

October 21, 1999

Par Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
Attention: Robert A. Femia, Ph.D.  
U.S. Agent for Genpharm, Inc.  
One Ram Ridge Road  
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to Genpharm, Inc.'s abbreviated new drug application dated October 30, 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 November 24, 1997; March 3, May 25, October 1, and October 14, 1998; and July 8, August 17 (2 amendments), September 9, and October 8, 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. (Berlex), is subject to a period of Orphan Drug Exclusivity (ODE). As noted in the current edition of the Agency's publication entitled "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations", the "Orange Book"), this period is scheduled to end on October 30, 1999. However, Section 111 of Title I of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 (the Modernization Act) created section 505A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355a). Section 505A permits certain

applications to obtain an additional six months of marketing exclusivity (pediatric exclusivity) if, in accordance with the requirements of the statute, the sponsor of the RLD submits data previously requested by the Agency relating to the use of the drug in the pediatric population.

Berlex has submitted data to the agency to support the use of sotalol hydrochloride in a pediatric population. Consequently, the ODE that was scheduled to end on October 30, 1999, will be extended. The length of this extension will be determined within 90 days by the agency's Pediatric Exclusivity Board located in the Office of Review Management (ORM), but the extension, if granted for the maximum number of days, will extend the ODE for an additional 180 days beyond October 30, 1999. OGD will closely monitor the board's progress with respect to the granting of pediatric exclusivity. You will be informed of the board's decision by the project manager. 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 additional period of ODE granted to Berlex has expired.

Because the Agency is granting a tentative approval for this application, please submit an amendment at least 60-days (but not greater 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 the revised expiration of the ODE, you should amend your application accordingly.

At the time you submit any amendments, you should contact Mr. Tim Ames, Project Manager, at (301) 827B5849, for further instructions.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas L. Sporn  
Director  
Office of Generic Drugs  
Center for Drug Evaluation and  
Research