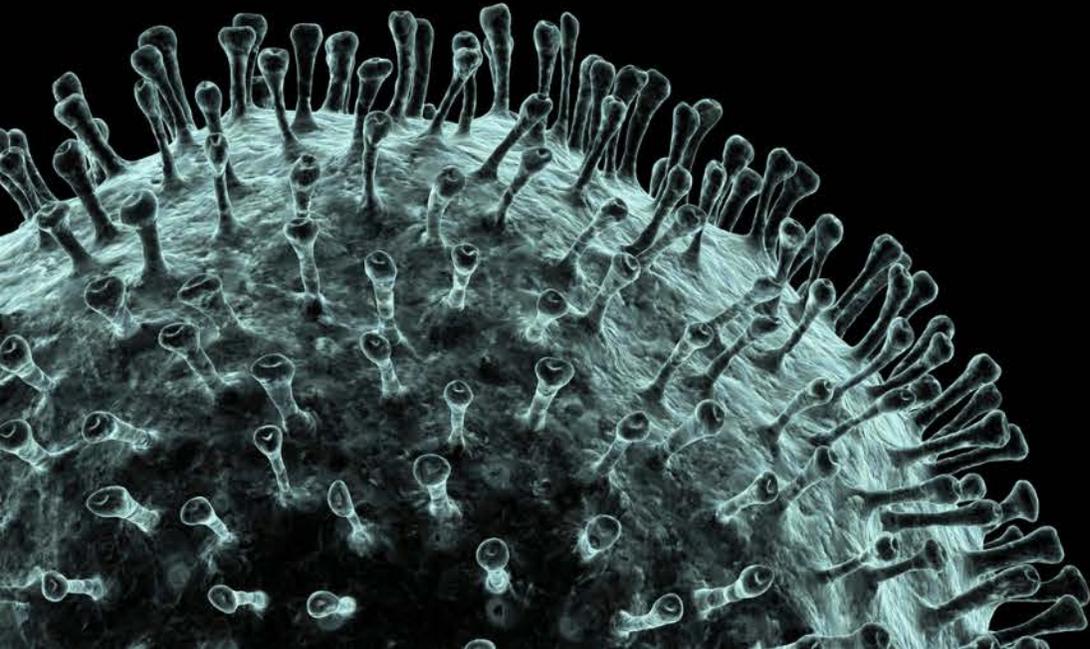


# COVID-19 Conversations



## Marion Gruber

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[COVID19Conversations.org](https://COVID19Conversations.org)

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# Authorization & Licensure of Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19

NAM-APHA Webinar on COVID-19 vaccines

November 18, 2020

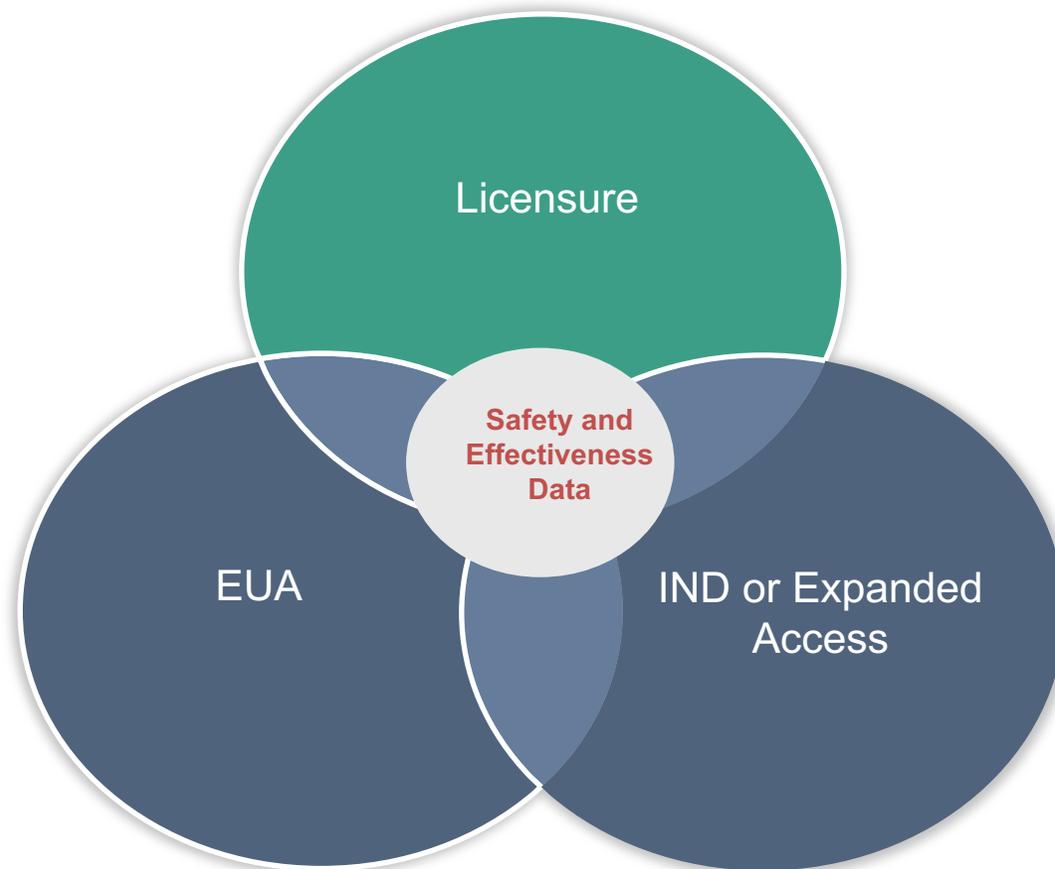
Marion F. Gruber, PhD, Director  
Office of Vaccines Research and Review, CBER, FDA

# COVID-19 Vaccine Development and FDA Regulatory Activities



- Development, authorization and licensure of vaccines against COVID-19 are critical to mitigate the current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and to prevent future disease outbreaks
- **FDA must ensure that vaccines that are approved or authorized under EUA are supported by adequate scientific and clinical data**
- FDA is facilitating COVID-19 vaccine development by
  - Providing expedited reviews of CMC information, preclinical and clinical protocols and clinical trials data
  - Providing timely advice and guidance to sponsors to expedite proceeding to Phase 3 clinical trials
  - Directing efforts at generating adequate data to support access to investigational COVID-19 vaccines

# US Regulatory Framework for making COVID-19 Vaccines available



# Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccines

- COVID-19 vaccines will be widely deployed and administered to millions of individuals, including healthy people
- Public expectation that COVID-19 vaccines will be safe and effective
  - low tolerance for vaccine-associated risks
- **COVID-19 vaccines that are licensed in the US or authorized under EUA must meet applicable legal requirements**
  - **FDA will apply the same standards to grant a biologics license for a COVID-19 vaccine as for other preventive vaccines**
- Vaccine development can be expedited; however, there needs to be sufficient time to accrue adequate manufacturing, safety and effectiveness data to support potential widespread use of these vaccines

# COVID-19 Vaccines: Development Strategy & Data Required to Support Licensure



- Manufacturing process to ensure product quality and consistency
- CMC and facility data: compliance with cGMPs requirements
- Nonclinical data
  - Non clinical safety & immunogenicity studies
  - Address the potential for vaccine-induced enhanced respiratory disease
- Clinical data adequate to support the proposed indication and use
  - Efficacy and safety
    - Clinical endpoint that assesses for direct evidence of protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection or disease
      - VE point estimate of  $\geq 50\%$  vs. placebo, with an appropriately alpha-adjusted confidence interval lower bound  $>30\%$
    - Characterization of the immune response
- Post-licensure pharmacovigilance plan

# Emergency Use Authorization

- An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) may be issued only after several statutory requirements are met (section 564 of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb-2))
- Issuance of an EUA requires a determination that the known and potential benefits of the **investigational** product outweigh its known and potential risks
- Use of an **investigational** COVID-19 vaccine under an EUA is not subject to informed consent requirements but vaccine recipients need to be provided a fact sheet that describes
  - the investigational nature of the product
  - the known and potential benefits and risks
  - available alternatives
  - option to refuse vaccination

## Emergency Use Authorization (cont.)

- An EUA for a COVID-19 vaccine may allow for rapid and widespread deployment for administration of the investigational vaccine to millions of individuals, including healthy people
- Issuance of an EUA for an investigational COVID-19 vaccine would require
  - Adequate manufacturing information to ensure the product's quality and consistency
  - A determination that the benefits outweigh its risks based on data from at least one well-designed Phase 3 clinical trial demonstrating safety and efficacy
- Any assessment regarding an EUA would be made on a case-by-case basis considering the proposed target population, the product characteristics, preclinical and human clinical data, and the totality of the available scientific evidence relevant to the product

## Data to Support COVID-19 Vaccine EUA

- EUA request for a COVID-19 vaccine may follow a case-driven interim analysis from one or more clinical trials
- To support a favorable benefit/risk determination, taking into account widespread deployment to millions of individuals, vaccine effectiveness should be supported by:
  - Clinical endpoint that assesses for direct evidence of protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection or disease
  - VE point estimate of  $\geq 50\%$  vs. placebo, with an appropriately alpha-adjusted confidence interval lower bound  $>30\%$
- In addition to passive safety follow-up an EUA request for a COVID-19 vaccine should include a plan for active safety follow-up of persons vaccinated under the EUA
  - Including but not necessarily limited to deaths, hospitalizations, and other serious or clinically significant AEs
  - To inform ongoing benefit/risk assessments for continuation of the EUA

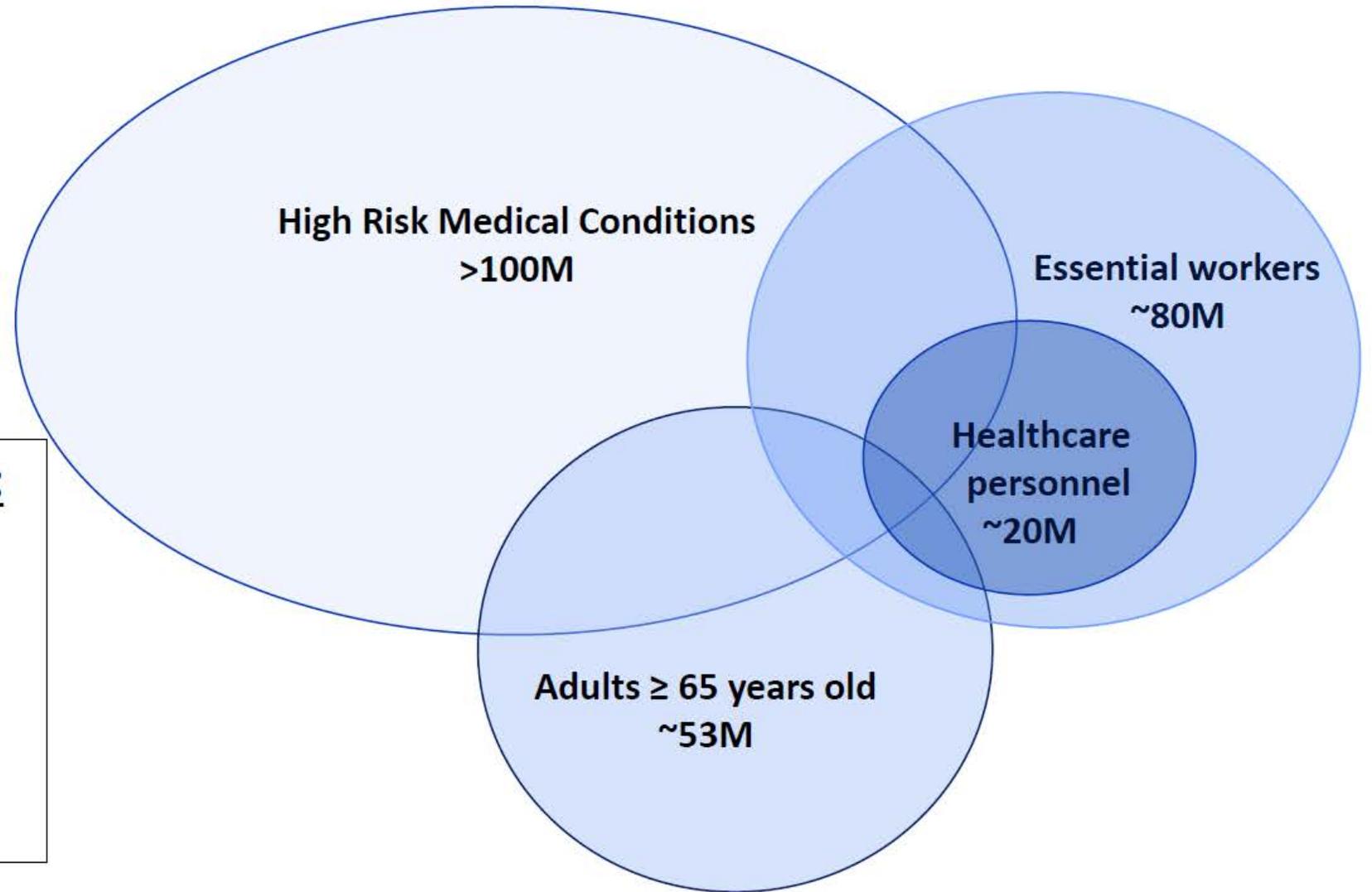
# FDA Guidance for Industry: COVID-19 Vaccines

Development & Licensure of Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19 (June 2020)

Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19 (October 2020)

- Reflects advice the FDA has been providing to vaccine developers
- Describes the agency's current recommendations regarding the data needed to support issuance of an EUA for vaccines to prevent COVID-19

# Possible groups for Phase 1 vaccination



## From prior ACIP Discussions:

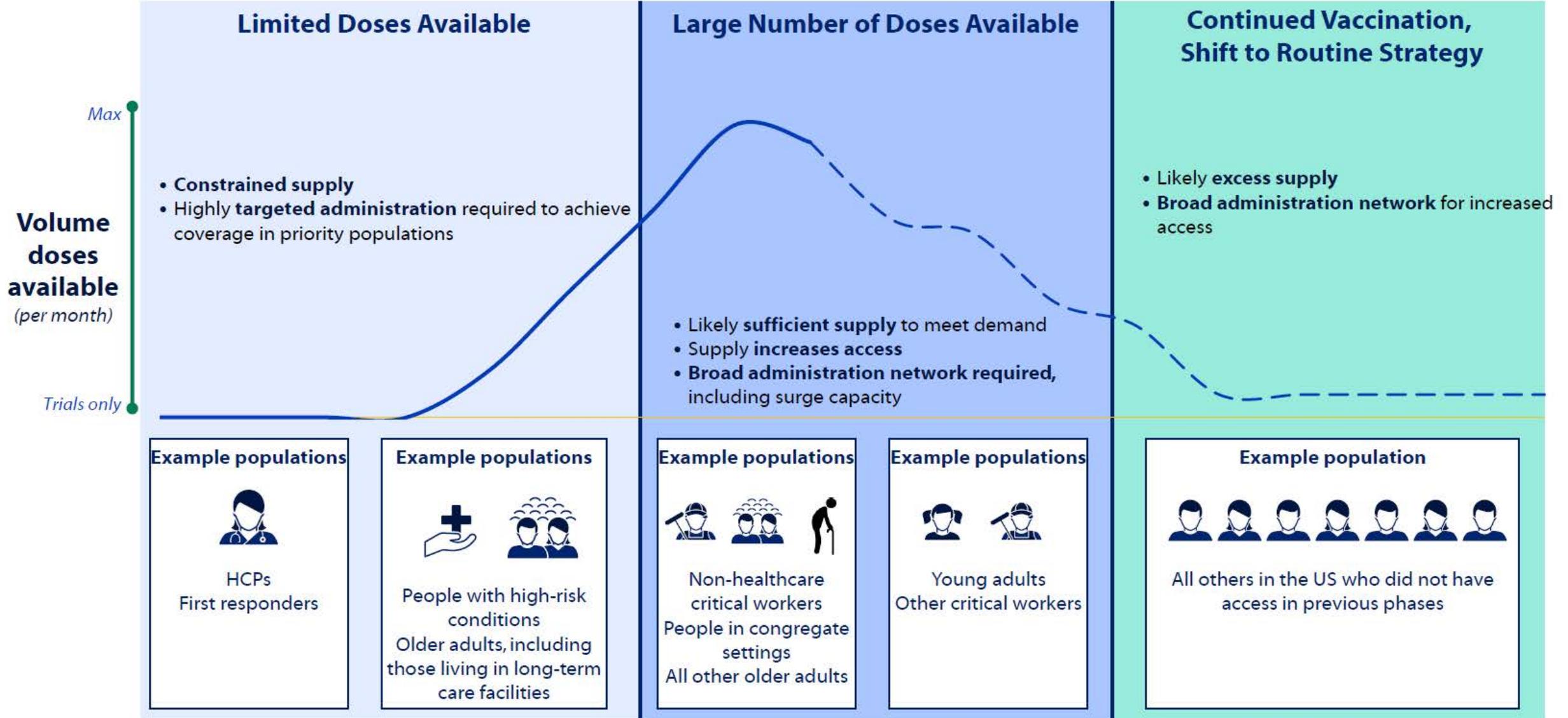
### Phase 1a:

-HCP

### Phase 1b:

- Essential Workers
- High Risk Med Conditions
- Adults ≥ 65 years old

# Distribution will adjust as volume of vaccine doses increases



# ACIP Pathway to Recommendation

