Dear Mr. Grijalva:

Please refer to your Supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) dated and received March 9, 2015, submitted pursuant to section 505(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for Absorica (isotretinoin) Capsules, 10mg, 20mg, 25mg, 30mg, 35mg, and 40 mg.

We also refer to our approval letter dated September 3, 2015 which contained the following error: the letter was missing language referencing the submitted carton and container labels.

This replacement approval letter incorporates the correction of the error. The effective approval date will remain September 3, 2015, the date of the original approval letter.

We acknowledge receipt of your amendments dated June 26, July 7, 14, and August 4, 2015.

This “Prior Approval” supplemental new drug application provides for changes to the labeling for Absorica and for proposed modifications to the approved isotretinoin iPLEDGE risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS). This supplement was submitted in response to our January 7, 2015, REMS Modification Notification letter.

**APPROVAL & LABELING**

We have completed our review of this supplemental 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 the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format using the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), as described at [http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm).
of labeling must be identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert, Medication Guide), with the addition of any labeling changes in pending “Changes Being Effected” (CBE) supplements, as well as annual reportable changes not included in the enclosed labeling.

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 from publicly available labeling repositories.

Also within 14 days, amend all pending supplemental applications that includes labeling changes for this NDA, including CBE supplements for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)(1)(i)] in MS Word format, that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application, as well as annual reportable changes and annotate each change. To facilitate review of your submission, provide a highlighted or marked-up copy that shows all changes, as well as a clean Microsoft Word version. The marked-up copy should provide appropriate annotations, including supplement number(s) and annual report date(s).

We request that the labeling approved today be available on your website within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

**CARTON AND IMMEDIATE CONTAINER LABELS**

Submit final printed carton and immediate container labels that are identical to the carton label submitted on July 7, 2015 and the immediate-container labels submitted on August 4, 2015, 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 Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic Format – Human Pharmaceutical Product Applications and Related Submissions Using the eCTD Specifications (June 2008). 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 021951/S-005.” Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

Marketing the product(s) 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.

Reference ID: 3820564
Because none of these criteria apply to your application, you are exempt from this requirement.

**RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY REQUIREMENTS**

The iPLEDGE REMS for isotretinoin products, of which Absorica (isotretinoin) Capsules is a member, was originally approved on October 22, 2010, and the most recent REMS modification was approved on April 12, 2012. The REMS consists of a Medication Guide, elements to assure safe use, an implementation system, and a timetable for submission of assessments of the REMS.

In order to minimize the burden on the healthcare delivery system of complying with the REMS, we determined that you were required to make the following REMS modifications:

1. Changes to the *Request for Exemption for Patients with Serious Medical Reasons* form as follows:
   - Use of the Tanner Staging to classify Female Patients of Non-Childbearing Potential (FNCBP)
   - Addition of an attestation requiring prescribers to evaluate patient reproductive status while receiving isotretinoin, and notify the iPLEDGE program within 10 business days of any change in the patient’s reproductive status
   - Revision to the Female Patients of Childbearing Potential (FCBP) exemption category to reflect that use of the *Request for Exemption for Patients with Serious Medical Reasons* is *only for the first month of isotretinoin therapy*
   - Addition of an attestation to the monthly comprehension testing exemption category to reflect that patients are still required to successfully complete monthly pregnancy testing

2. Standardize the terminology for female patients of childbearing potential in the REMS document, and appended REMS materials to “Females of Reproductive Potential (FRP)” and “Females of Non-Reproductive Potential (FNRP),” where applicable.

In addition, you proposed to update the Medication Guide to reflect the addition of required language for the presence of tartrazine (FD&C Yellow No. 5)

Your proposed modified REMS submitted on March 9, 2015, amended on June 26, July 7, 14, and August 4, 2015 and appended to this letter, is approved.

The iPLEDGE REMS for isotretinoin products currently includes the products listed on the FDA REMS website, available at [http://www.fda.gov/REMS](http://www.fda.gov/REMS). Other products may be added to this REMS in the future if additional isotretinoin NDAs or ANDAs are approved.
The timetable for submission of assessments of the REMS remains the same as that approved on May 25, 2012.

There are no changes to the REMS assessment plan described in our May 25, 2012 letter.

We remind you that in addition to the REMS assessments submitted according to the timetable in the approved REMS, you must include an adequate rationale to support a proposed REMS modification for the addition, modification, or removal of any of goal or element of the REMS, as described in section 505-1(g)(4) of the FDCA.

We also remind you that you must submit a REMS assessment when you submit a supplemental application for a new indication for use as described in section 505-1(g)(2)(A). This assessment should include:

a) An evaluation of how the benefit-risk profile will or will not change with the new indication;
b) A determination of the implications of a change in the benefit-risk profile for the current REMS;
c) If the new indication for use introduces unexpected risks: A description of those risks and an evaluation of whether those risks can be appropriately managed with the currently approved REMS.
d) If a REMS assessment was submitted in the 18 months prior to submission of the supplemental application for a new indication for use: A statement about whether the REMS was meeting its goals at the time of that the last assessment and if any modifications of the REMS have been proposed since that assessment.
e) If a REMS assessment has not been submitted in the 18 months prior to submission of the supplemental application for a new indication for use: Provision of as many of the currently listed assessment plan items as is feasible.
f) If you propose a REMS modification based on a change in the benefit-risk profile or because of the new indication of use, submit an adequate rationale to support the modification, including: Provision of the reason(s) why the proposed REMS modification is necessary, the potential effect on the serious risk(s) for which the REMS was required, on patient access to the drug, and/or on the burden on the health care delivery system; and other appropriate evidence or data to support the proposed change. Additionally, include any changes to the assessment plan necessary to assess the proposed modified REMS. If you are not proposing REMS modifications, provide a rationale for why the REMS does not need to be modified.

If the assessment instruments and methodology for your REMS assessments are not included in the REMS supporting document, or if you propose changes to the submitted assessment instruments or methodology, you should update the REMS supporting document to include specific assessment instrument and methodology information at least 90 days before the assessments will be conducted. Updates to the REMS supporting document may be included in a new document that references previous REMS supporting document submission(s) for unchanged portions. Alternatively, updates may be made by modifying the complete previous REMS supporting document, with all changes marked and highlighted. Prominently identify the
submission containing the assessment instruments and methodology with the following wording in bold capital letters at the top of the first page of the submission:

NDA 021951 REMS CORRESPONDENCE
(insert concise description of content in bold capital letters, e.g.,
UPDATE TO REMS SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY)

An authorized generic drug under this NDA must have an approved REMS prior to marketing. Should you decide to market, sell, or distribute an authorized generic drug under this NDA, contact us to discuss what will be required in the authorized generic drug REMS submission.

We remind you that section 505-1(f)(8) of FDCA prohibits holders of an approved covered application with elements to assure safe use from using any element to block or delay approval of an application under section 505(b)(2) or (j). A violation of this provision in 505-1(f) could result in enforcement action.

Prominently identify any submission containing the REMS assessments or proposed modifications of the REMS with the following wording in bold capital letters at the top of the first page of the submission as appropriate:

NDA 021951 REMS ASSESSMENT

NEW SUPPLEMENT FOR NDA 021951
CHANGES BEING EFFECTED IN 30 DAYS
PROPOSED MINOR REMS MODIFICATION

or

NEW SUPPLEMENT FOR NDA 021951
PRIOR APPROVAL SUPPLEMENT
PROPOSED MAJOR REMS MODIFICATION

or

NEW SUPPLEMENT FOR NDA 021951
PRIOR APPROVAL SUPPLEMENT
PROPOSED REMS MODIFICATIONS DUE TO SAFETY LABEL CHANGES SUBMITTED IN SUPPLEMENT XXX

or

NEW SUPPLEMENT (NEW INDICATION FOR USE) FOR NDA 021951
REMS ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED REMS MODIFICATION (if included)
Should you choose to submit a REMS revision, prominently identify the submission containing the REMS revisions with the following wording in bold capital letters at the top of the first page of the submission:

**REMS REVISIONS FOR NDA 021951**

To facilitate review of your submission, we request that you submit your proposed modified REMS and other REMS-related materials in Microsoft Word format. If certain documents, such as enrollment forms, are only in PDF format, they may be submitted as such, but the preference is to include as many as possible in Word format.

If you do not submit electronically, please send 5 copies of REMS-related submissions.

**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 Matthew White, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-4997.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Tatiana Oussova, MD, MPH
Deputy Director for Safety
Division of Dermatology and Dental Products
Office of Drug Evaluation III
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURES:
- Content of Labeling
- REMS
This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

TATIANA OUSSOVA
09/03/2015