompatibility risks, the information
157 available to mitigate the identified risks, and any knowledge gaps that remain. You should then
158 identify any biocompatibility testing or other evaluations that were conducted to mitigate any
159 remaining risks. We recommend that you consider the recommendations in this guidance or the
160
161

¹ On February 2, 2024, FDA issued a final rule amending the device quality system (QS) regulation, 21 CFR part 820, to align more closely with international consensus standards for devices. FDA also made conforming amendments to 21 CFR part 4 ([89 FR 7496](#)). This final rule will take effect on February 2, 2026. Once in effect, this rule will amend the majority of the current requirements in part 820 and incorporate by reference the 2016 edition of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 13485, Medical devices – Quality management systems – Requirements for regulatory purposes, in part 820. As stated in the final rule, the requirements in ISO 13485 are, when taken in totality, substantially similar to the requirements of the current part 820, providing a similar level of assurance in a firm’s quality management system and ability to consistently manufacture devices that are safe and effective and otherwise in compliance with the FD&C Act. When the final rule takes effect, FDA will also update the references to provisions in 21 CFR part 820 in this guidance to be consistent with that rule.

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162 standard, which identifies the types of biocompatibility assessments that should be considered
163 and recommendations regarding how to conduct related tests.

164
165 Per ISO 7405 *Dentistry - Evaluation of biocompatibility of medical devices used in dentistry* or
166 ISO 10993-1 *Biological evaluation of medical devices – Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a*
167 *risk management process* and Attachment A of FDA’s guidance on ISO-10993-1, dental
168 composite resins are external communicating devices in contact with tissue/bone/dentin for a
169 permanent contact duration.

170
171 The following endpoints should be addressed in your biocompatibility evaluation:

- 172
- 173 • cytotoxicity;
- 174 • sensitization;
- 175 • irritation or intracutaneous reactivity;
- 176 • acute systemic toxicity;
- 177 • subacute/subchronic toxicity; and
- 178 • genotoxicity.
- 179

180 **F. Non-Clinical Performance Testing**

181 Non-clinical performance testing is recommended for dental composite resin devices because
182 descriptive characteristics alone are insufficient to support a substantial equivalence
183 determination. FDA has recognized a number of voluntary consensus standards² with test
184 methods and predefined acceptance criteria for this device type. As such, a Declaration of
185 Conformity to these standards can be used to help demonstrate substantial equivalence and can
186 reduce the amount of supporting data and information that are submitted to FDA. For more
187 information regarding use of consensus standards and/or a Declaration of Conformity in
188 regulatory submissions, refer to the FDA’s guidance titled “[Appropriate Use of Voluntary
189 Consensus Standards in Premarket Submissions for Medical Devices.](#)” For non-clinical
190 performance tests that do not rely on an FDA-recognized consensus standard, we recommend
191 that you provide full test reports, with a summary of the findings, for each test conducted. You
192 should also provide an explanation of how the data generated from the test supports a finding of
193 substantial equivalence.

194
195 For information on the recommended content and format of test reports for the testing described
196 in this section, refer to FDA’s guidance, “[Recommended Content and Format of Non-Clinical
197 Bench Performance Testing Information in Premarket Submissions.](#)”

² <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfStandards/search.cfm>

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198 (1) **Material Characterization**

199 Significance: Material characterization is a complete description of all chemical substances used
200 in the dental composite resin device. Incomplete material characterization can result in increased
201 risk to patients as a result of unintentional exposure to plasticizers, stabilizers, color additives,³
202 and other additives whose safety profile has not been adequately evaluated. A complete material
203 characterization helps to provide assurance that the risks introduced by the formulation of the
204 device are adequately understood and addressed.

205
206 Recommendation: We recommend that you identify the complete chemical composition of all
207 chemical substances in your device, including all polymers, monomers, initiators, curing agents,
208 stabilizers, plasticizers, eluting agents, filler, colorants, and other additives, and quantify these
209 substances by percent mass, with the sum totaling to 100 percent by mass. All substances should
210 be identified by their Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)⁴ Registry Number®, if available. Color
211 additives may be identified by reference to those in 21 CFR Parts 73 and 74, by CAS Registry
212 Number®, or Colour Index™ number, if available.

213
214 If your device contains fluoride or other eluting agents, such as calcium, phosphorus, or nitrate
215 ions, we recommend that you quantify the release profile of these substances over time. We
216 recommend that you provide a plot of the cumulative release concentration ($\mu\text{g ion/volume of}$
217 $\text{sample (mm}^3\text{)) of ions released from a representative sample of the device versus time (days) in}$
218 10 ml of distilled water at 37 °C each day for a total of 7 days. The cumulative release
219 concentration is the total concentration that sums each day's concentration with all previous
220 measurements. During this test, the water should be replaced each day.

221 (2) **Physical and Mechanical Properties**

222 Significance: Physical and mechanical properties are a measure of the material properties of a
223 dental composite resin device. Inadequate physical and mechanical properties can result in
224 premature failure of the device and the need for revisional dental treatment. Physical and
225 mechanical property testing provides assurance that the device has sufficient properties for its
226 intended use.

227
228 Recommendation: We recommend that you evaluate the physical and mechanical properties of
229 your dental composite resin device using test methods that conform to the currently FDA-
230 recognized versions of the following standards:

- 231 • ISO 4049 *Dentistry — Polymer-based restorative materials*
- 232 • ISO 6874 *Dentistry — Polymer-based pit and fissure sealants*
- 233 • ISO 9917-2 *Dentistry – Water-based cements – Part 2: Resin-modified cements*

234

³ For more information on color additives in medical devices, refer to the FDA webpage:
<https://www.fda.gov/industry/color-additives-specific-products/medical-devices>

⁴ Refer to Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) website for additional information (<http://www.cas.org>)

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235 We recommend that you provide results of the following tests to assure that your device has
236 sufficient strength, stiffness, hardness, and water insolubility for its intended use:

- 237 • compressive strength (MPa);
 - 238 • flexural strength (MPa);
 - 239 • elastic modulus (GPa);
 - 240 • surface hardness (KHN);
 - 241 • water absorption ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mm}^3$); and
 - 242 • water solubility ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mm}^3$).
- 243

244 If you include any performance statements that your device is a “hybrid” (i.e., includes macro
245 and micro filler particle sizes) or “nanofilled” composite resin, we also recommend that you
246 provide the filler particle size distribution (μ), i.e., the size range of filler particle sizes included
247 in your device.

248 **(3) Energy for Curing Photoinitiated Resins**

249 Significance: The amount of energy needed to cure a photoinitiated dental composite resin varies
250 with the type of initiator used in the device, the shade, filler type, size, loading, and thickness of
251 the device. Inadequate energy delivery from external sources, such as a dental curing light, can
252 cause incomplete curing and premature failure of a dental composite resin device. Characterizing
253 the energy needed to cure a photoinitiated dental composite resin device will facilitate the
254 selection of an appropriate dental curing light and provides assurance that the dental composite
255 resin device will have the sufficient properties for its intended use.

256 Recommendation: For photoinitiated dental composite resins, we recommend that you provide
257 the results of the following performance tests using the methods from the currently FDA-
258 recognized version of ISO 4049 to characterize the energy needed to cure your dental composite
259 resin device. Tests should be performed on a representative or “universal” shade, unless
260 otherwise specified:
261

- 262 • light intensity (radiant exitance) (mW/cm^2) for curing;
 - 263 • wavelength (nm) for curing;
 - 264 • curing times (sec) for all shades; and
 - 265 • depth of cure (mm) for normal mode at 10 seconds.
- 266

267 **(4) Working and Setting Times for Self-Curing Resins**

268 Significance: Self-curing dental composite resins are mixed and activated at the time of
269 treatment. The dental practitioner has limited time (i.e., working time) in which to prepare the
270 restoration before it begins to harden. Once placed, the restoration may not be fully functional
271 until the resin is allowed to set (i.e., setting time). Accurate working and setting times are critical

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272 to provide assurance that the dental practitioner will have sufficient time to place the restoration
273 and that the patient may be advised to avoid chewing on the restored tooth until the restoration
274 has fully cured.

275
276 Recommendation: For self-curing resins, we recommend that you provide the results of the
277 following performance tests in order to characterize the working and setting times for your
278 device:

- 279
280 • working time (sec); and
281 • setting time (min).

282 (5) Radiopacity

283 Significance: Radiopacity is the ability of a dental restorative composite to block the
284 transmission of X-rays. This is important because it allows a dental practitioner to visualize the
285 areas of a tooth that have been restored. Inadequate radiopacity can affect the ability of the
286 practitioner to detect decay and assess the margins and the overall quality of the restoration.
287 Radiopacity provides assurance that the dental composite resin restorations can be seen on a
288 dental radiograph.

289
290 Recommendation: We recommend that you characterize the radiopacity of your device using the
291 methods from the currently FDA-recognized version of ISO 4049.
292

293 G. Clinical Performance Testing

294 Significance: In some cases, non-clinical evaluation does not fully characterize all clinical
295 experience, outcomes, and risks. In such cases, we recommend that you conduct clinical studies
296 to evaluate device safety and effectiveness for new and modified dental composite resin devices.
297

298 Recommendation: Clinical evidence is generally unnecessary for most dental composite resin
299 devices; however, such testing may be requested in situations such as the following:
300

- 301 • any statements about device performance, such as longevity, tooth remineralization,
302 reduced decay or other enhanced clinical outcomes.

303 We will consider alternatives to clinical testing when the proposed alternatives are supported by
304 an adequate scientific rationale. If a clinical investigation is conducted involving one or more
305 subjects to demonstrate substantial equivalence of a device, the Investigational Device
306 Exemptions (IDE) regulation, 21 CFR Part 812 applies unless the investigation is excepted from
307 the IDE requirements (see 21 CFR 812.3(a) and (c)). Generally, we believe dental composite
308 resin devices addressed by this guidance document are non-significant risk devices; therefore,
309 the study would be subject to the abbreviated requirements of 21 CFR 812.2(b). See the FDA
310 Guidance titled, "[Significant Risk and Nonsignificant Risk Medical Device Studies](#)." In addition
311 to the requirements of Section 21 CFR 812, sponsors of such trials in the U.S. must generally
312 comply with the regulations governing institutional review boards (21 CFR Part 56) and the

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313 protection of human subjects (21 CFR Part 50), including informed consent (21 CFR Part 50,
314 subpart B).

315
316 When data from clinical investigations conducted outside the U.S. are submitted to FDA for
317 these devices, the requirements of 21 CFR 812.28 may apply.⁵ 21 CFR 812.28(a) outlines the
318 conditions for FDA acceptance of data from clinical investigations conducted outside the United
319 States to support an IDE or a premarket submission. For more information, see the FDA
320 guidance “[Acceptance of Clinical Data to Support Medical Device Applications and](#)
321 [Submissions: Frequently Asked Questions.](#)”

322
323 In some cases, “real-world data” (RWD) may be used to support labeling statements about
324 enhanced clinical outcomes for a device for which 510(k) clearance has already been obtained.
325 Whether the collection of RWD for a legally-marketed device requires an IDE depends on the
326 particular facts of the situation. Specifically, if a cleared device is being used in the normal
327 course of medical practice, an IDE would likely not be required. For additional information
328 regarding this topic, refer to the FDA Guidance entitled “[Use of Real-World Evidence to Support](#)
329 [Regulatory Decision-Making for Medical Devices.](#)”

330
331 If you would like feedback on a clinical protocol or to discuss whether clinical data is
332 recommended by FDA, you are encouraged to use the Q-submission process. For information on
333 FDA’s Q-submission process, see FDA’s guidance entitled “[Requests for Feedback and](#)
334 [Meetings for Medical Device Submissions: The Q-Submission Program.](#)”

335

336 **IV. Modifications**

337 21 CFR 807.81(a)(3) provides that a device change or modification “that could significantly
338 affect the safety or effectiveness of the device” or represents a “major change or modification in
339 the intended use of the device” requires a new 510(k).⁶ For additional details, see FDA guidance
340 “[Deciding When to Submit a 510\(k\) for a Change to an Existing Device.](#)”

⁵ This applies to data from clinical investigations that began on or after February 21, 2019 and are submitted to support a premarket submission, including IDEs, premarket approval applications (PMAs), and 510(k)s.

⁶ Section 3308 of the Food and Drug Omnibus Reform Act of 2022 (FDORA), enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, added section 515C “Predetermined Change Control Plans for Devices” to the FD&C Act (Pub. L. No. 117-328). Section 515C provides FDA with express authority to approve or clear PCCPs for devices requiring premarket approval or premarket notification. For example, section 515C provides that supplemental applications (section 515C(a)) and new premarket notifications (section 515C(b)) are not required for a change to a device that would otherwise require a premarket approval supplement or new premarket notification if the change is consistent with a PCCP approved or cleared by FDA. Section 515C also provides that FDA may require that a PCCP include labeling for safe and effective use of a device as such device changes pursuant to such plan, notification requirements if the device does not function as intended pursuant to such plan, and performance requirements for changes made under the plan. If you are interested in proposing a PCCP in your marketing submission, we encourage you to submit a Pre-Submission to engage in further discussion with CDRH. See FDA’s guidance “[Requests for Feedback and Meetings for Medical Device Submissions: The Q-Submission Program.](#)”