Dear Mr. Tomaszewski:


These “Changes Being Effected” supplemental new drug applications were submitted in response to the Division's letter of September 11, 2003, and provide for the addition of the following new subsection of labeling under WARNINGS:

**Hyperglycemia and Diabetes Mellitus**

Hyperglycemia, in some cases extreme and associated with ketoacidosis or hyperosmolar coma or death, has been reported in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics. There have been few reports of hyperglycemia or diabetes in patients treated with GEODON. Although fewer patients have been treated with GEODON, it is not known if this more limited experience is the sole reason for the paucity of such reports. Assessment of the relationship between atypical antipsychotic use and glucose abnormalities is complicated by the possibility of an increased background risk of diabetes mellitus in patients with schizophrenia and the increasing incidence of diabetes mellitus in the general population. Given these confounders, the relationship between atypical antipsychotic use and hyperglycemia-related adverse events is not completely understood. However, epidemiological studies, which did not include GEODON, suggest an increased risk of treatment-emergent hyperglycemia-related adverse events in patients treated with the atypical antipsychotics included in these studies. Because GEODON was not marketed at the time these studies were performed, it is not known if GEODON is associated with this increased risk. Precise risk estimates for hyperglycemia-related adverse events in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics are not available.

Patients with an established diagnosis of diabetes mellitus who are started on atypical antipsychotics should be monitored regularly for worsening of glucose control. Patients with risk factors for diabetes mellitus (e.g., obesity, family history of diabetes) who are starting treatment with atypical antipsychotics should undergo fasting blood glucose testing at the beginning of treatment and periodically during treatment. Any
patient treated with atypical antipsychotics should be monitored for symptoms of hyperglycemia including polydipsia, polyuria, polyphagia, and weakness. Patients who develop symptoms of hyperglycemia during treatment with atypical antipsychotics should undergo fasting blood glucose testing. In some cases, hyperglycemia has resolved when the atypical antipsychotic was discontinued; however, some patients required continuation of antidiabetic treatment despite discontinuation of the suspect drug.

We have completed our review of these applications and they are approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the agreed-upon labeling text.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the submitted labeling (package insert submitted July 23, 2004).

Please submit the FPL electronically according to the guidance for industry titled Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format – NDA. Alternatively, you may 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 15 of the copies on heavy-weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, these submissions should be designated "FPL for approved supplements NDA 20-825 / S-012 and NDA 20-919 / S-003." Approval of these submissions by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

We acknowledge receipt on July 26, 2004 of your draft “Dear Health Care Professional” letter. We will provide comment on the content of the letter in a separate communication. Once agreement on the content of the letter is reached, we request that you submit a copy of the letter to these NDAs and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH, HFD-410
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD  20857

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved NDA (21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81).

If you have any questions, call Steven D. Hardeman, R.Ph., Senior Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 594-5525.

Sincerely,

Russell Katz, M.D.
Director
Division of Neuropharmacological 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/
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Russell Katz
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