



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring MD 20993

NDA 22525

NDA APPROVAL

Forest Laboratories, Inc.
Attention: Michael P. Niebo
Asst. Director, Regulatory Affairs
Harborside Financial Center
Plaza V, Suite 1900
Jersey City, NJ 07311

Dear Mr. Niebo:

Please refer to your New Drug Application (NDA) dated August 20, 2009, received August 21, 2009, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for Namenda XR (memantine hydrochloride) 7 mg, 14 mg, 21 mg, & 28 mg extended release capsules.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated:

9/14/2009	9/17/2009	10/7/2009	10/20/2009
10/30/2009	11/2/2009	11/6/2009	12/2/2009
12/9/2009	12/17/2009	1/12/2010	1/14/2010
3/12/2010	3/25/2010	3/26/2010	4/2/2010
4/6/2010	4/7/2010	4/16/2010	4/20/2010
4/26/2010	6/11/2010	6/18/2010	6/21/2010

This new drug application provides for the use of Namenda XR (memantine hydrochloride) 7 mg, 14 mg, 21 mg, & 28 mg extended release capsules for the treatment of moderate to severe dementia of the Alzheimer's type.

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 text.

CONTENT OF LABELING

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit, via the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm>, that is identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert, text for the patient package insert). Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry

titled “SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As” at <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf>.

The SPL will be accessible via publicly available labeling repositories.

CARTON AND IMMEDIATE CONTAINER LABELS

Submit final printed carton and container labels that are identical to the carton and immediate container labels submitted on June 18, 2010 as soon as they are available, but no more than 30 days after they are printed. Please submit these labels electronically according to the guidance for industry titled “Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format – Human Pharmaceutical Product Applications and Related Submissions Using the eCTD Specifications (October 2005)”. Alternatively, you may submit 12 paper copies, with 6 of the copies individually mounted on heavy-weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, designate this submission **“Final Printed Carton and Container Labels for approved NDA 022525.”** Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

Marketing the product with FPL that is not identical to the approved labeling text may render the product misbranded and an unapproved new drug.

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(s) in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived, deferred, or inapplicable.

We are waiving the pediatric study requirement for this application because necessary studies are not feasible (the disease does not occur in children).

POSTMARKETING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 505(o)

Section 505(o) of the FDCA authorizes FDA to require holders of approved drug and biological product applications to conduct postmarketing studies and clinical trials for certain purposes, if FDA makes certain findings required by the statute (section 505(o)(3)(A)).

We have determined that an analysis of spontaneous postmarketing adverse events reported under subsection 505(k)(1) of the FDCA will not be sufficient to assess a signal of serious risk of neurodegeneration observed in adult rat brain when memantine was coadministered with donepezil, identified in this application and in a published report by Creeley et al. (*Neurobiology of Aging* 29: 153-167, 2008).

Furthermore, the new pharmacovigilance system that FDA is required to establish under section 505(k)(3) of the FDCA has not yet been established and is not sufficient to assess this serious risk.

Therefore, based on appropriate scientific data, FDA has determined that you are required to conduct the following:

1656-1 A Single-Dose Oral Neurotoxicity Study in Female Rats

A single-dose oral neurotoxicity study in female rats with memantine in the presence and absence of donepezil at a maximum tolerated dose. The study should be conducted in at least 10 animals per group. Doses of memantine should range from one estimated to result in an AUC (0-24 hr) similar to that observed at steady state at the maximum recommended clinical dose of NAMENDA XR, up to a maximum tolerated dose. Two positive control groups should be included, one treated with 30 mg/kg i.p. memantine + 10 mg/kg i.p. donepezil (for comparison to the results of Creeley et al., 2008) and one treated with 3 mg/kg i.p. MK-801. Neurohistopathology should be assessed at 48 hours after dosing using standard cupric silver staining methods, and should include examination of all brain regions shown to be affected by Creeley et al. (2008) and/or in Study MEM-TX-27. Toxicokinetic analyses of memantine and donepezil should be performed for the oral and i.p. treated groups. The timetable you submitted on June 11, 2010, states that you will conduct this study according to the following schedule:

Final Protocol Submission:	July 30, 2010
Study Completion Date:	June 15, 2011
Final Report Submission:	December 15, 2011

Submit the protocol to your IND, with a cross-reference letter to this NDA. Submit the final report to your NDA. Prominently identify the submission with the following wording in bold capital letters at the top of the first page of the submission, as appropriate:

- **REQUIRED POSTMARKETING PROTOCOL UNDER 505(o)**
- **REQUIRED POSTMARKETING FINAL REPORT UNDER 505(o)**
- **REQUIRED POSTMARKETING CORRESPONDENCE UNDER 505(o)**

Section 505(o)(3)(E)(ii) of the FDCA requires you to report periodically on the status of any study or clinical trial required under this section. This section also requires you to periodically report to FDA on the status of any study or clinical trial otherwise undertaken to investigate a safety issue. Section 506B of the FDCA, as well as 21 CFR 314.81(b)(2)(vii) requires you to report annually on the status of any postmarketing commitments or required studies or clinical trials.

FDA will consider the submission of your annual report under section 506B and 21 CFR 314.81(b)(2)(vii) to satisfy the periodic reporting requirement under section 505(o)(3)(E)(ii) provided that you include the elements listed in 505(o) and 21 CFR 314.81(b)(2)(vii). We remind you that to comply with 505(o), your annual report must also include a report on the status of any study or clinical trial otherwise undertaken to investigate a safety issue. Failure to submit an annual report for studies or clinical trials required under 505(o) on the date required will be considered a violation of FDCA section 505(o)(3)(E)(ii) and could result in enforcement action.

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 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, 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 decide to 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, at least 24 hours prior to issuing the letter, an electronic copy of the letter to this NDA, to CDERMedWatchSafetyAlerts@fda.hhs.gov, and to the following address:

MedWatch
Food and Drug Administration
Suite 12B-05
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).

If you have any questions, call Teresa Wheelous, Sr. Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-1161.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Russell Katz, M.D.
Director
Division of Neurology Products
Office of Drug Evaluation 1
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURE(S):
Content of Labeling

Application Type/Number	Submission Type/Number	Submitter Name	Product Name
NDA-22525	ORIG-1	FOREST LABORATORIES INC	NAMENDA XR(MEMANTINE HCL)ER CAPSULES

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

/s/

RUSSELL G KATZ
06/21/2010