

**CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH**

APPLICATION NUMBER:

21-990

TENTATIVE APPROVAL LETTER



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

NDA 21-990

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Ms. Donna Vivelo
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, New Jersey 07936-1080

Dear Ms. Vivelo:

Please refer to your new drug application (NDA) dated February 22, 2006, submitted pursuant to section 505(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Exforge (amlodipine and valsartan) 5/160, 10/160, 5/320, and 10/320 mg Tablets.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated March 31, April 11 and 25, June 22, July 20, August 1, 4, 15, and 22, September 22, November 3 and 15, December 5, 7, 15, and 18, 2006.

This NDA provides for the use of Exforge (amlodipine and valsartan) Tablets for the treatment of hypertension.

We have completed our review of this application, as amended, and it is tentatively approved under 21 CFR 314.105 for use as recommended in the agreed upon labeling submitted December 18, 2006 (text for the package insert and patient package insert, and immediate container and carton labels). This determination is contingent upon information available to the Agency at this time (i.e., information in your application and the status of current good manufacturing practices of the facilities used in manufacturing and testing of the drug product) and is, therefore, subject to change on the basis of any new information that may come to our attention.

The listed reference drug product (Norvasc®), upon which you base your application, is subject to a period of patent protection and exclusivity protection, and, therefore, final approval of your application under section 505(c)(3) of the Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)(3)) may not be made effective until this period has expired, i.e., September 25, 2007.

No earlier than 60 days prior to September 25, 2007, submit an amendment to this application identifying changes, if any, in the conditions under which your product was tentatively approved. This information should include updated labeling, updated primary stability data as agreed upon during the November 13, 2006 teleconference, and a safety update.

Failure to submit this amendment will prompt a review of the application that may result in rescission of the tentative approval letter.

In addition, submit three copies of the introductory promotional materials that you propose to use for this product. Submit all proposed materials in draft or mock-up form, not final print. Send one copy to

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the Division of Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs and two copies of both the promotional materials and the package insert directly 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

Any significant change in the conditions outlined in this NDA requires our review before final approval may be granted.

Before we issue a final approval letter, this NDA is not deemed approved. If you believe that there are grounds for issuing the final approval letters before September 25, 2007, you should amend your application accordingly.

This product may be considered misbranded under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act if it is marketed before final approval.

All applications for new active ingredients, new dosage forms, new indications, new routes of administration, and new dosing regimens are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived or deferred. We are waiving the pediatric study requirement for this application.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Quynh Nguyen, Pharm.D.
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: PI and PPI

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

Norman Stockbridge
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