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## Software Development Lifecycle: Moving from Waterfall to Agile

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### INTRODUCTION

Traditionally the Software Development Lifecycle in the pharmaceutical industry follows a waterfall approach.

The traditional waterfall approach tends to be a linear approach that have a significant amount limitations and constraints. The waterfall approach tends to be less iterative and flexible than Agile.

In the waterfall approach users are required to define their requirements before they are able to see a prototype of the software, The challenge is that early in the software development lifecycle user may not know exactly what are their requirements which can lead redesign, redevelopment, retesting and increased cost.

In the waterfall approach developers are sometimes not aware of the challenges when designing the software which may require changing the design instead of continuing the software development process which is allowed in the Agile approach. The Agile process provides a more efficient approach to software development that can be used in the pharmaceutical industry.

This article will describe the differences between the two processes and the advantages of using Agile.

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