



ANDA 220221

ANDA TENTATIVE APPROVAL

Torrent Pharma Inc.
U.S. Agent for Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited
Attention: Saroja Gorantla
Associate Director

Dear Saroja Gorantla:

This letter is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) received for review on January 21, 2025, submitted pursuant to section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) for Vericiguat Tablets, 2.5 mg.

Reference is also made to any amendments submitted prior to the issuance of this letter.

We have completed the review of this ANDA and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug meets the requirements for approval under the FD&C Act. We have determined your Vericiguat Tablets, 2.5 mg to be bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Verquvo Tablets, 2.5 mg, of Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC (Merck), NDA 214377.

However, we are unable to grant final approval to your ANDA at this time because of the patent/exclusivity issue noted below. Therefore, the ANDA is **tentatively approved**. This determination is based upon information available to the Agency at this time (e.g., information in your ANDA and the status of current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs) of the facilities used in the manufacturing and testing of the drug product). This determination is subject to change on the basis of new information that may come to our attention. This letter does not address issues related to the 180-day exclusivity provisions under section 505(j)(5)(B)(iv) of the FD&C Act.

The RLD upon which you have based your ANDA, Merck's Verquvo Tablets, 2.5 mg, is subject to periods of patent protection. The following patents and expiration dates are currently listed in the Agency's publication titled *Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations* (the "Orange Book"):

<u>U.S. Patent Number</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
8,420,656 (the '656 patent)	May 19, 2031
8,921,377 (the '377 patent)	May 19, 2031
9,604,948 (the '948 patent)	November 26, 2032
9,993,476 (the '476 patent)	May 19, 2031
10,736,896 (the '896 patent)	May 19, 2031
11,439,642 (the '642 patent)	May 19, 2031

Your ANDA contains paragraph IV certifications to each of the patents under section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the FD&C Act stating that the patents are invalid, unenforceable, or will not be infringed by your manufacture, use, or sale of Vericiguat Tablets, 2.5 mg, under this ANDA. You have notified the Agency that Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited (Torrent) complied with the requirements of section 505(j)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act. Litigation was initiated within the statutory 45-day period against Torrent for infringement of the '656, '377, '948, '476, '896 and '642 patents in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware [Adverio Pharma GmbH, Bayer AG, MSD Pharma GmbH, and Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC v. Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and Torrent Pharma Inc., et al., Civil Action No. 25-00479].

Therefore, final approval cannot be granted until:

- the expiration of the 7.5-year period provided for in sections 505(j)(5)(B)(iii) and 505(j)(5)(F)(ii) of the FD&C Act,
 - the date the court decides¹ that the '656, '377, '948, '476, '896 and '642 patents are invalid or not infringed (see sections 505(j)(5)(B)(iii)(I), (II), and (III) of the FD&C Act), or
 - the '656, '377, '948, '476, '896 and '642 patents have expired, and
- The Agency is assured there is no new information that would affect whether final approval should be granted.

The RLD upon which you have based your ANDA, Merck's Verquvo Tablets, 2.5 mg, is subject to a period of exclusivity. As noted in the Orange Book, the D-198 exclusivity is scheduled to expire on January 21, 2029. Your ANDA contains a statement that you do not seek to market Vericiguat Tablets, 2.5 mg, prior to the expiration of this exclusivity. Therefore, final approval cannot be granted until the D-198 exclusivity has expired, currently January 21, 2029.

Please note that if FDA requires a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for a listed drug, an ANDA referencing that listed drug also will be required to have a REMS. See section 505-1(i) of the FD&C Act.

REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS POST APPROVAL

Under applicable statutes, regulations, and guidances, if your ANDA receives final approval, it may be subject to certain requirements and recommendations post approval, including requirements regarding changes to approved ANDAs, postmarketing reporting, promotional materials, and annual facility fees, among others. For information on post-approval requirements and recommendations for ANDAs and a list of resources for ANDA holders, we refer you to <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/abbreviated-new-drug-application-anda/requirements-and-resources-approved-andas>.

RESUBMISSION

To request final approval, please submit an amendment titled “FINAL APPROVAL REQUESTED” with enough time to permit FDA review prior to the date you believe that your ANDA will be eligible for final approval. A request for final approval that contains no new data, information, or other changes to the ANDA generally requires a period of 3 months for Agency review. Accordingly, such a request for final approval should be submitted no later than 3 months prior to the date on which you seek approval. A request for final approval that contains substantive changes to this ANDA or changes in the status of the manufacturing and testing facilities’ compliance with cGMPs will be classified and reviewed according to OGD policy in effect at the time of receipt. Applicants should review available agency guidance for industry related to amendments under the generic drug user fee program to determine the duration of Agency review needed to review the changes submitted. As part of this consideration, applicants should monitor any changes to the RLD that occur after tentative approval, including changes in labeling, patent or exclusivity information, or marketing status. The submission of multiple amendments prior to final approval may also result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

The amendment requesting final approval should provide the legal/regulatory basis for your request for final approval and should include a copy of a court decision, settlement or licensing agreement, or other information described in 21 CFR 314.107, as appropriate. It should also identify changes, if any, in the conditions under which the ANDA was tentatively approved, e.g., updated information such as final-printed labeling, chemistry, manufacturing, and controls data as appropriate. This amendment should be submitted even if none of these changes were made, and it should be designated clearly in your cover letter as a “FINAL APPROVAL REQUESTED.”

In addition to the amendment requested above, the Agency may request, at any time prior to the date of final approval, that you submit an additional amendment containing information as specified by the Agency. Failure to submit either or, if requested, both

types of amendments described above may result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

This drug product may not be marketed without final Agency approval under section 505(j) of the FD&C Act. The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of this drug product before the final approval date is prohibited under section 301 of the FD&C Act. Also, until the Agency issues the final approval letter, this drug product will not be deemed approved for marketing under section 505(j) of the FD&C Act, and will not be listed in the Orange Book.

For further information on the status of this ANDA or upon submitting an amendment to the ANDA, please contact Dhimo Vrusho, PharmD, Regulatory Project Manager, at (240) 402 - 2882.

Sincerely yours,

{See appended electronic signature page}

For Kendra S. Stewart, R.Ph., Pharm.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Director
Office of Regulatory Operations
Office of Generic Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

¹ This decision may be either a decision of the district court or the court of appeals, whichever court is the first to decide that the patent is invalid or not infringed.



Catherine
Poole

Digitally signed by Catherine Poole

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