Dear Mr. Emura:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated August 5, 2009, received August 5, 2009, submitted under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Benicar (olmesartan medoxomil) 5, 20, and 40 mg Tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated August 8, September 25, October 19, November 30, December 14 and 18, 2009.

This prior approval supplemental new drug application provides for the use of Benicar for the treatment of hypertension in pediatric patients 6 to 16 years of age.

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

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)(1)(i)] 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). For administrative purposes, please designate this submission, “SPL for approved NDA 021286/S-018.

We are waiving the requirements of 21 CFR 201.57(d)(8) regarding the length of Highlights of prescribing information. This waiver applies to all future supplements containing revised labeling unless we notify you otherwise.

REQUIRED PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENTS

Under the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA) (21 U.S.C. 355c), all applications for new active ingredients, new indications, new dosage forms, new dosing regimens, or new routes of administration are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product for the claimed indication in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived, deferred, or inapplicable.

We note that you have fulfilled the pediatric study requirement for all relevant pediatric age groups for this application.
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 http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/CDER/ucm090142.htm.

LETTERS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

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

MedWatch
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 12B05
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).

If you have any questions, please contact:

Quynh Nguyen, Pharm.D., RAC
Regulatory Health Project Manager
(301) 796-0510

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

Enclosure: Agreed-upon Content of Labeling (text for package insert)
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<td>SUPPL-18</td>
<td>DAIICHI SANKYO INC</td>
<td>BENICAR(OLMESARTAN MEDOXOMIL) 5/20/40M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

/s/

NORMAN L STOCKBRIDGE
02/04/2010