DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 21-200/S-007
NDA 21-200/S-008

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Joan A. Materna
Global Regulatory CMC
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Dear Ms. Materna:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated December 22, 2003 (received December 23, 2003), submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Zelnorm®(tegaserod maleate) Tablets.

We also refer to our acknowledgement letter dated February 24, 2004, in which we notified you that in accordance with divisional policy, supplement 007 has been administratively split into "Prior Approval" supplements 007 and 008.

Supplemental application, NDA 21-200/S-007, proposes a change in packaging of tegaserod in HDPE bottles.

Supplemental application, NDA 21-200/S-008, proposes a change in formulation as follows:

1. Reformulation of the 6mg tablet.
2. Bioequivalence study comparing tegaserod reformulated tablets with the approved tablets.
3. Labeling changes.

We have completed the review of these supplemental applications and they are approved.

In addition, we request that you submit in a communication or in the next annual report to this NDA, the following information regarding the 6 mg tablets:

1. Regarding the manufacturing process:
   - Specific values for temperature and humidity during the process.
   - (b)(4)----------used during the process.
   - Typical mixing times employed.
   - LOD on the tabletting mixture during any of the mixing steps, if possible.
   - Conditions under which reprocessing may occur and what the reprocessing procedure would be.

2. Provide the following information regarding the bulk package used to store the reformulated drug product:
   - Confirmation that the drug product contact material in the LDPE flat bag is in compliance with all appropriate CFR citations for Indirect Food Additives - Polymers, particularly any applicable sections of §177.1520.
   - Information demonstrating adequate stability of the drug product stored in both bulk packages without desiccant.

3. Obtain a letter of authorization for this NDA that provides for access to (b)(4)-------for (b)(4)----------- ----------for drug packaging. The holder of (b)(4)---------- ---------- -

Please submit final printed labeling (FPL) identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert, text for the patient package insert, immediate container and carton labels), submitted December 22, 2003.

You may 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, this submission should be designated "FPL for approved supplements NDA 21-200/S-007 and S-008." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

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 Paul E. Levine, Jr., R.Ph., J.D., Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (301) 827-7310.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Robert L. Justice, M.D., M.S.
Director
Division of Gastrointestinal and
Coagulation Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation III
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/

Joyce Korvick
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for Dr. Robert Justice