



NDA 20-560/S-024, S-025

Merck & Co., Inc.
Attention: Michele Flicker, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 2000, RY 33,720
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Dr. Flicker:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug applications dated July 28, 2000, received July 31, 2000 (S-024), and dated and received March 31, 2000 (S-025), submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Fosamax (alendronate sodium) Tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submission dated January 23 and 24, 2001 (S-024), and your submissions dated, August 25, September 1, September 6, September 8, September 28, October 11, November 21, December 11, December 21, 2000, and January 16, 23(2), and 24, 2001(2) (S-025).

These supplemental new drug applications provide for adding a *Geriatric Use* subsection to the PRECAUTIONS section of the package insert in accordance with the Geriatric Final Rule (21 CFR 201.57) (S-024), and for the consideration of using Fosamax 70 mg in men once weekly for the treatment to increase bone mass in men with osteoporosis (S-025).

We have completed the review of these supplemental applications, as amended, and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug product is safe and effective for use as recommended in the agreed upon labeling text. Accordingly, the supplemental applications are approved effective on the date of this letter.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the submitted draft labeling (package insert and patient package insert submitted January 23, 2001).

Please submit 20 paper copies of the FPL as soon as it is available, in no case more than 30 days after it is printed. Please individually mount ten of the copies on heavy-weight paper or similar material. Alternatively, you may submit the FPL electronically according to the guidance for industry titled *Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format - NDAs* (January 1999). For administrative purposes, this submission should be designated "FPL for approved supplements NDA 20-560/S-024, S-025." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

We remind you of your postmarketing study commitments in your submission dated December 11, 2000. You commit to complete Protocol 165, entitled, "A Randomized, Double-Blind, Multicenter, Placebo-Controlled, 12-month Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Weekly Dosed Oral Alendronate Sodium for the Treatment of Osteoporosis in Men," and provide the study results on or before February 1, 2003.

Submit all study final reports to this NDA. In addition, under 21 CFR 314.81(b)(2)(vii) and 314.81(b)(2)(viii), you should include a status summary of each commitment in your annual report to this NDA. The status summary should include expected summary completion and final report submission dates, any changes in plans since the last annual report, and, for clinical studies, number of patients entered into each study. All submissions, including supplements, relating to these postmarketing study commitments must be prominently labeled "**Postmarketing Study Protocol**", "**Postmarketing Study Final Report**", or "**Postmarketing Study Correspondence**."

Be advised that, as of April 1, 1999, all applications for new active ingredients, new dosage forms, new indications, new routes of administration, and new dosing regimens are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived or deferred (63 *FR* 66632). We note that you have not fulfilled the requirements of 21 CFR 314.55 (or 601.27). We are deferring submission of your pediatric studies until December 31, 2003.

If a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter) is issued to physicians and others responsible for patient care, we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH, HF-2
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

We remind you that you must comply with the requirements for an approved NDA set forth under 21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81.

If you have any questions, call Randy Hedin, R.Ph., Senior Regulatory Management Officer, at (301) 827-6392.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

David G. Orloff, M.D.
Director
Division of Metabolic and Endocrine Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation II
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research