

Methodological guide

MEDICAL DEVICES CLASSIFICATION RULES

This methodological guide is only an aid for orientation in classification rules for medical devices. To determine the class of your medical device we recommend using Annex VIII of the MDR Regulation.

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NON-INVASIVE DEVICES

Rule 1

Non-invasive devices, for which rules 2, 3 and 4 do not apply

Class I

Rule 2

Non-invasive devices intended for channelling or storing blood, body liquids, cells or tissues, liquids or gases for the eventual infusion, administration or introduction into to body

Class I

If they may be connected to a class IIa, IIb or III active devices

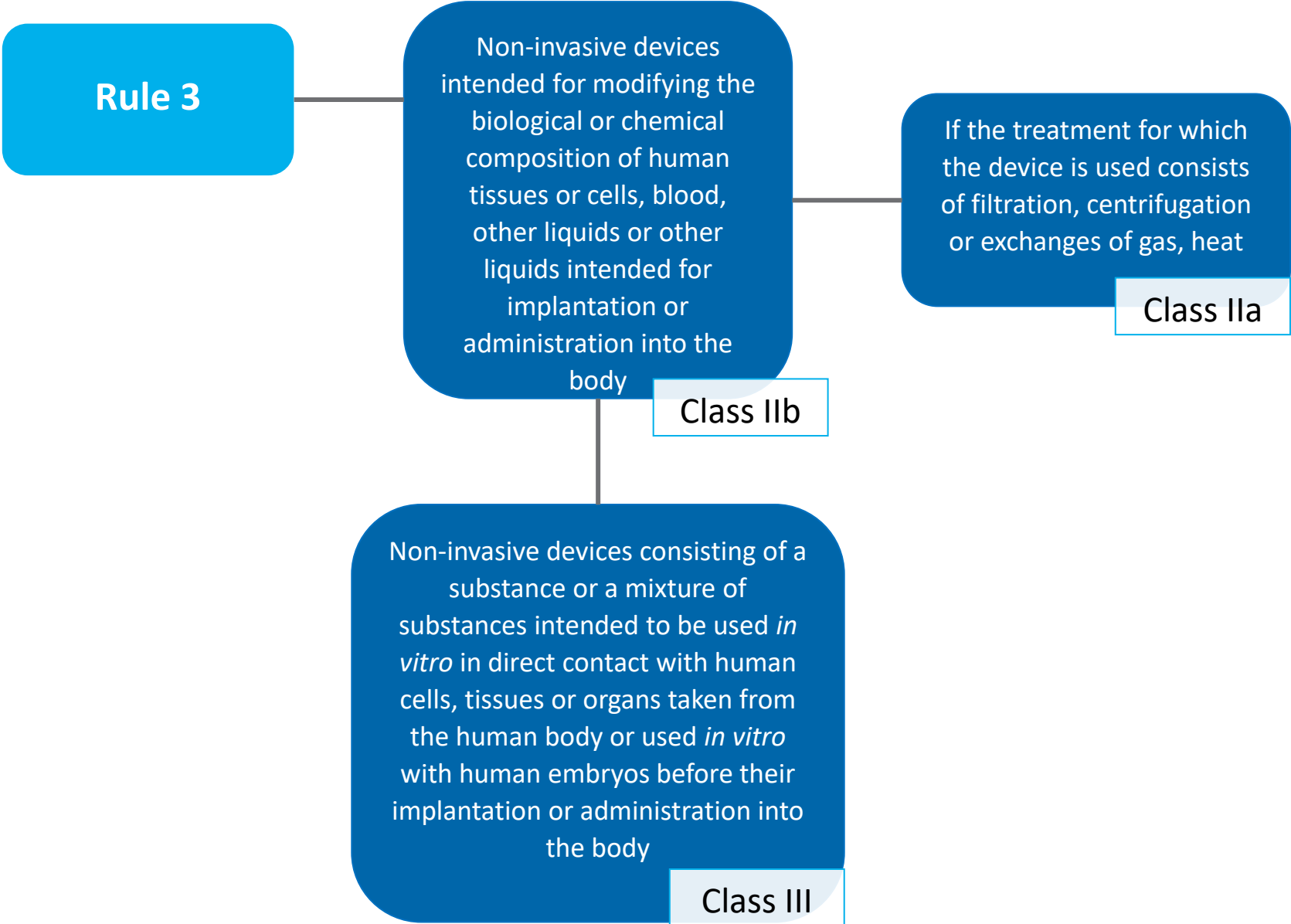
Class IIa

If they are intended for use for channelling or storing blood or other body liquids or for storing organs, parts of organs or body cells and tissues

Class IIa

Blood bags

Class IIb



Rule 4

Non-invasive devices which come into contact with injured skin or mucous membrane

Invasive devices which come into contact with injured mucous membrane

MDs intended to be used as a mechanical barrier, for compression or for absorption of exudates

Class I

MDs intended to be used principally for injuries to skin which have breached the dermis or mucous membrane and can only heal by secondary intent

Class IIb

MDs principally intended to manage the micro-environment of injured skin or mucous membrane

Class IIa

All other cases

Class IIa

INVASIVE DEVICES

Rule 5

Invasive devices with respect to body orifices, other than surgically invasive devices, which are not intended for connection to an active device or which are intended for connection to a class I active device

Invasive devices with respect to body orifices, other than surgically invasive devices, intended for connection to a class IIa, class IIb or class III active device **Class IIa**

MDs intended for transient use <60 min **Class I**

MDs intended for short-term use 60 min - 30 days **Class IIa**

MDs intended for long-term use >30 days **Class IIb**

Used in the oral cavity as far as the pharynx, in an ear canal up to the ear drum or in the nasal cavity **Class I**

Used in the oral cavity as far as the pharynx, in an ear canal up to the ear drum or in the nasal cavity and are not liable to be absorbed by the mucous membrane **Class IIa**

Rule 6

Surgically invasive devices intended for transient use
<60 min

Class IIa

MDs intended specifically to control, diagnose, monitor or correct a defect of the heart or of the central circulatory system through direct contact with those parts of the body

Class III

MDs intended to administer medicinal products by means of a delivery system, if such administration of a medicinal product is done in a manner that is potentially hazardous taking account of the mode of application

Class IIb

Reusable surgical instruments

Class I

MDs intended specifically for use in direct contact with the heart or central circulatory system or the central nervous system

Class III

MDs intended to supply energy in the form of ionising radiation

Class IIb

MDs which have a biological effect or are wholly or mainly absorbed

Class IIb

Rule 7

Surgically invasive devices intended for short-term use
60 min - 30 days

Class IIa

MDs specifically to control, diagnose, monitor or correct a defect of the heart or of the central circulatory system through direct contact with those parts of the body

Class III

MDs intended to administer medicines

Class IIb

MDs intended specifically for use in direct contact with the heart or central circulatory system or the central nervous system

Class III

MDs intended to supply energy in the form of ionizing radiation

Class IIb

MDs which have a biological effect or are wholly or mainly absorbed

Class III

MDs intended to undergo chemical change in the body, except if the devices are placed in the teeth

Class IIb

Rule 8

Implantable devices and long-term surgically invasive devices

>30 days

Class IIb

MDs intended to be placed in the teeth

Class IIa

MDs intended to be used in direct contact with the heart, the central circulatory system or the central nervous system

Class III

MDs which have a biological effect or are wholly or mainly absorbed

Class III

MDs intended to undergo chemical change in the body, except if the devices are placed in the teeth

Class III

MDs intended to administer medicinal products

Class III

Active implantable devices or their accessories

Class III

Breast implants or surgical meshes

Class III

Total or partial joint replacements

Class III

Spinal disc replacement implants or implantable devices that come into contact with the spinal column, with the exception of components such as screws, wedges, plates and instruments

Class III

ACTIVE DEVICES

Rule 9

Active therapeutic devices intended to administer or exchange energy

Class IIa

MD's characteristics are such that they may administer energy to or exchange energy with the human body in a potentially hazardous way, taking account of the nature, the density and site of application of the energy

Class IIb

Active devices intended to control or monitor the performance of active therapeutic class IIb devices, or intended directly to influence the performance of such devices

Class IIb

Active devices intended to emit ionizing radiation for therapeutic purposes, including devices which control or monitor such devices, or which directly influence their performance

Class IIb

Active devices that are intended for controlling, monitoring or directly influencing the performance of active implantable devices

Class III

Rule 10

Active devices
intended for diagnosis
and monitoring

Active devices intended to emit ionising radiation and intended for diagnostic or therapeutic radiology, including interventional radiology devices and devices that control or monitor such devices or directly affect their effectiveness

Class IIb

MDs intended to supply energy which will be absorbed by the human body

Class IIa

MDs intended to image *in vivo* distribution of radiopharmaceuticals

Class IIa

MDs intended to allow direct diagnosis or monitoring of vital physiological processes

Class IIa

MDs specifically intended for monitoring of vital physiological parameters and the nature of variations of those parameters is such that it could result in immediate danger to the patient

Class IIb

MDs intended to illuminate the patient's body, in the visible spectrum

Class I

Rule 11

SW intended to provide information which is used to take decisions with diagnosis or therapeutic purposes

Class IIa

SW intended to monitor physiological processes

Class IIa

All other SW

Class I

Such decisions may cause death or an irreversible deterioration of a person's state of health

Class III

Such decisions may cause a serious deterioration of a person's state of health or a surgical intervention

Class IIb

SW intended for monitoring of vital physiological parameters, where the nature of variations of those parameters is such that it could result in immediate danger to the patient

Class IIb

Rule 12

Active devices intended to administer and/or remove medicinal products, body liquids or other substances to or from the body

Class IIa

Active devices intended to administer and/or remove medicinal products, body liquids or other substances to or from the body, in a manner that is potentially hazardous, taking account of the nature of the substances involved, of the part of the body concerned and of the mode of application

Třída IIb

Rule 13

All other active devices

Class I

SPECIAL RULES

Rule 14

MDs incorporating, as an integral part, a substance which, if used separately, can be considered to be a medicinal product, as defined in point 2 of Article 1 of Directive 2001/83/EC, including a medicinal product derived from human blood or human plasma, as defined in point 10 of Article 1 of that Directive, and that has an action ancillary to that of the devices

Class III

Rule 15

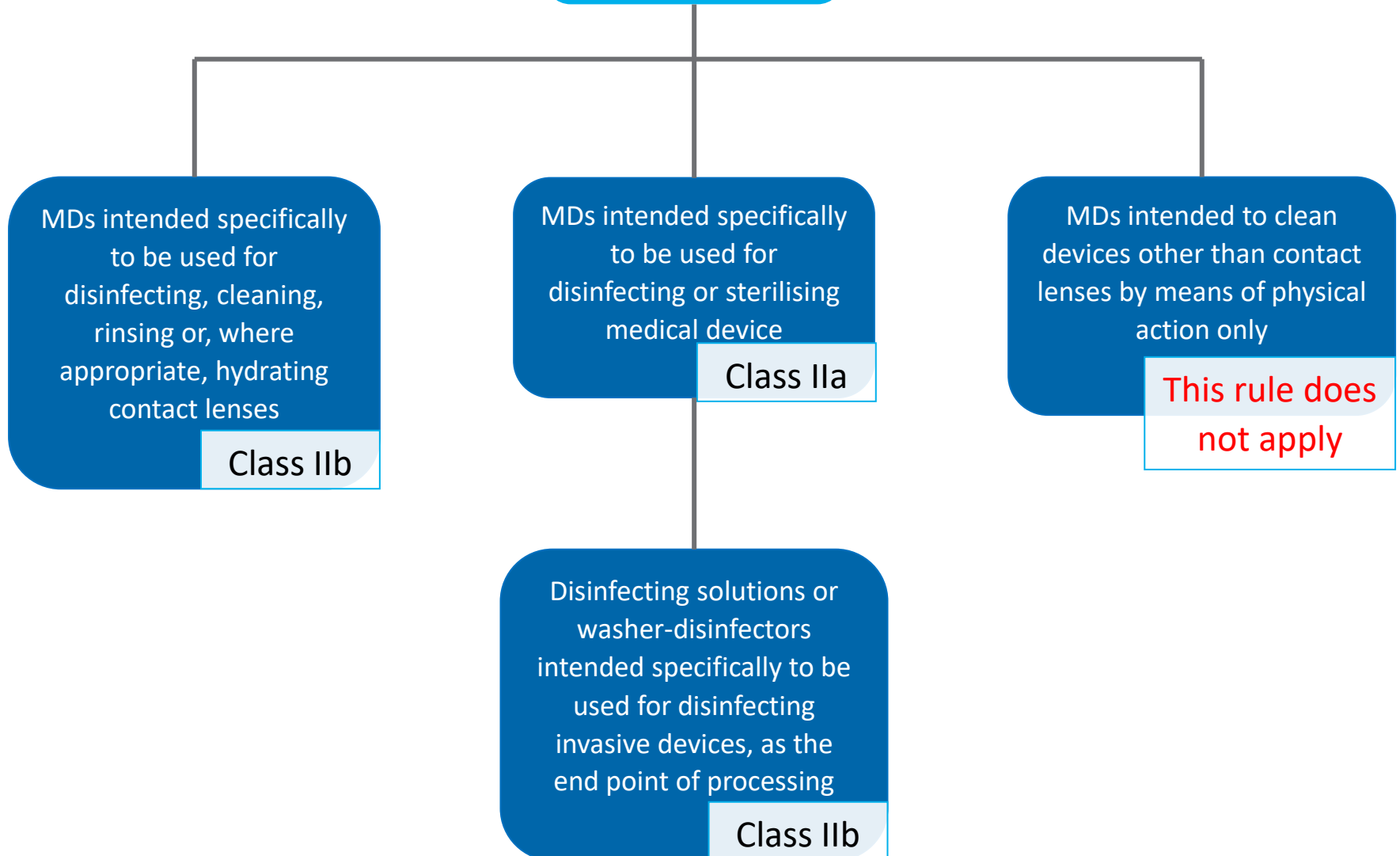
MDs used for contraception or prevention of the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases

Class IIb

Implantable or long term invasive devices

Class III

Rule 16



Rule 17

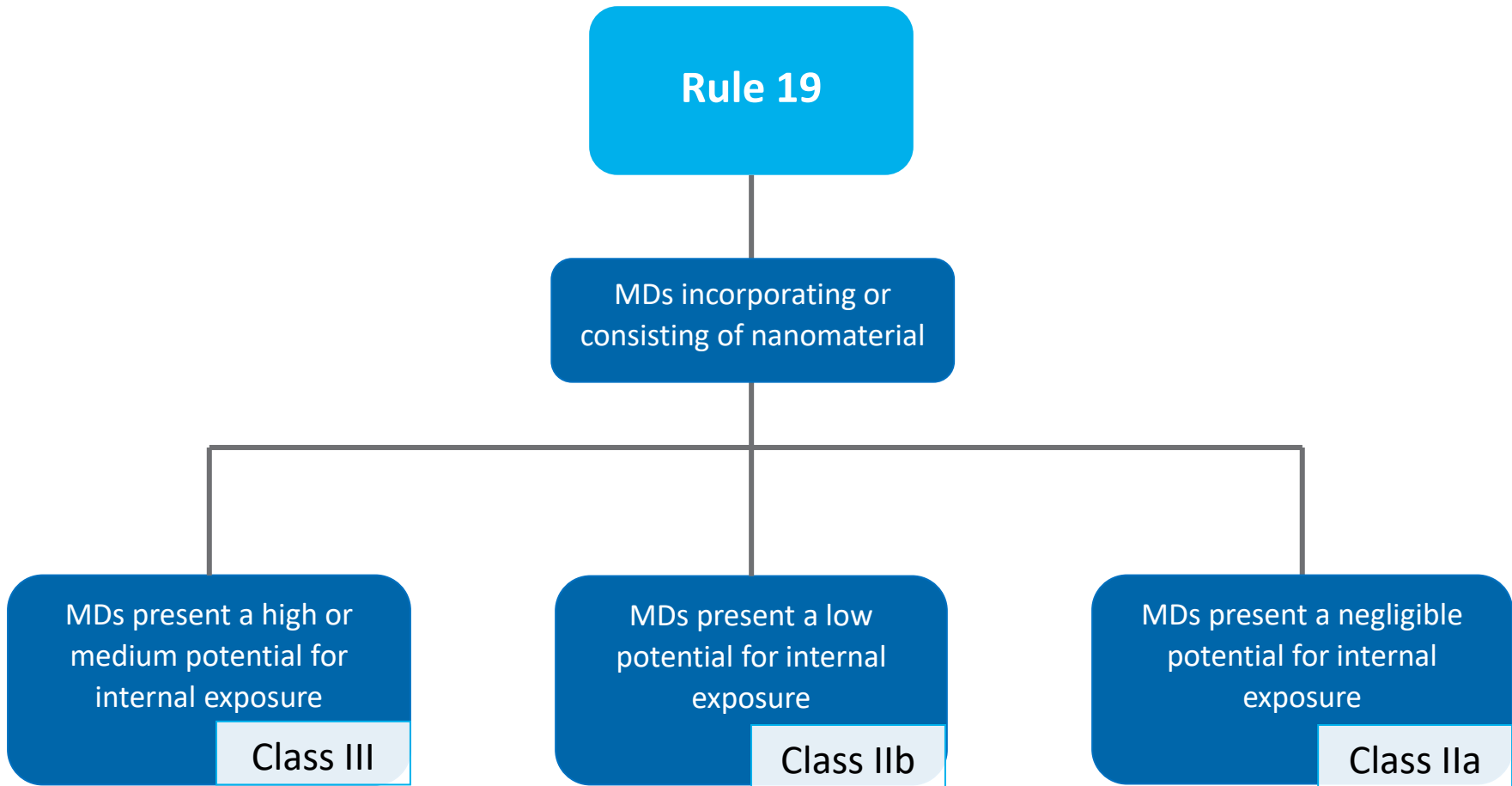
MDs specifically intended for recording of diagnostic images generated by X-ray radiation

Class IIa

Rule 18

MDs manufactured utilising tissues or cells of animal origin, or their derivatives, which are non-viable or rendered non-viable and are not intended to come into contact with intact skin only, or manufactured utilising tissues or cells of human origin, or their derivatives, which are non-viable or rendered non-viable

Class III



Rule 20

Invasive devices with respect to body orifices, other than surgically invasive devices, which are intended to administer medicinal products by inhalation

Class IIa

Mode of action has an essential impact on the efficacy and safety of the administered medicinal product or they are intended to treat life-threatening conditions

Class IIb

Rule 21

Devices that are composed of substances or of combinations of substances that are intended to be introduced into the human body via a body orifice or applied to the skin and that are absorbed by or locally dispersed in the human body

MDs or their products of metabolism, are systemically absorbed by the human body in order to achieve the intended purpose

Class III

MDs achieve their intended purpose in the stomach or lower gastrointestinal tract and they, or their products of metabolism, are systemically absorbed by the human body

Class III

MDs are applied to the skin or if they are applied in the nasal or oral cavity as far as the pharynx, and achieve their intended purpose on those cavities

Class IIa

All other cases

Class IIb

Rule 22

Active therapeutic devices with an integrated or incorporated diagnostic function which significantly determines the patient management by the device, such as closed loop systems or automated external defibrillators

Class III