

Supplementary Document – Process Parameters

Detailed parametric process definitions and specificities, relative to the standardized and optimized GMP manufacturing processes of HAC-based therapeutic products for ACL, are presented in this supplementary document “Process Parameters”. Therein, each presented table (i.e., Tables SPP1–SPP4) respectively corresponds to a manuscript main figure (Figures 7–10). ACL, autologous chondrocyte implantation; GMP, good manufacturing practices; HAC, human articular chondrocytes.

Table SPP1. Detailed definition of KPPs and CPPs within the standardized parametric and controlled GMP process “Standardized Process: Biopsy ► Preliminary Cell Pool” presented in Figure 7. For each parameter item, the predefined targets and the IPCs or PPCs to be appropriately implemented are listed, along with the corresponding methods and acceptance criteria. CPP, critical process parameter; GMP, good manufacturing practices; h, hours; IPC, in-process control; KPP, key process parameter; min, minutes; Ph. Eur., European pharmacopoeia; PPC, post-process control; QA, quality assurance; RH, relative humidity.

CPP KPP	Parameter Definition	Process Targets (Cumulative)	Control Methods	IPCs PPCs	Acceptance Criteria (Cumulative)
CPP1	Biological material identity	Processing of the correct biological material, for the correct patient	Surgeon, operator & QA assessment	IPC: Batch file, prescription & transport tube label reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence between production order form, batch file, and material labels
CPP2	Biological material macroscopic qualification	Biological material macroscopically qualified for in vitro enzymatic digestion, cell culture initiation & monolayer cell expansion	Surgeon & operator assessment	IPC: Biopsy dimensions & biopsy aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biopsy size > 3 mm × 10 mm • Correct tissue isolated • Adequate purity of isolated tissue
CPP3	Sterility of procured biological materials / Processing	No contaminating pathogens in procured biological starting materials & in biopsy processing environment	Bactec™ (transport medium & monitoring plates), Endosafe® (transport medium)	PPC: Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP4	Sterility of the two-step enzymatic cell dissociation process from the biopsy	No contaminating pathogens in the biopsy dissociation incubation vessel & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (digestion solution & monitoring plates)	PPC: Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP5	Sterility of preliminary cell population / Processing	No contaminating pathogens in the isolated preliminary cell population & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (cell suspension & monitoring plates)	PPC: Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP6	Cellular viability of the preliminary cell population	Cellular viability ≥ 75% upon enumeration after preliminary cell population enzymatic isolation	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	IPC: Total & relative viable cell enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cellular viability ≥ 75% upon enumeration after preliminary cell population isolation

KPP1	Size of the minced tissue fragments after dissection	Processed biological material of an appropriate size for in vitro enzymatic digestion & cell culture initiation	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Macroscopic assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual biopsy fragment size < 1 mm³
KPP2	Humidification of the processed biological materials	Maintenance of the processed biological materials in a humidified/liquid environment	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Macroscopic assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No processing of the biopsy tissue & of tissue fragments in a dry state for > 3 min
KPP3	Complete biopsy tissue fragment enzymatic digestion	Complete biopsy tissue fragment digestion after the two-step enzymatic treatment with overnight incubation	Operator assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Macroscopic & microscopic assessment of digestion vessel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No remanence of observable tissue fragments in the digestion vessel upon macroscopic & microscopic inspection
KPP4	Total enzymatic reaction / Incubation time-period	Total incubation time-period of the enzymatic digestion vessel, sufficient for complete tissue digestion but as short as possible	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Operator monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total incubation time-period of the enzymatic digestion vessel of > 12 h and < 24 h
KPP5	Incubation parameter stability for the enzymatic tissue digestion reaction	Maintenance of adequate incubation conditions throughout the enzymatic reaction	Incubator monitoring system records, operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Incubator monitoring & display systems <u>PPC</u> : Incubator monitoring system data logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative limits ² of 37 °C ± 2 °C, 10% ± 1% CO₂, 85% ± 5% RH in the incubator • Absolute limits ³ of 34 °C ± 4 °C, 0% – 10% CO₂, 0% – 95% RH in the incubator
KPP6	Total cell quantity in the preliminary cell population	Maximization of the cell quantity in the preliminary cell population	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with <u>CPP6</u>): Total cell enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cell quantity > 1.5 × 10⁵ cells in the isolated preliminary cell population

¹ Ph. Eur. method 2.7.29 "Nucleated cell count and viability". ² Relative limits refer to the successive incubation phases between the cell culture initiation, the culture medium exchanges, and the cell harvest procedures (i.e., intermittent incubation time-periods characterized by closed incubator doors). ³ Absolute limits refer to the overall cell culture maintenance timeframe, from the initial culture incubation up to the cell harvest procedure (i.e., total and continuous incubation time-period considering incubator door opening for cell culture handling).

Table SPP2. Detailed definition of KPPs and CPPs within the standardized parametric and controlled GMP process “Standardized Process: Preliminary Cell Pool ► MCB” presented in Figure 8. For each parameter item, the predefined targets and the IPCs or PPCs to be appropriately implemented are listed, along with the corresponding methods and acceptance criteria. CPP, critical process parameter; GMP, good manufacturing practices; h, hours; IPC, in-process control; KPP, key process parameter; MCB, master cell bank; min, minutes; NAT, nucleic acid amplification technique; Ph. Eur., European pharmacopoeia; PPC, post-process control; QA, quality assurance; QC, quality control; RH, relative humidity.

CPP KPP	Parameter Definition	Process Targets (Cumulative)	Control Methods	IPCs PPCs	Acceptance Criteria (Cumulative)
CPP1	Biological material identity	Processing of the correct biological materials	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Batch file & culture vessel label reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence between the batch file and the culture vessel labels
CPP2	Cell adherence for in vitro monolayer culture	Adherence of $\geq 70\%$ of the seeded cells after 24 h of incubation following cell seeding	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy	<u>IPC</u> : Microscopic monitoring of monolayer cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence of $\geq 70\%$ of the seeded cells after 24 h of incubation following cell seeding
CPP3	Cell proliferation during in vitro monolayer culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of positive cell confluency level evolution between medium exchanges Confirmation of proliferative cellular behaviour in culture 	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> : Microscopic monitoring at medium exchange, photographic recording of cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of proliferative cellular morphology & behaviour in culture (Confluency value at medium exchange X) \geq (Confluency value at medium exchange X-1)
CPP4	Identity/purity of the cultured cell population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific cellular morphology & behaviour maintenance in monolayer culture Absence of multiple cell populations in monolayer culture 	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording, NAT	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP3</i>): Microscopic monitoring during monolayer expansion, photographic recording of cultures <u>PPC</u> : Functional/Identity QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spindle-shaped cells; distinctive fibroblastic cellular phenotype in culture Absence of multiple observable cell populations in culture Chondrogenic gene expression levels induced in functional QC Gene expression ratios within historical data brackets for identity QC
CPP5	Sterility of in vitro cell culture conditions / Processing	No contaminating pathogens in the cultured biological materials & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (culture medium & monitoring plates)	<u>PPC</u> : Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP6	Cell viability after endpoint enzymatic harvest	Cellular viability $\geq 85\%$ upon endpoint enzymatic harvest	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> : Total & viable cell enumeration after enzymatic harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cellular viability $\geq 85\%$ upon endpoint enzymatic harvest

CPP7	Sterility of the conditioned MCB cell lot	No contaminating pathogens in the conditioned MCB cell lot & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (culture medium & monitoring plates), Endosafe® (cell rinsing solution)	<u>PPC</u> : Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP8	Cryopreserved material stability in storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No deterioration of material primary conditioning system (cryotubes) • Non-critical loss of biological material viability & functionality 	Operator assessment, Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹ , chondrogenic gene expression assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Material inspection, qualitative & functional QCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No deterioration of cryotube integrity • Cell viability ≥ 70% upon thawing • Chondrogenic activity within historical data brackets
CPP9	Cryogenic storage system stability	No structural ruptures of storage system, catastrophic drop in liquid nitrogen level, or catastrophic rise in system temperature	Operator assessment & alarm systems	<u>IPC</u> : Storage tank temperature & level monitoring & displays <u>PPC</u> : Storage tank data logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of storage system structural integrity • Storage tank temperature constantly ≤ −145 °C • Liquid nitrogen level constantly above the lower critical level
CPP10	Documentary & material traceability	Availability of all relevant authenticated documents & records for cell type master file, biobank inventory, and manufacturing batch files at the time of reconciliation	Operator & QA assessment	<u>IPC/PPC</u> : Follow-up of manufacturing data in cell type file & in biobank inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of all relevant authenticated documents & records for cell type master file, biobank inventory, and manufacturing batch files at the time of reconciliation
KPP1	Overall cell culture manipulation time	Minimization of the time-period during which the cells are not in adherent state	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Total time the cells are processed in non-adherent state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total time the cells are processed in non-adherent state of < 75 min
KPP2	Cell culture homogeneity in monolayer culture	Homogenous growth of the cell monolayer over the available culture surfaces	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with CPP3): Microscopic monitoring & photographic recording during the expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of unpopulated cell culture surface of ≥ 15% of the total available cell culture surface in each culture vessel
KPP3	Cell metabolism during the monolayer expansion	Maintenance of bright red to dark red colouring of the cell culture medium containing a phenol red pH indicator	Operator macroscopic assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Macroscopic monitoring of cell culture medium aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of orange or purple colouring of the cell culture medium and of signs of severe cell starvation

KPP4	Incubation parameter stability for cell expansion	Maintenance of adequate incubation conditions throughout the culture expansions	Monitoring system records, operator assessment	<p><u>IPC</u>: Incubator monitoring & display systems</p> <p><u>PPC</u>: Incubator monitoring system data logs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative limits ² of 37 °C ± 2 °C, 10% ± 1% CO₂, 85% ± 5% RH in the incubator • Absolute limits ³ of 34 °C ± 4 °C, 0% – 10% CO₂, 0% – 95% RH in the incubator
KPP5	Total culture time-period for monolayer cell expansion	Consistent preliminary cell culture times, within historical data brackets	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Monitoring during in vitro cell expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest of the expanded preliminary cell population at 11 ± 3 days of culture • Harvest of the expanded cell seed at 5 ± 3 days of culture
KPP6	Cell confluency level at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Maximized cell confluency level at the endpoint harvest	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with CPP3): Microscopic monitoring of cultures, photographic recording of cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell confluency level at the time of harvest > 60% in each cell culture vessel
KPP7	Cell quantity at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Maximization of the manufacturing cell yield	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with CPP6): Total cell enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell quantity at harvest > 2.5 × 10⁶ cells for the expanded preliminary cell population • Cell quantity at harvest > 25 × 10⁶ cells for the expanded cell seed population
KPP8	Cell quantity available for conditioning of the MCB lot	Maximization of the MCB lot size	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with CPP6): Total cell enumeration & reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell quantity at harvest > 25 × 10⁶ cells for conditioning of the MCB lot
KPP9	Rate of conditioned MCB lot primary freezing	Rate of cooling of –1 °C/min from ambient temperature to –80 °C during the primary freezing phase	Operator assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Freezer temperature logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of cooling of –1 °C/min from ambient temperature to –80 °C
KPP10	Time to transfer of the MCB lot to liquid nitrogen storage	Transfer to liquid nitrogen storage after sufficient primary freezing period but < 24 h after primary freezing initiation	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Operator monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to liquid nitrogen storage > 4 h after primary freezing initiation but < 24 h after primary freezing initiation

KPP11	Overall batch manipulation time	Minimization of the time-period between confluent cell population harvest & conditioned MCB cell lot cryogenic storage	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Total time the cells are processed before cryogenic storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to liquid nitrogen storage < 36 h after cell population harvest initiation
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¹ Ph. Eur. method 2.7.29 "Nucleated cell count and viability". ² Relative limits refer to the successive incubation phases between the cell culture initiation, the culture medium exchanges, and the cell harvest procedures (i.e., intermittent incubation time-periods characterized by closed incubator doors). ³ Absolute limits refer to the overall cell culture maintenance timeframe, from the initial culture incubation up to the cell harvest procedure (i.e., total and continuous incubation time-period considering incubator door opening for cell culture handling).

Table SPP3. Detailed definition of KPPs and CPPs within the optimized parametric and controlled GMP process “Optimized Cell Banking Process: MCB ► WCB” presented in Figure 9. For each parameter item, the predefined targets and the IPCs or PPCs to be appropriately implemented are listed, along with the corresponding methods and acceptance criteria. CPP, critical process parameter; GMP, good manufacturing practices; h, hours; IPC, in-process control; KPP, key process parameter; MCB, master cell bank; min, minutes; NAT, nucleic acid amplification technique; Ph. Eur., European pharmacopoeia; PPC, post-process control; QA, quality assurance; QC, quality control; RH, relative humidity; WCB, working cell bank.

CPP KPP	Parameter Definition	Process Targets (Cumulative)	Control Methods	IPCs PPCs	Acceptance Criteria (Cumulative)
CPP1	Biological material identity	Processing of the correct biological material	Operator assessment	IPC: Batch file & culture vessel label reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence between the batch file and the culture vessel labels
CPP2	Cell adherence for in vitro monolayer culture	Adherence of $\geq 70\%$ of seeded cells after 24 h of incubation following cell seeding	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy	IPC: Microscopic monitoring of monolayer cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence of $\geq 70\%$ of seeded cells after 24 h of incubation following cell seeding
CPP3	Cell proliferation during in vitro monolayer culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of positive cell confluency level evolution between medium exchanges Confirmation of proliferative cellular behaviour in culture 	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	IPC: Microscopic monitoring at medium exchange, photographic recording of cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of proliferative cellular behaviour in culture (Confluency value at medium exchange X) \geq (Confluency value at medium exchange X-1)
CPP4	Identity/purity of the cultured cell population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific cellular morphology & behaviour maintenance in monolayer culture Absence of multiple cell populations in monolayer culture 	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording, NAT	IPC (redundant with CPP3): Microscopic monitoring during monolayer expansion, photographic recording of cultures PPC: Functional/Identity QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spindle-shaped cells; distinctive fibroblastic cellular phenotype in culture Absence of multiple observable cell populations in culture Chondrogenic gene expression levels induced in functional QC Gene expression ratios within historical data brackets for identity QC
CPP5	Sterility of in vitro cell culture conditions / Processing	No contaminating pathogens in the cultured biological materials & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (culture medium & monitoring plates)	PPC: Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP6	Cell viability after endpoint enzymatic harvest	Cellular viability $\geq 85\%$ upon endpoint enzymatic harvest	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	IPC: Total & viable cell enumeration after enzymatic harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cellular viability $\geq 85\%$ upon enzymatic harvest

CPP7	Cell type quality/safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell type of sufficient quality for pharmaceutical use • Non-tumorigenic cell type 	Operator assessment, soft agar colony formation assays	<u>PPC</u> : Assessment of tumorigenic potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of detected tumorigenic potential of the primary cell type
CPP8	Cell type in vitro stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient stability for serial in vitro cell culture expansion of the primary cell type of interest • No significant genetic instability of the cultured materials 	Operator assessment, cell karyotyping	<u>IPC</u> : Cell type lifespan & cell karyotyping analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In vitro lifespan of the primary cell type ≥ 4 passages • No significant genetic instability reported
CPP9	Sterility of the conditioned WCB cell lot	No contaminating pathogens in the conditioned WCB cell lot & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (culture medium & monitoring plates), Endosafe® (cell rinsing solution)	<u>PPC</u> : Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP10	Cryopreserved material stability in storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No deterioration of material primary conditioning system (cryotubes) • Non-critical loss of biological material viability and functionality 	Operator assessment, Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹ , chondrogenic gene expression assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Material inspection, qualitative & functional QCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No deterioration of cryotube integrity • Cell viability $\geq 70\%$ upon thawing • Chondrogenic activity within historical data brackets
CPP11	Cryogenic storage system stability	No structural ruptures of storage system, catastrophic drop in liquid nitrogen level, or catastrophic rise in system temperature	Operator assessment & alarm systems	<u>IPC</u> : Storage tank temperature & level monitoring & displays <u>PPC</u> : Storage tank data logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of storage system structural integrity • Storage tank temperature constantly ≤ -145 °C • Nitrogen level constantly above the lower critical level
CPP12	Documentary & material traceability	Availability of all relevant authenticated documents & records for cell type master file, biobank inventory, and manufacturing batch files at the time of reconciliation	Operator & QA assessment	<u>IPC/PPC</u> : Follow-up of manufacturing data in cell type file & in biobank inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of all relevant authenticated documents & records for cell type master file, biobank inventory, and manufacturing batch files at the time of reconciliation
KPP1	Rate of vial thawing for initiation from storage	Rapid thawing of frozen vials	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Operator monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete thawing of the vials < 10 min after removal from liquid nitrogen storage and < 5 min after incubation at 37 °C

KPP2	Overall cell culture manipulation time	Minimization of the time-period during which the cells are not in adherent state	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Total time the cells are processed in non-adherent state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total time the cells are processed in non-adherent state of < 75 min
KPP3	Cell culture homogeneity in monolayer culture	Homogenous growth of the cell monolayer over the available cell culture surfaces	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP3</i>): Microscopic monitoring & recording during expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of unpopulated cell culture surface of $\geq 15\%$ of the total available cell culture surface in each culture vessel
KPP4	Cell metabolism during monolayer expansion	Maintenance of bright red to dark red colouring of the cell culture medium containing a phenol red indicator	Operator macroscopic assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Macroscopic monitoring of cell culture medium aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of orange or purple colouring of the cell culture medium or signs of severe cell starvation
KPP5	Incubation parameter stability for cell expansion	Maintenance of adequate incubation conditions throughout the cell culture expansions	Monitoring system records, operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Incubator monitoring & display systems <u>PPC</u> : Incubator monitoring system data logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative limits ² of $37\text{ °C} \pm 2\text{ °C}$, $10\% \pm 1\%$ CO₂, $85\% \pm 5\%$ RH in the incubator • Absolute limits ³ of $34\text{ °C} \pm 4\text{ °C}$, $0\% - 10\%$ CO₂, $0\% - 95\%$ RH in the incubator
KPP6	Total culture time-period for monolayer cell expansion	Consistent preliminary culture times, within historical data brackets	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Monitoring during in vitro cell expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest of expanded cell population at 5 ± 3 days of culture
KPP7	Cell confluency level at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Maximized cell confluency level at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP3</i>): Microscopic monitoring of cultures, photographic recording of cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell confluency level at the time of endpoint enzymatic harvest > 60% in each culture vessel
KPP8	Cell quantity at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Maximization of manufacturing cell yield	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP6</i>): Total cell enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell quantity at harvest > 15×10^6 cells for the expanded cell population

KPP9	Cell quantity available for conditioning of the WCB lot	Maximization of the WCB lot size	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with <u>CPP6</u>): Total cell enumeration & reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell quantity at harvest > 15 × 10⁶ cells for conditioning of the WCB lot
KPP10	Rate of conditioned WCB lot primary freezing	Rate of cooling of −1 °C/min from ambient temperature to −80 °C during the primary freezing phase	Operator assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Freezer temperature logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of cooling of −1 °C/min from ambient temperature to −80 °C
KPP11	Time to transfer of the WCB lot to liquid nitrogen storage	Transfer to liquid nitrogen storage after sufficient primary freezing period but < 24 h after primary freezing initiation	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Operator monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to liquid nitrogen storage > 4 h after primary freezing initiation but < 24 h after primary freezing initiation
KPP12	Overall cell batch manipulation time	Minimization of the time-period between confluent cell population harvest & conditioned WCB cell lot cryogenic storage	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Total time the cells are processed before cryogenic storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer to liquid nitrogen storage < 36 h after cell population harvest initiation

¹ Ph. Eur. method 2.7.29 "Nucleated cell count and viability". ² Relative limits refer to the successive incubation phases between the cell culture initiation, the culture medium exchanges, and the cell harvest procedures (i.e., intermittent incubation time-periods characterized by closed incubator doors). ³ Absolute limits refer to the overall cell culture maintenance timeframe, from the initial culture incubation up to the cell harvest procedure (i.e., total and continuous incubation time-period considering incubator door opening for cell culture handling).

Table SPP4. Detailed definition of KPPs and CPPs within the standardized parametric and controlled GMP process “Standardized Process: MCB/WCB ► Finished Product” presented in Figure 10. For each process item, the predefined targets and the IPCs or PPCs to be appropriately implemented are listed, along with the corresponding methods and acceptance criteria. CPP, critical process parameter; GMP, good manufacturing practices; h, hours; IPC, in-process control; KPP, key process parameter; MCB, master cell bank; NAT, nucleic acid amplification technique; Ph. Eur., European pharmacopoeia; PPC, post-process control; QA, quality assurance; QC, quality control; RH, relative humidity; WCB, working cell bank.

CPP KPP	Parameter Definition	Process Targets (Cumulative)	Control Methods	IPCs PPCs	Acceptance Criteria (Cumulative)
CPP1	Biological material identity	Processing of the correct biological material	Operator & QA assessment	IPC: Batch file & label reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence between the batch file and the material labels
CPP2	Cell adherence for in vitro monolayer culture	Adherence of $\geq 70\%$ of the seeded cells after 24 h of incubation following cell seeding	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy	IPC: Microscopic monitoring of monolayer cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adherence of $\geq 70\%$ of seeded cells after 24 h of incubation following cell seeding
CPP3	Cell proliferation during in vitro monolayer culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of positive confluency evolution between medium exchanges Confirmation of proliferative cellular behaviour in culture 	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	IPC: Microscopic monitoring at medium exchange, photographic recording of cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of proliferative cellular behaviour in culture (Confluency value at medium exchange X) \geq (Confluency value at medium exchange X-1)
CPP4	Identity/purity of the cultured cell population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific cellular morphology & behaviour maintenance in monolayer culture Absence of multiple cell populations in monolayer culture 	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording, NAT	IPC (redundant with CPP3): Microscopic monitoring during monolayer expansion, photographic recording of cultures PPC: Functional/Identity QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spindle-shaped cells; distinctive fibroblastic cellular phenotype in culture Absence of multiple observable cell populations in culture Chondrogenic gene expression levels induced in functional QC Gene expression ratios within historical data brackets for identity QC
CPP5	Sterility of in vitro cell culture conditions / Processing	No contaminating pathogens in the cultured biological materials & in the processing environment	Bactec™ (culture medium & monitoring plates)	PPC: Microbiological testing & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP6	Cell viability after endpoint enzymatic harvest	Cellular viability $\geq 85\%$ upon endpoint enzymatic harvest	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	IPC: Total & viable cell enumeration after enzymatic harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cellular viability $\geq 85\%$ upon endpoint enzymatic harvest

CPP7	Biological material identity	Processing of the correct biological material, for the correct patient	Operator & QA assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Batch file & label reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence between the batch file and the material labels
CPP8	Finished product sterility	No contaminating pathogens in the finished product	Bactec™ & Endosafe® (culture medium & cell rinsing solution)	<u>PPC</u> : Microbiological testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of detection for specified and non-specified contaminants or values of detection < to specified thresholds
CPP9	Cell viability in the finished product	Cellular viability ≥ 85% upon finished product formulation	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with <u>CPP6</u>): Viable cell enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cellular viability ≥ 85% upon finished product formulation
CPP10	Cell quantity in the finished product	Cell quantity in the finished product of 3 × 10 ⁴ cells/μL	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (redundant with <u>CPP6</u>): Total cell enumeration at harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cell quantity in the finished product of 3 × 10⁴ cells/μL
CPP11	Finished product batch uniformity	Uniformity of the conditioned finished product batch	Operator assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Qualitative QC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall and detailed appreciation within historical data brackets Equality of conditioned product volumes in the case of multiple syringes
CPP12	Documentary & material traceability	Availability of all relevant authenticated documents & records for cell type master file, biobank inventory, and manufacturing batch files at the time of reconciliation	Operator & QA assessment	<u>IPC/PPC</u> : Follow-up of manufacturing data in cell type file & in biobank inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of all relevant authenticated documents & records for cell type master file, biobank inventory, and manufacturing batch files at the time of reconciliation
KPP1	Rate of vial thawing for initiation from storage	Rapid thawing of frozen vials	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Operator monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete thawing of the vials < 10 min after removal from liquid nitrogen storage and < 5 min after incubation at 37 °C
KPP2	Overall cell culture manipulation time	Minimization of the time-period during which the cells are not in adherent state	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Total time the cells are processed in non-adherent state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total time the cells are processed in non-adherent state of < 75 min

KPP3	Cell culture homogeneity in monolayer culture	Homogenous growth of the cell monolayer over the available cell culture surfaces	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP3</i>): Microscopic monitoring & recording during expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of unpopulated cell culture surface of $\geq 15\%$ of the total available cell culture surface in each culture vessel
KPP4	Cell metabolism during monolayer expansion	Maintenance of bright red to dark red colouring of the culture medium containing a phenol red indicator	Operator macroscopic assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Macroscopic monitoring of cell culture medium aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of orange or purple colouring of the cell culture medium or signs of severe cell starvation
KPP5	Incubation parameter stability for cell expansion	Maintenance of adequate incubation conditions throughout the cell culture expansions	Monitoring system records, operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Incubator monitoring & display systems <u>PPC</u> : Incubator monitoring system data logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative limits ² of $37\text{ °C} \pm 2\text{ °C}$, $10\% \pm 1\%$ CO₂, $85\% \pm 5\%$ RH in the incubator • Absolute limits ³ of $34\text{ °C} \pm 4\text{ °C}$, $0\% - 10\%$ CO₂, $0\% - 95\%$ RH in the incubator
KPP6	Total culture time-period for monolayer cell expansion	Consistent preliminary culture times, within historical data brackets	Operator assessment	<u>IPC</u> : Monitoring during in vitro cell expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest of expanded cell population at 7 ± 3 days of culture
KPP7	Cell confluency level at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Maximized cell confluency level at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Operator assessment by contrast phase microscopy, photographic recording	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP3</i>): Microscopic monitoring of cultures, photographic recording of cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell confluency level at the time of endpoint enzymatic harvest $> 60\%$ in each culture vessel
KPP8	Cell quantity at endpoint enzymatic harvest	Maximization of manufacturing cell yield	Ph. Eur. 2.7.29 ¹	<u>IPC</u> (<i>redundant with CPP6</i>): Total cell enumeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell quantity at endpoint enzymatic harvest sufficient for the manufacture of the finished product lot
KPP9	Finished product storage temperature stability	Stability of the finished product transport & storage temperatures	Operator & QA assessment	<u>PPC</u> : Transport container temperature logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable transport container temperature at $15\text{--}30\text{ °C}$

¹ Ph. Eur. method 2.7.29 "Nucleated cell count and viability". ² Relative limits refer to the successive incubation phases between the cell culture initiation, the culture medium exchanges, and the cell harvest procedures (i.e., intermittent incubation time-periods characterized by closed incubator doors). ³ Absolute limits refer to the overall cell culture maintenance timeframe, from the initial culture incubation up to the cell harvest procedure (i.e., total and continuous incubation time-period considering incubator door opening for cell culture handling).