DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

NDA 17-963/S-062
NDA 18-704/S-021

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Ms. Donna Vivelo
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Dear Ms. Vivelo:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug applications (NDAs) dated February 14, 2008, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Lopressor (metoprolol tartrate) 50 and 100 mg Tablets (NDA 17-963/S-062) and Lopressor (metoprolol tartrate) 5 mg/5 mL Injection (NDA 18-704/S-021).

These supplemental new drug applications provide for the following revisions to the package insert:

1. To change the following section of the **WARNINGS/Hypertension and Angina/*Bronchospastic Diseases*** section of the PI:

   FROM

   Bronchospastic Diseases: **PATIENTS WITH BRONCHOSPASTIC DISEASES SHOULD, IN GENERAL, NOT RECEIVE BETA BLOCKERS.**

   TO

   Bronchospastic Diseases: **PATIENTS WITH BRONCHOSPASTIC DISEASES SHOULD, IN GENERAL, NOT RECEIVE BETA BLOCKERS, including Lopressor.**

2. To change the following section of the **WARNINGS/*Major Surgery*** section of the PI:

   FROM

   Major Surgery: The necessity or desirability of withdrawing beta-blocking therapy, prior to major surgery is controversial; the impaired ability of the heart to respond to reflex adrenergic stimuli may augment the risks of general anesthesia and surgical procedures.

   TO

   Major Surgery: The necessity or desirability of withdrawing beta-blocking therapy, including Lopressor prior to major surgery is controversial; the impaired ability of the heart to respond to reflex adrenergic stimuli may augment the risks of general anesthesia and surgical procedures.

3. To change the following section of the **WARNINGS/Myocardial Infarction/*Bronchospastic Diseases*** section of the PI:

   FROM

   Bronchospastic Diseases: **PATIENTS WITH BRONCHOSPASTIC DISEASES SHOULD, IN GENERAL, NOT RECEIVE BETA BLOCKERS.**

   TO

   Bronchospastic Diseases: **PATIENTS WITH BRONCHOSPASTIC DISEASES SHOULD, IN GENERAL, NOT RECEIVE BETA BLOCKERS, including Lopressor.**

4. To add the following labeling text to the **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section of the labeling:

   Post-Marketing Experience
   The following adverse reactions have been reported during post-approval use of Lopressor: confusional state, an increase in blood triglycerides and a decrease in High Density Lipoprotein (HDL). Because these reports are from a population of uncertain size and are subject to confounding factors, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency.

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 enclosed agreed-upon electronic labeling text. We will transmit the SPL version of the labeling submitted on February 14, 2008 to the National Library of Medicine for public dissemination.

If you issue a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter), we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH
Food and Drug Administration
5515 Security Lane
HFD-001, Suite 5100
Rockville, MD 20852

Marketing the products with labeling that is not identical to the approved labeling text may render the products misbranded and unapproved new drugs.

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, please call Dan Brum, Pharm.D., Regulatory Project Manager, at (301)796-0578.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Norman Stockbridge, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
Division of Cardiovascular and Renal Products
Office of Drug Evaluation I
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Enclosed electronic labeling text

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

/s/

Norman Stockbridge

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