DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

NDA 20-364/S-014

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Mr. Carl Schlotfeldt
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Dear Mr. Schlotfeldt:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated November 7, 2000, received under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Lotrel (amlodipine and benazepril HCl) 2.5/10mg, 5/10 mg, and 5/20 mg, and 10/20 mg Capsules.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated January 22, 2002 and May 20, 2003. Your submission of May 20, 2003 constituted a complete response to our December 18, 2001 action letter.

This supplemental new drug application provides for electronic final printed labeling (FPL) revised to add the following paragraph to the Geriatric Use subsection:

> Benazepril and benazeprilat are substantially excreted by the kidney. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function.
>
> Amlodipine is extensively metabolized in the liver. In the elderly, clearance of amlodipine is decreased with resulting increases in peak plasma levels, elimination half-life and area-under-the-plasma-concentration curve. Thus a lower starting dose may be required in older patients (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).**

We have completed our review of this supplemental new drug application as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the final printed labeling (FPL) submitted on May 20, 2003.

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, please call Ms. Denise M. Hinton, Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (301) 594-5333.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Douglas C. Throckmorton, M.D.
Director
Division of Cardio-Renal Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation I
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

Doug Throckmorton

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