

Root Cause Analysis for Drugs and Devices

Table of Contents

Introduction

Why Perform Root Cause Analysis? 3

The Economics of Root Cause Analysis..... 4

Regulatory Requirements..... 4

Root Cause Analysis as Part of an Overall Quality System 6

Initial Steps: Understanding the Problem 8

Systematic Fact-Finding 9

Writing a Good Problem Statement..... 10

Interrogating and Classifying the Problem 12

Opening a CAPA Record..... 13

Next Steps: In Search of Confirmed Facts and Possible Causes 15

Helpful Analytical Tools..... 16

Brainstorming Possible Causes 19

Listing Confirmed Facts..... 19

Final Steps: Finding the Root Cause and Implementing a Solution 20

Using a Contradiction Matrix..... 20

Testing Solutions..... 21

Final Root Cause Analysis Checklist..... 22

Appendices 23

A. *21 CFR Part 820 - Quality System Regulation*

B. *21 CFR Part 211 - Current Good Manufacturing Practices for Finished Pharmaceuticals*