

August 12, 1999

Duramed Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Attention: John R. Rapoza  
5040 Lester Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45213

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application dated November 19, 1997, submitted pursuant to Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, for Desogestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets, 0.15 mg and 0.03 mg, respectively, (21- and 28-day cycles).

Reference is also made to your amendments dated November 24, 1998; and April 21, April 27, June 29, July 6, July 15, July 21, and July 27, 1999.

We have completed the review of this abbreviated application and have concluded that the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted labeling. Accordingly, the application is approved. The Division of Bioequivalence has determined your Desogestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets, 0.15 mg and 0.03 mg, respectively, to be bioequivalent and, therefore, therapeutically equivalent to the listed drug (Ortho-Cept<sup>7</sup> Tablets, 0.15 mg and 0.03 mg, respectively, 21- and 28-day cycles, of the R W Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute). Your dissolution testing should be incorporated into the stability and quality control program using the same method proposed in your application.

Under 21 CFR 314.70, certain changes in the conditions described in this abbreviated application require an approved supplemental application before the change may be made.

Post-marketing reporting requirements for this abbreviated application are set forth in 21 CFR 314.80-81 and 314.98. The Office of Generic Drugs should be advised of any change in the marketing status of this drug.

We request that you submit, in duplicate, any proposed advertising or promotional copy that you intend to use in your initial advertising or promotional campaigns. Please submit all proposed materials in draft or mock-up form, not final print. Submit both copies together with a copy of the proposed or final printed labeling to the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (HFD-40). Please do not use Form FD-2253 (Transmittal of Advertisements and Promotional Labeling for Drugs for Human Use) for this initial submission.

We call your attention to 21 CFR 314.81(b)(3) which requires that materials for any subsequent advertising or promotional campaign be submitted to our Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (HFD-40) with a completed Form FD-2253 at the time of their initial use.

Validation of the regulatory methods has not been completed. It is the policy of the Office not to withhold approval until the validation is complete. We acknowledge your commitment dated July 27, 1999, to satisfactorily resolve any deficiencies that may be identified during the methods validation process.

Sincerely yours,

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