

ANDA 75-238

June 7, 1999

Watson Laboratories, Inc.
Attention: Ron Lapre
311 Bonnie Circle
P.O. Box 1900
Corona, CA 91718-1900

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application dated October 31, 1997, submitted pursuant to Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Act), for Sotalol Hydrochloride Tablets 80 mg, 120 mg, 160 mg, and 240 mg.

Reference is also made to your amendments dated March 24, April 7, April 29, September 23, December 7, 1998; and April 22, and April 23, 1999.

We have completed the review of this abbreviated application and have concluded that, based upon the information you have presented to date, the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted labeling. Therefore, the application is **tentatively approved**. This determination is based upon information available to the Agency at this time, (i.e., information in your application and the status of current good manufacturing practices (CGMPs) of the facilities used in the manufacture and testing of the drug product), and is subject to change on the basis of new information that may come to our attention. The listed reference drug product (RLD) upon which you have based your application, Betapace Tablets of Berlex Laboratories, Inc., is subject to a period of Orphan Drug Exclusivity (ODE). Therefore, final approval of your application may not be made effective pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(j)(5)(D) of the Act until the ODE has expired, i.e., October 30, 1999.

Because the Agency is granting a tentative approval for this application, please submit an amendment at least 60-days (but not more than 90-days) prior to the date you believe your application will be eligible for final approval. This amendment should identify changes, if any, in the conditions under which the

product was tentatively approved, and should include updated information such as final-printed labeling, chemistry, manufacturing, and controls data as appropriate. An amendment should be submitted even if none of these changes were made. This amendment should be designated clearly in your cover letter as a MINOR AMENDMENT. In addition to this amendment, the Agency may request at any time prior to the date of final approval that you submit an additional amendment containing the information described above.

Failure to submit either or, if requested, both amendments may result in rescission of the tentative approval status of your application, or may result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

Any significant changes in the conditions outlined in this abbreviated application as well as changes in the status of the manufacturing and testing facilities' compliance with current good manufacturing practices (CGMPs) are subject to Agency review before final approval of the application will be made.

The drug product that is the subject of this abbreviated application may not be marketed without final Agency approval under Section 505 of the Act. The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of this drug product before the final approval date is prohibited under Section 501 of the Act. Also, until the Agency issues the final approval letter, your product will not be deemed approved for marketing under 21 U.S.C. 355 and will not be listed in the "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations" list (the "Orange Book"), published by the Agency. Should you believe that there are grounds for issuing the final approval letter prior to October 30, 1999, you should amend your application accordingly.

At the time you submit any amendments, you should contact Mark Anderson, Project Manager, at (301) 827-5849, for further instructions.

Sincerely yours,

Roger L. Williams, M.D.
Deputy Center Director for
Pharmaceutical Science
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research