



NDA 20-560/S-052  
NDA 21-575/S-013  
NDA 21-762/S-006

Merck & Co., Inc.  
Attention: James Adams  
Associate Director, Worldwide Regulatory Affairs  
126 E. Lincoln Avenue  
P.O. Box 2000, Mail Drop RY 33-200  
Rahway, NJ 07065-0900

Dear Mr. Adams:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug applications dated April 8, 2008, received April 8, 2008, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Fosamax (alendronate sodium) Tablets (NDA 20-560), Fosamax (alendronate sodium) Oral Solution (NDA 21-575), and Fosamax Plus D (alendronate sodium/Vitamin D) Tablets (NDA 21-762).

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated September 19, 2008, to NDA 20-560 and NDA 21-575.

These "Changes Being Effected" supplemental new drug applications provide for the following:

**Fosamax Tablets (NDA 20-560) and Fosamax Oral Solution (NDA 21-575)**

**Combined Package Insert:**

The **PRECAUTIONS** section, **Musculoskeletal Pain** subsection has been updated to match recent changes made to this section of the label for NDA 21-762 (Fosamax Plus D) on April 26, 2008. The following revisions have been made:

- The sentence, "However, such reports have been infrequent." has been eliminated.
- The sentence, "Discontinue use if severe symptoms develop." has been added.

**Fosamax Tablets (NDA 20-560), Fosamax Oral Solution (NDA 21-575) and Fosamax Plus D (NDA 21-762)**

**Package Insert**

The **Post-Marketing Experience** subsection of the **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section was revised to add “alopecia.” Revised as follows:

- Skin: rash (occasionally with photosensitivity), pruritus, alopecia, rarely severe skin reactions, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.

### **Patient Package Inserts**

There are three separate patient package inserts (daily tablet, once-weekly tablet and oral solution, and once weekly tablet plus Vitamin D). Each contains an almost identical section titled “*What are the possible side effects of FOSAMAX (FOSAMAX PLUS D)?*”

One sentence within this section has been revised to include “hair loss.” It now reads:

- The most common side effect is stomach area (abdominal) pain. Less common side effects are nausea, vomiting, a full or bloated feeling in the stomach, constipation, diarrhea, black or bloody stools (bowel movements), gas, eye pain, rash that may be made worse by sunlight, hair loss, headache, dizziness, a changed sense of taste, joint swelling or swelling in the hands or legs, and bone, muscle, or joint pain.

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

We note that your April 8, 2008, submission to NDA 21-762 and your September 19, 2008, submission to NDA 20-560 and NDA 21-575 included content of labeling in the structured product labeling (SPL) format.

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  
Suite 12B05  
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).



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/s/

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Mary Parks  
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