



NDA 21-710/S-006

Validus Pharmaceuticals  
Attention: Roberta Tucker, RPh  
Regulatory Affairs  
119 Cherry Hill Road, Suite 310  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Dear Ms. Tucker:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated January 16, 2009 and received January 21, 2009, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for Equetro<sup>®</sup> (carbamazepine) Extended-Release Capsules.

Reference is also made to our letter dated December 16, 2008 notifying you, under Section 505(o)(4) of the FDCA, of new safety information that we believe should be included in the labeling for antiepileptic drugs, including Equetro. This information pertains to the risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors. Although not a part of the safety labeling changes, we also requested that you add language pertaining to the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) Pregnancy Registry, if it was not already present. No other labeling change requests submitted to date are addressed in this letter.

Our December 16, 2008, letter also notified you that, based on new safety information regarding the risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors with AEDs, a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) (including a Medication Guide) is required for Equetro. In a March 17, 2009, letter we informed you that we had determined that the Medication Guide should be comprehensive and should include all risk information reflective of your labeling that is necessary for patients' safe and effective use of Equetro. Any portion of your supplement that provides for a proposed comprehensive Medication Guide and proposed REMS has been administratively separated and will be acted on at a later date.

This supplemental new drug application includes revisions to the labeling for Equetro consistent with our December 16, 2008 letter.

We have completed our review of the safety labeling changes supplemental application, as amended. The safety labeling changes application is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed, agreed-upon labeling text.

### **CONTENT OF LABELING**

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, please submit the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format as described at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/datacouncil/spl.html> that is identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the

package insert). Upon receipt, we will transmit that version to the National Library of Medicine for public dissemination. For administrative purposes, please designate this submission, “SPL for approved NDA 21-710/S-006.”

### **PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS**

You may request advisory comments on proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling. To do so, submit, in triplicate, a cover letter requesting advisory comments, the proposed materials in draft or mock-up form with annotated references, and the package insert(s) to:

Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications  
5901-B Ammendale Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

As required under 21 CFR 314.81(b)(3)(i), you must submit final promotional materials, and the package insert(s), at the time of initial dissemination or publication, accompanied by a Form FDA 2253. For instruction on completing the Form FDA 2253, see page 2 of the Form. For more information about submission of promotional materials to the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC), see [www.fda.gov/cder/ddmac](http://www.fda.gov/cder/ddmac).

### **LETTERS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

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

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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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If you have any questions, call Tamy Kim, PharmD, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-1125.

Sincerely,

*{See appended electronic signature page}*

Russell Katz, MD  
Director  
Division of Neurology Products  
Office of Drug Evaluation I  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure: Labeling

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**This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and  
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/s/

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Russell Katz

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