

# Standard Operating Procedure REF

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## Background & Source Documentation:

### -- Root-Cause Analysis (RCA) Tools: “5 Whys” & Fishbone (Ishikawa) Diagram

Tool	Original Developer / First Publication	Key Reference Documents & Standards	Typical Use in cGMP / CAPA
5 Whys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sakichi Toyoda (founder of Toyota Industries)• Formalised inside Toyota Production System (TPS) by Taiichi Ohno, <i>Toyota Production System: Beyond Large-Scale Production</i> (English ed. 1988)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ohno, T. (1988). <i>Toyota Production System</i>. Productivity Press ISBN 0915299143• ISO 9001:2023 §10.2 Non-Conformity &amp; Corrective Action (note on “root-cause analysis techniques”)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fast, first-pass drill-down to a single root cause• Works well for “human-factor” or single-path problems</li></ul>
Fishbone (Ishikawa) Diagram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kaoru Ishikawa, quality-control professor, University of Tokyo (early 1960 s)• English exposure via Ishikawa, <i>Guide to Quality Control</i> (JUSE Press, 1976)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ishikawa, K. (1986). <i>Guide to Quality Control</i> (Quality Resources) ISBN 0873890293• ICH Q10 Annex I (2008): lists cause-and-effect diagrams and 5 Whys as acceptable RCA methods</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structured brainstorming to display multiple contributing factors under “6 M” (Man, Machine, Methods, Materials, Measurement, Mother Nature)</li></ul>

Tool	Original Developer / First Publication	Key Reference Documents & Standards	Typical Use in cGMP / CAPA
			or similar categories• Use ful when several interacting causes exist

### Why These Tools Are Accepted in cGMP / CCA CAPA Systems

#### 1. Regulatory Guidance

- **FDA** and **ICH Q10** both expect “systematic root-cause analysis” for deviations and CAPAs; they do **not** prescribe one method but cite 5 Whys and Ishikawa as recognized techniques.
- **21 CFR 211.192** (Finished Pharmaceuticals) requires review of “any unexplained discrepancy” and “documentation of the investigation,” which industry typically satisfies with an RCA worksheet.
- 2. **GAMP 5 & ISO 9001:2023** highlight 5 Whys/Fishbone as suitable problem-solving tools within quality-management frameworks.
- 3. **Virginia CCA** (like most state cannabis regulators) defers to FDA cGMP expectations and ISO-style QMS elements for deviation handling. Using these well-documented methods demonstrates “industry-standard” diligence.

Links to referenced documents:

Area / Standard	Primary Reference (official URL or document)	Citation for SOP
<b>FDA cGMP Regulations</b> (Finished Pharmaceuticals)	<i>21 CFR Part 211 – Current Good Manufacturing Practice</i> – eCFR website: ( <a href="#">eCFR</a> )	“21 CFR 211 – Current Good Manufacturing Practice for Finished Pharmaceuticals (eCFR, U.S. FDA).”
<b>FDA Quality-Systems Guidance</b>	<i>Quality Systems Approach to Pharmaceutical CGMP Regulations</i> (FDA Guidance,	“FDA Guidance: Quality Systems Approach to Pharmaceutical CGMP Regulations.”

Area / Standard	Primary Reference (official URL or document)	Citation for SOP
	Sept 2006): ( <a href="#">U.S. Food and Drug Administration</a> )	
<b>ICH Q10 Pharmaceutical Quality System</b>	ICH Q10 Guideline PDF: ( <a href="#">ICH Database</a> )	"ICH Q10 Pharmaceutical Quality System, Step 4 (2008)."
<b>21 CFR Parts 210 &amp; 211 Overview</b>	FDA cGMP portal (aggregated parts 210 / 211 / 212): ( <a href="#">U.S. Food and Drug Administration</a> )	"FDA CGMP Regulations Portal – Parts 210, 211, 212."
<b>ISO 9001 Quality Management</b>	ISO 9001:2015 Standard page: ( <a href="#">ISO</a> )	"ISO 9001:2015 — Quality Management Systems — Requirements."
<b>ISO Quality Principles</b>	ISO Quality Management Principles PDF: ( <a href="#">ISO</a> )	"ISO Quality Management Principles (ISO pub 100080)."
<b>GAMP 5 (Good Automated Manufacturing Practice)</b>	ISPE GAMP 5 Guide 2nd Ed summary page: ( <a href="#">ISPE</a> )	"ISPE GAMP 5 Guide, 2 nd Edition (2022)."
<b>GAMP Records &amp; Data Integrity</b>	ISPE GAMP Guide – Records & Data Integrity: ( <a href="#">ISPE</a> )	"ISPE GAMP Guide: Records & Data Integrity (2021)."
<b>Virginia CCA Regulations (Statutory Authority)</b>	VA Code — Cannabis Control Authority board powers: ( <a href="#">Virginia Law</a> )	"Virginia Cannabis Control Authority enabling statute (Va. Code)."
<b>Virginia CCA Official Website / Policy Docs</b>	Cannabis Control Authority homepage: ( <a href="#">Virginia Cannabis Control Authority</a> )	"Virginia Cannabis Control Authority, official resources."

Version	Date	Change Description	Approved By
		Aligned with updated Quality Manual QM-VA-001	[Name / Title]

and Master Batch  
Record SOP.