# CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

**APPLICATION NUMBER:** 

214273Orig1s000

# **PRODUCT QUALITY REVIEW(S)**



# **RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

# NDA 214273 Review # 2

Drug Product Name	ZONISADE (zonisamide)	
Dosage Form	Oral suspension	
Strength	20 mg/mL	
Route of Administration	Oral	
Rx/OTC Dispensed	Rx	
Applicant	Azurity Pharmaceuticals	
US agent, if applicable	N/A	

#### **QUALITY TEAM**

Discipline	Primary Assessment	Secondary Assessment	
Drug Substance	N/A	-	
Drug Product	Grace Chiou	Martha Heimann	
Manufacturing	Yan Xu	Tianhong Tim Zhou	
Microbiology	N/A	1	
Biopharmaceutics	N/A	1	
Regulatory Business Process Manager	Erica Keafer		
Application Technical Lead	Martha Heimann		
Laboratory (OTR)			
Environmental			

#### **SUBMISSIONS REVIEWED**

Submission(s)	<b>Document Date</b>	Discipline(s) Affected
SD-16, Quality Amendment	7/29/2021	Drug product, manufacturing
SD-17, Resubmission after CR	1/18/2022	Drug product, manufacturing
SD-20, Labeling/Container	4/18/2022	Drug product

# **QUALITY ASSESSMENT DATA SHEET**

#### 1. RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

#### A. DMFs:

DMF#	Туре	Holder	Item Referenced	Status	Date Assessed	Comments
(b) (4)	Ш		(b) (4)	Adequate	8/20/2020	J. Medwid
	III			N/A 1	1	
	III			N/A 1	-	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DMF was not reviewed. Adequate information in NDA.

# B. Other Documents: IND, RLD, or sister applications

Document	Application Number	Description
pre-IND	142839	pre-IND final written response (4/11/2019): Agrees- upon pediatric study plan (7/9/2020)
NDA	20789	ZONEGRAN (zonisamide) capsules, referenced under 505(b)(2) to support safety and efficacy of zonisamide

#### 2. CONSULTS

None.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### I. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION ON APPROVABILITY

The Office of Pharmaceutical Quality (OPQ) The Office of Product Quality (OPQ) review team recommends **APPROVAL** of NDA 214273 for ZONISADE (zonisamide oral suspension). From a quality perspective, the application meets all applicable standards to support the identity, strength, quality, and purity that it purports to possess.

#### II. SUMMARY OF QUALITY ASSESSMENTS

#### A. Product Overview

Zonisamide was approved in 2000 for adjunctive treatment of partial seizures in adults age 16 years and older. The innovator drug, ZONEGRAN® is available as 25 mg and 100 mg capsules. Multiple generic versions of zonisamide capsules are available in 25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg strengths. There are no other approved dosage forms.

This 505(b)(2) NDA was originally submitted on 7/29/2020. The proposed product is a strawberry flavored, aqueous, oral suspension containing zonisamide 20 mg/mL and commonly used excipients. The Agency issued a Complete Response (CR) letter on 5/28/2021 due to facility deficiencies. The 1/18/2022 resubmission addressed the facility deficiencies and provided for minor changes to drug product controls.

Proposed indication(s) including intended patient population	Adjunctive treatment of partial seizures in adults age 16 years and older.
Duration of treatment	Chronic
Maximum daily dose	400 mg
Alternative methods of administration	None

#### **B.** Quality Assessment Overview

**Drug Substance:** Adequate First Cycle

No new information was submitted.

**Drug Product:** Adequate

From a drug product perspective, the information provided in the resubmission reflects a change in ownership of the application and information related to the issues in facility inspections as described in the complete response letter to the original submission. The resubmission of this NDA includes new letters of authorizations (LoAs) for the DMFs cross referenced for the container closure components. Additionally, the Applicant provided updated excipient specifications for the compendial excipients that reflects the removal of (b) (4) as the contract testing facility. The information provided in the resubmission is acceptable.

Overall, there is minimal concern to the additional drug product information provided in the resubmission.

Labeling: Adequate

Minor revisions will be implemented during final labeling negotiations.

#### Manufacturing: Adequate

The manufacturing process for zonisamide oral suspension was deemed adequate during the first cycle. However, there were two outstanding facility issues that precluded approval of the application. The proposed drug product manufacturing site, L M Manufacturing Ltd (LMML), is a new site that had no FDA inspection history. LMML had been inspected by a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) authority and two 704(a)(4) (document request review in lieu of in person inspection) reviews were conducted for other applications with similar dosage forms/unit operations. The LMML response was not adequate from a quality perspective; therefore, an on-site inspection was necessary to verify that adequate mitigation measures have been taken. Due to the facility location (UK) and Covid-19 travel restrictions it was not possible to perform a facility inspection prior to the PDUFA Goal Date. If inspection of the LMML facility had been the only outstanding issue, action on the NDA would have been delayed until an inspection could be performed. In this case, however, a second facility,

[b) (4), which was proposed as a testing site, was under OAI¹ status and a CR letter was issued.

In the resubmission, the (b) (4) facility was withdrawn as a testing site and the test methods were transferred to LMML. A pre-approval inspection with specific

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OAI: Official Action Indicated

coverage of the proposed drug product was conducted from 01/27/2022 – 02/02/2022 at the LMML facility. Based on the review of the inspection files, the LMML facility is considered acceptable as a drug product manufacturer. All other facilities remain acceptable. Facility status should be verified prior to final action.

**Biopharmaceutics:** Adequate First Cycle

No new information was submitted.

Microbiology: Adequate First Cycle

No new information was submitted.

**Environmental:** Adequate First Cycle

No new information was submitted.

## C. Risk Assessment

Fro	m Initial Risk Identification		Review Asses	ssment	
Attribute/ CQA	Factors that can impact the CQA	Initial Risk Ranking	Risk Mitigation Approach	Final Risk Evaluation	Comments
Assay/stability	Formulation, container closure, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low	(b) (4)	Adequate	
Physical stability (phase separation)	Formulation, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Physical stability (solid state)	Formulation, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Dose accuracy	Dosing device, formulation, process parameters, Scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Dissolution	Formulation, raw materials, particle size, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Palatability	Formulation, excipient changes, raw materials, process parameters	Moderate		Adequate	
Microbial limits	Formulation, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Leachables	Formulation, container closure, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Moderate		Adequate	

## D. List of Deficiencies for Complete Response

Not applicable.

Application Technical Lead Name and Date:

Martha R. Heimann, Ph.D. Senior Pharmaceutical Quality Assessor for Neurology Products Office of New Drug Products

6/1/2022



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# CHAPTER IV: LABELING

IQA NDA Assessment Guide Reference

#### 1.0 PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Assessment of Product Quality Related Aspects of the Prescribing Information: The draft carton label and prescribing information was retrieved from eCTD 0016 submitted on July 29, 2021. The draft container label was accessed from eCTD 0020 submitted on April 18, 2022.

#### 1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments		
Product Title in Highlights				
Proprietary name	ZONISADE	Inadequate		
	(Zonisamide oral	Revise to		
Route(s) of administration	suspension)	"ZONISADE		
		(zonisamide oral		
		suspension)"		
<b>Dosage Forms and Streng</b>	ths Heading in Highlight	ts		
Summary of the dosage	(b) (4)	Inadequate		
form(s) and strength(s)		Remove (b) (4)		
in metric system.		to avoid		
		confusion		
Assess if the tablet is	NA	NA		
scored. If product meets				
guidelines and criteria for a				
scored tablet, state				
"functionally scored"				
For injectable drug	NA	NA		
products for parental				
administration, use				
appropriate package type				
term (e.g., single-dose,				
multiple-dose, single-				
patient-use). Other				
package terms include				
pharmacy bulk package				
and imaging bulk package.				

#### 1.2 FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

#### 1.2.1 Section 2 (DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DOSAGE AND ADMINISTR	RATION section	
Special instructions for product preparation (e.g., reconstitution and resulting concentration, dilution, compatible diluents, storage conditions needed to maintain the stability of the reconstituted or diluted product)	shaken well before every administration. To administer ZONISADE directly into the mouth, it is important that ZONISADE be measured with an accurate measuring device [see Overdosage (10)]. A household teaspoon is not an accurate measuring device. A pharmacist will provide an appropriate device and instructions for measuring the correct dose.  (b) (4) orally (b) (4)  with or without food.  Discard unused portion of ZONISADE 30 days after first opening the bottle.	Adequate

# 1.2.2 Section 3 (DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS)

Item	Information in the N		Assessor's Comments
DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGT	HS section		
Available dosage form(s)		(b) (4)	Adequate
Strength(s) in metric system			
If the active ingredient is a salt,		white to off-	
apply the USP Salt Policy per FDA	white	(b) (4)	
Guidance	strawberry flavor	(b) (4)	
A description of the identifying			
characteristics of the dosage			
forms, including shape, color,			
coating, scoring, and imprinting			
Assess if the tablet is scored. If	NA		NA
product meets guidelines and			
criteria for a scored tablet, state			
"functionally scored"			
For injectable drug products for	NA		NA
parental administration, use			
appropriate labeling term (e.g.,			
single-dose, multiple-dose, single-			
patient-use). Other package type			
terms include pharmacy bulk			
package and imaging bulk			
package.			

# 1.2.3 Section 11 (DESCRIPTION)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DESCRIPTION section		
Proprietary and established	ZONISADE (Zonisamide	Inadequate
name(s)	Oral Suspension) (b) (4)	Revise to "(zonisamide oral
Dosage form(s) and route(s)		suspension")
of administration	chemically classified as a	
If the active ingredient is a	sulfonamide (b) (4)	
salt, apply the USP Salt		
Policy and include the	. The	
equivalency statement per	active ingredient is	
FDA Guidance.	Zonisamide, 1,2-	
	benzisoxazole-3-	
	methanesulfonamide.	
	The empirical formula is C8H8N2O3S with a	
	molecular weight of	
	212.23. Zonisamide is a	
	white powder, pKa =	
	10.2, and is moderately	
	soluble in water (0.80	
	mg/mL) and 0.1 N HCI	
	(0.50 mg/mL).	
	The chemical structure	
	is:	
	NH <sub>2</sub>	
	S	

List names of all inactive ingredients. Use USP/NF names. Avoid Brand names.	ZONISADE is an aqueous white to off-white liquid suspension. Each mL contains 20 mg of zonisamide. Inactive ingredients include carboxymethylcellulose sodium, citric acid monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, purified water, sodium benzoate, strawberry flavor, sucralose, trisodium citrate dihydrate, and xanthan gum.	Adequate
For parenteral injectable dosage forms, include the name and quantities of all inactive ingredients. For ingredients added to adjust the pH or make isotonic, include the name and statement of effect.	NA	NA
If alcohol is present, must provide the amount of alcohol in terms of percent volume of absolute alcohol	NA	NA
Statement of being sterile (if applicable)	NA	NA
Pharmacological/ therapeutic class Chemical name, structural formula, molecular weight	See above	Adequate
If radioactive, statement of important nuclear characteristics.	NA	NA
Other important chemical or physical properties (such as pKa or pH)	See above	Adequate

# Section 11 (DESCRIPTION) Continued

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
For oral prescription drug products, include gluten statement if applicable	NA	NA
Remove statements that may be misleading or promotional (e.g., "synthesized and developed by Drug Company X," "structurally unique molecular entity"	NA	NA

1.2.4 Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE	AND HANDLING section	
Available dosage form(s)  Strength(s) in metric system  Available units (e.g., bottles of 100 tablets)  Identification of dosage forms, e.g., shape, color, coating, scoring, imprinting, NDC number	ZONISADE, (b)(4) is a white to off-white (b)(4). It is supplied in 150 mL amber colored PET bottle with a child resistant cap.  NDC Number: 52652-8001-1  Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F), excursions permitted from 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature], (b)(4) protected from light.  Discard unused portion of ZONISADE 30 days after first opening of the bottle.	Adequate
Assess if the tablet is scored. If product meets guidelines and criteria for a scored tablet, state "functionally scored"	NA	NA
For injectable drug products for parental administration, use appropriate package type term (e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose, single-patient-use). Other package terms include pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package.	NA	NA

Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING) (Continued)

Item	Information Provided	Assessor's Comments	
	in the NDA		
Special handling about the	See above	Adequate	
supplied product (e.g.,			
protect from light,			
refrigerate). If there is a			
statement to "Dispense in			
original container," provide			
reason why (e.g. to protect			
from light or moisture, to			
maintain stability, etc.)	NIA.	NA.	
If the product contains a	NA	NA	
desiccant, ensure the size			
and shape differ from the dosage form and desiccant			
has a warning such as "Do			
not eat."			
Storage conditions. Where	See above	Adequate	
applicable, use USP	occ above	Adequate	
storage range rather than			
storage at a single			
temperature.			
Latex: If product does not	NA	NA	
contain latex and			
manufacturing of product			
and container did not			
include use of natural			
rubber latex or synthetic			
derivatives of natural rubber			
latex, state: "Not made with			
natural rubber latex. Avoid			
statements such as "latex-			
free."			
Include information about	See above	Adequate	
child-resistant packaging			

#### 1.2.5 Other Sections of Labeling

There may be other sections of labeling that contain product-quality related information. For example, there are specific required/recommended warnings for certain inactive ingredients [e.g., aspartame, aluminum in large and small volume parenterals, sulfites, FD&C Yellow Number 5 (tartrazine), and benzyl alcohol]. Please notify the prescription drug division if the product contains any of these inactive ingredients.

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Please include your comments about other sections of labeling if they contain product quality information.

1.2.6 Manufacturing Information After Section 17 (for drug products)

		\
Item Information Provided in the NDA		Assessor's Comments
Manufacturing Information	After Section 17	
Name and location of business (street address,	Manufactured for: Azurity	Adequate
city, state and zip code) of the manufacturer, distributor,	Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Wilmington, MA 01887	
and/or packer	Made in United Kingdom	

#### 2.0 PATIENT LABELING

Assessment of Product Quality Related Aspects of Patient Labeling (e.g., Medication Guide, Patient Information, Instructions for Use): With the exclusion of minor edits highlighted in red, the language used is acceptable from a product quality perspective.

Any deficiencies should be listed at the end in the "ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT."

#### 3.0 CARTON AND CONTAINER LABELING

3.1 Container Label	47.40
	(b) (4)

#### 3.2 Carton Labeling

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Effective Date: February 1, 2019

	Information Provided in	Assessor's
Item	the NDA	Comments about Carton Labeling
Proprietary name, established	Zonisade (Zonisamide Oral	Inadequate
name, and dosage form (font	Suspension)	Revise to lower case
size and prominence		(i.e., "zonisamide oral
De conservation et la	AV.	suspension")
Dosage strength	(b) (4)	Adequate
Route of administration	For oral use only	
If the active ingredient is a salt, include the equivalency	NA	
statement per FDA Guidance		
Net contents (e.g. tablet count)	150 mL	
"Rx only" displayed on the	R <sub>c</sub> Only	
principal display	,,	
NDC number	NDC 52652-8001-1	
Lot number and expiration date		
	LOT: Unvarnished area	
	EXP: 36 x 18 mm	
Storage conditions. If applicable,		
include a space on the carton	Date of first opening/_/ Discard unused portion 30 days after	
labeling for the user to write the	first opening.	
new BUD.		
For injectable drug products for	NA	NA
parental administration, use		
appropriate package type term		
(e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose,		
single-patient-use)		
Other package terms include		
pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package which		
require "Not for direct infusion"		
statement.		
If alcohol is present, must		
provide the amount of alcohol in		
terms of percent volume of		
absolute alcohol		
Bar code		Adequate
	3 3 4 5 2 4 5	
	(b) (4)	

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments about Carton Labeling
Name of manufacturer/distributor	Manufactured for:  Cazurity  Made in United Kingdom  Wilmington, MA 01887 USA  Rev. 00	Adequate
Medication Guide (if applicable)	ATTENTION PHARMACIST: Dispense Medication Guide to each patient, Medication Guide available at: zonisade.com/medication-guide.pdf	
No text on Ferrule and Cap overseal	None present	
When a drug product differs from the relevant USP standard of strength, quality, or purity, as determined by the application of the tests, procedures, and acceptance criteria set forth		
in the relevant compendium, its difference shall be plainly stated on its label.		
And others, if space is available	NA	

Assessment of Carton and Container Labeling: Adequate

Any deficiencies should be listed at the end in the "ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT."

#### ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT

Not applicable

## Overall Assessment and Recommendation:

Adequate, pending the Applicant's acceptance of the revisions noted above in red.





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Digitally signed by Grace Chiou Date: 5/16/2022 09:33:29AM

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# **RECOMMENDATION: Complete Response**

# NDA 214273 Review # 1

<b>Drug Product Name</b>	ZONISADE (zonisamide)
Dosage Form	Oral suspension
Strength	20 mg/mL
Route of Administration	Oral
Rx/OTC Dispensed	Rx
Applicant	Azurity Pharmaceuticals (formerly Eton Pharmaceuticals)
US agent, if applicable	N/A

#### **QUALITY TEAM**

Discipline	Primary Assessment	Secondary Assessment	
Drug Substance	Jeffrey Medwid	Donna Christner	
Drug Product	Grace Chiou	Julia Pinto	
Manufacturing	Yan Xu	Joanne Wang	
Microbiology	Dionne Coker-Robinson	Denise Miller	
Biopharmaceutics	Leah Falade	Ta-Chen Wu	
Regulatory Business Process Manager	Kelly Ballard		
Application Technical Lead	Martha Heimann		
Laboratory (OTR)			
Environmental			

#### **SUBMISSIONS REVIEWED**

Submission(s)	Document Date	Discipline(s) Affected
SD-1, Original NDA	7/29/2020	All
SD-2, Labeling, package insert (PI) draft	9/24/2020	Drug product
SD-4, Response to information request (IR)	10/22/2020	Biopharmaceutics

SD-5, Labeling, PI draft	10/23/2020	Drug product
SD-7, Response to IR	11/6/2020	Drug product
SD-9, Response to IR	12/23/2020	Drug product
SD-10, Labeling, PI draft	2/2/2021	Drug product
SD-11, Labeling, PI draft	2/3/2021	Drug product
SD-14, Response to IR	3/10/2021	Manufacturing
SD-15, Response to IR	3/22/2021	Biopharmaceutics

# **QUALITY ASSESSMENT DATA SHEET**

#### 1. RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

#### A. DMFs:

DMF#		Holder	Item Referenced	Status	Date Assessed	Comments
(b) (4)	Ш		(b) (4)	Adequate	8/20/2020	J. Medwid
	III			N/A 1	1	
	III			N/A 1	-	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DMF was not reviewed. Adequate information in NDA.

# **B.** Other Documents: IND, RLD, or sister applications

Document	Application Number	Description
pre-IND	142839	pre-IND final written response (4/11/2019): Agrees- upon pediatric study plan (7/9/2020)
NDA	20789	ZONEGRAN (zonisamide) capsules, referenced under 505(b)(2) to support safety and efficacy of zonisamide

#### 2. CONSULTS

None

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### I. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION ON APPROVABILITY

The Office of Product Quality (OPQ) review team recommends that the Agency issue a **Complete Response Letter (CRL)** for NDA 214273, ZONISADE (zonisamide oral suspension) suspension. From a quality perspective, there insufficient information to ensure that the Applicant can consistently manufacture a product that is suitable for use to treat the intended patients. As discussed in Section II.B. under *Manufacturing*, there are two outstanding facility issues that must be resolved prior to approval of the NDA.

The deficiencies listed in Section II.D. should be communicated in the action letter.

#### II. SUMMARY OF QUALITY ASSESSMENTS

#### A. Product Overview

Zonisamide is an antiepileptic drug that was approved in 2000 for adjunctive treatment of partial seizures in adults age 16 years and older. The innovator drug, ZONEGRAN® is available as 25 mg and 100 mg capsule; however, ZONEGRAN 50 mg capsules are discontinued. There are multiple generic versions of zonisamide capsules that are available in 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg strengths. There are no other approved dosage forms.

In this 505(b)(2) NDA, the applicant requests approval for a zonisamide oral suspension, 20 mg/mL. The proposed product is a strawberry flavored aqueous suspension to be marketed in 150 mL amber PETE bottles. Excipients include commonly used [6)(4), sucralose, strawberry flavor, and sodium benzoate [6)(4). The recommended initial dose of zonisamide is 100 mg/day, the dose may be increased by 100 mg/day at not less than two-week intervals. The maximum recommended dose is 400 mg/day.

Proposed indication(s) including intended patient population	Adjunctive treatment of partial seizures in adults age 16 years and older.
Duration of treatment	Chronic
Maximum daily dose	400 mg
Alternative methods of administration	None

# **B.** Quality Assessment Overview Drug Substance: Adequate Zonisamide USP is a well-characterized small molecule that is approved under NDA 20789 and several ANDAs. Information regarding manufacture and control of the bulk drug substance is incorporated by cross-reference to DMF ). The DMF was reviewed in support of this NDA and is deemed adequate to support approval. The information submitted directly to the NDA includes general properties of zonisamide, manufacturing facilities, the manufacturer's release specification (summary table) and certificates of analysis, and the drug product manufacturer's acceptance specification, analytical procedures and supporting method validation/verification data. The drug substance meets USP monograph requirements and the specification includes appropriate controls for process impurities, residual solvents and particle size. Drug Product: Adequate The proposed product contains zonisamide, 20 mg/mL, in an aqueous suspension for oral administration. The suspension contains compendial excipients (microcrystalline cellulose (MCC), carboxymethylcellulose sodium (CMCNa), sucralose, xanthan gum, sodium benzoate, citric acid monohydrate, and trisodium citrate dihydrate) that are commonly used in oral liquids and strawberry flavor. Zonisamide oral suspension is packaged in a 150 mL PET bottle with a child resistant closure that contains 150 mL of product. The drug product specification includes appropriate tests and acceptance criteria for an oral suspension. All noncompendial test procedures have been adequately validated and the acceptance criteria have been justified by the applicant. Based on the stability data provided, the proposed shelf life of 24 months for product stored at 20°C - 25°C is granted. Labeling: Adequate The proposed labeling for zonisamide oral suspension is acceptable from a Product Quality perspective. The only deficiencies identified during the review, i.e., incorrect storage statements on container labels and in the package insert, were corrected in the 2/2/20221 (SD-10) and 2/3/20211 (SD-11) amendments, respectively. Inadequate Manufacturing: (b) (4) The manufacturing process for zonisamide oral suspension involves

(b) (4)	The applicant has adequately
justified selection of process parameters and in-proces	ss controls

Although the manufacturing process for zonisamide oral suspension is deemed adequate, there are two outstanding facility issues that preclude approval of the application at this time. The proposed drug product manufacturing site, L M Manufacturing Ltd (LMML), is a new site, with no FDA inspection history. LMML has been inspected by a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) authority and two 704(a)(4) (document request review in lieu of in person inspection) reviews were conducted for other applications with similar dosage forms/unit operations. The LMML response has not been adequate from a quality perspective; therefore, an on-site inspection will be necessary to verify that adequate mitigation measures have been taken. Due to the facility location (UK) and Covid-19 travel restrictions it is unlikely that a facility inspection could be performed prior to the PDUFA Goal Date, 5/29/2021. Additionally, a second facility, (0)(4) which proposed as a testing site in the application, is under OAI status. Thus, the application cannot be recommended for approval from a manufacturing perspective.

Biopharmaceutics: Adequate

The acceptability of the proposed dissolution method and acceptance criterion, and formulation bridging were evaluated.

The applicant's proposed dissolution method was shown to have discriminating ability toward API particle size compared to the to-be-marketed (TBM) formulation. However, the method was not shown to be discriminating towards

The Applicant's proposed dissolution method was deemed acceptable for batch release and stability testing of zonisamide oral suspension. (b) (4)

The applicant has agreed to the Agency's recommended acceptance criterion. The dissolution method and acceptance criterion below are recommended for approval.

USP	Speed	Medium	Volume	Acceptance
Apparatus	(rpm)		(mL)	Criterion
2 (paddle)	60 rpm	Deaerated Water	900 mL	Q = (b)% in 20 min

Pivotal clinical studies used the TBM formulation, which was manufactured at proposed commercial site. Therefore, formulation bridging is not needed.

Microbiology: Adequate

Antimicrobial effectiveness testing (AET) performed in accordance

with USP <51> demonstrated that the specification limits for adequate. Microbial assessment is performed at release and on stability. The limits are consistent with USP <1111> recommendations for aqueous nonsterile drug products for oral use and analytical methods are adequately validated. In-use stability studies support an in-use period of 30 days after opening the drug product bottle.

Environmental: Adequate

## C. Risk Assessment

Fro	m Initial Risk Identification		Review Asses	sment	
Attribute/ CQA	Factors that can impact the CQA	Initial Risk Ranking	Risk Mitigation Approach	Final Risk Evaluation	Comments
Assay/stability	Formulation, container closure, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low	(b) (4)	Adequate	
Physical stability (phase separation)	Formulation, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Physical stability (solid state)	Formulation, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Dose accuracy	Dosing device, formulation, process parameters, Scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Dissolution	Formulation, raw materials, particle size, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Palatability	Formulation, excipient changes, raw materials, process parameters	Moderate		Adequate	
Microbial limits	Formulation, raw materials, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Low		Adequate	
Leachables	Formulation, container closure, process parameters, scale/equipment/site	Moderate		Adequate	

#### D. List of Deficiencies for Complete Response

#### **Product Quality**

- 1. During a recent inspection of the harmonic (b) (4) (FEI: harmonic (b) (4) manufacturing facility for this application, our field investigator conveyed deficiencies to the representative of the facility. Satisfactory resolution of these deficiencies is required before this application may be approved.
- 2. During a review of records requested under section 704(a)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the FDA communicated issues with the L M MANUFACTURING LIMITED, FEI 3015337531 manufacturing facility named in your application. These issues will need to be addressed in order to for your application to be approved. An inspection of the L M MANUFACTURING LIMITED, FEI 3015337531 facility is required before the application can be approved. FDA must ensure that the facility is able to conduct the listed manufacturing operations in compliance with CGMP. FDA will continue to monitor the public health situation as well as travel restrictions. We are actively working to define an approach for scheduling outstanding inspections, once safe travel may resume and based on public health need and other factors. For more information, please see the FDA guidances related to COVID 19. These guidances can be found at <a href="https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-related-quidancedocuments-industry-fda-staff-and-other-stakeholders"</a>

Application Technical Lead Name and Date:

Martha R. Heimann, Ph.D. CMC Lead for Neurology Products Office of New Drug Products

4/26/2021



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# **CHAPTER IV: LABELING**

IQA NDA Assessment Guide Reference

#### 1.0 PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Assessment of Product Quality Related Aspects of the Prescribing Information:

#### 1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments			
Product Title in Highlights					
Proprietary name	Zonisamide oral	Adequate			
Established name(s)	suspension				
Route(s) of administration					
Dosage Forms and Streng	ths Heading in Highlight	s			
Summary of the dosage	Zonisamide (b) (4)				
form(s) and strength(s)					
in metric system.	<sup>(b) (4)</sup> 100 mg/5				
	mL (3).				
Assess if the tablet is	NA	NA			
scored. If product meets					
guidelines and criteria for a					
scored tablet, state					
"functionally scored"					
For injectable drug	NA	NA			
products for parental					
administration, use					
appropriate package type					
term (e.g., single-dose,					
multiple-dose, single-					
patient-use). Other					
package terms include					
pharmacy bulk package					
and imaging bulk package.					

### 1.2 FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

1.2.1 Section 2 (DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments			
DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section					
	in the NDA	Assessor's Comments  Adequate			
	dose.  orally  with or without food.  Discard any unused  zonisamide oral  suspension remaining  30 days after first opening the bottle.				

# 1.2.2 Section 3 (DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGT	HS section	
Available dosage form(s)	(b) (4) oral	Adequate
Strength(s) in metric system	suspension (b) (4)	-
If the active ingredient is a salt,		
apply the USP Salt Policy per FDA		
Guidance		
A description of the identifying		
characteristics of the dosage	a white to off-white	
forms, including shape, color,	(b) (4)	
coating, scoring, and imprinting	strawberry	
	flavor (b) (4)	
Assess if the tablet is scored. If	NA	NA
product meets guidelines and		
criteria for a scored tablet, state		
"functionally scored"		
For injectable drug products for	NA	NA
parental administration, use		
appropriate labeling term (e.g.,		
single-dose, multiple-dose, single-		
patient-use). Other package type		
terms include pharmacy bulk		
package and imaging bulk		
package.		

1.2.3 Section 11 (DESCRIPTION)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
DESCRIPTION section		
Proprietary and established name(s)  Dosage form(s) and route(s) of administration	Zonisamide oral suspension in an aqueous white to off-white liquid suspension. Each mL contains 20 mg of zonisamide.	Adequate
If the active ingredient is a salt, apply the USP Salt Policy and include the equivalency statement per FDA Guidance.	NA	NA
List names of all inactive ingredients. Use USP/NF names. Avoid Brand names.	Inactive ingredients include carboxymethylcellulose sodium, citric acid monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, purified water, sodium benzoate, strawberry flavor, sucralose, trisodium citrate dihydrate, and xanthan gum.	Adequate
For parenteral injectable dosage forms, include the name and quantities of all inactive ingredients. For ingredients added to adjust the pH or make isotonic, include the name and statement of effect.	NA	NA
If alcohol is present, must provide the amount of alcohol in terms of percent volume of absolute alcohol	NA	NA
Statement of being sterile (if applicable)	NA	NA

Pharmacological/	Zonisamide is (b)	Adequate
therapeutic		
class	chemically classified as a	
	sulfonamide (b) (4)	
Chemical name, structural	The active ingredient is	Adequate
formula, molecular weight	Zonisamide, 1,2-	
	benzisoxazole-3-	
	methanesulfonamide.	
	The empirical formula is	
	C8H8N2O3S with a	
	molecular weight	
	of 212.23.	
	Zonisamide is a white	
	powder, pKa = 10.2, and	
	is moderately soluble in	
	water (0.80 mg/mL) and	
	0.1 N HCl (0.50 mg/mL).	
	The chemical structure	
	is:	
	NH <sub>2</sub>	
	S=0	
	'N	
	<b>▽</b> 0	
If radioactive, statement of	NA	NA
important nuclear		
characteristics.		
Other important chemical or	Zonisamide is a white	Adequate
physical properties (such as	powder, pKa = 10.2, and	
pKa or pH)	is moderately soluble in	
	water (0.80 mg/mL) and	
	0.1 N HCI (0.50 mg/mL).	

# Section 11 (DESCRIPTION) Continued

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
For oral prescription drug products, include gluten statement if applicable	NA	NA
Remove statements that may be misleading or promotional (e.g., "synthesized and developed by Drug Company X," "structurally unique molecular entity"	NA	NA

1.2.4 Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING)

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments			
HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING section					
Available dosage form(s)	Zonisamide oral	Adequate			
Strength(s) in metric system	suspension, (b) (4)				
Available units (e.g., bottles	is a white to off-white				
of 100 tablets)	<sup>(b) (4)</sup> . It is				
Identification of dosage	supplied in 150 mL				
forms, e.g., shape, color,	amber colored PET				
coating, scoring, imprinting,	bottle with a child				
NDC number	resistant cap.				
	NDC Number: (b) (4)				
Assess if the tablet is scored.	NA	NA			
If product meets guidelines	INA	INA			
and criteria for a scored					
tablet, state "functionally					
scored"					
For injectable drug products	NA	NA			
for parental administration,					
use appropriate package					
type term (e.g., single-dose,					
multiple-dose, single-patient-					
use). Other package terms					
include pharmacy bulk					
package and imaging bulk					
package.					

Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING) (Continued)

Section 16 (HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING) (Continued)				
Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments		
Special handling about the supplied product (e.g., protect from light, refrigerate). If there is a statement to "Dispense in original container," provide reason why (e.g. to protect from light or moisture, to maintain stability, etc.)	Discard any unused zonisamide oral suspension remaining 30 days after first opening of the bottle.	Adequate		
If the product contains a desiccant, ensure the size and shape differ from the dosage form and desiccant has a warning such as "Do not eat."	NA	NA		
Storage conditions. Where applicable, use USP storage range rather than storage at a single temperature.	Store at 25°C (77°F), excursions permitted to 15–30°C (59–86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature], protected from light.	Inadequate Replace 25°C with 20°C- 25°C per USP controlled room temperature.  Replace "-" with "to" to avoid confusion with minus sign and replace storage temperature with a range rather than a single temperature.		
Latex: If product does not contain latex and manufacturing of product and container did not include use of natural rubber latex or synthetic derivatives of natural rubber latex, state: "Not made with natural rubber latex. Avoid statements such as "latex-free."	NA			
Include information about child-resistant packaging	See above.	Adequate		

#### 1.2.5 Other Sections of Labeling

There may be other sections of labeling that contain product-quality related information. For example, there are specific required/recommended warnings for certain inactive ingredients [e.g., aspartame, aluminum in large and small volume parenterals, sulfites, FD&C Yellow Number 5 (tartrazine), and benzyl alcohol]. Please notify the prescription drug division if the product contains any of these inactive ingredients.

Please include your comments about other sections of labeling if they contain product quality information.

1.2.6 Manufacturing Information After Section 17 (for drug products)

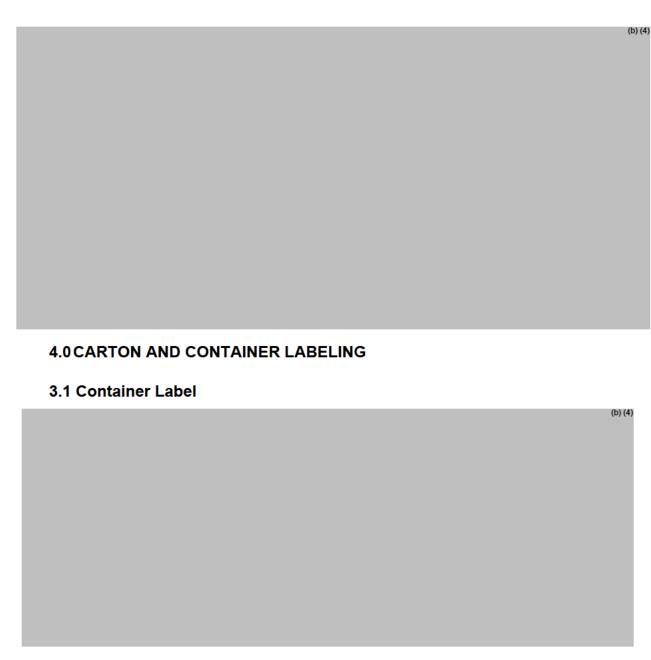
Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments
Manufacturing Information /	After Section 17	
Name and location of business (street address, city, state and zip code) of the manufacturer, distributor, and/or packer	Manufactured for (b) (4)	Adequate

#### 2.0 PATIENT LABELING

Assessment of Product Quality Related Aspects of Patient Labeling (e.g., Medication Guide, Patient Information, Instructions for Use): The only revision is to alphabetize the inactive ingredients listed in the medication guide. Otherwise, the language used in the medication guide is adequate from a quality perspective.

Any deficiencies should be listed at the end in the "ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT."

#### 3.0 Structured Product Labeling



3.2 Carton Labeling

Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments about Carton Labeling	
Proprietary name, established name, and dosage form (font size and prominence Dosage strength	Zonisamide oral suspension (b) (4)	Adequate	
Route of administration  If the active ingredient is a salt, include the equivalency statement per FDA Guidance	NA	NA	
Net contents (e.g. tablet count)	150 mL	Adequate	
"Rx only" displayed on the principal display	Rx Only	Adequate	
NDC number Lot number and expiration date	NDC 71863-108-06	Adequate Adequate	
Storage conditions. If applicable, include a space on the carton labeling for the user to write the new BUD.	Store Zonisamide Oral Suspension at 25°C (77°F), excursions permitted to 15 to 30°C (59 to 86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature],	Inadequate Replace 25°C with 20°C-25°C per USP controlled room temperature.	
For injectable drug products for parental administration, use appropriate package type term (e.g., single-dose, multiple-dose, single-patient-use)	NA	NA	
Other package terms include pharmacy bulk package and imaging bulk package which require "Not for direct infusion" statement.	NA	NA	
If alcohol is present, must provide the amount of alcohol in terms of percent volume of absolute alcohol	NA	NA	

Bar code	(b) (4)	Adequate
Item	Information Provided in the NDA	Assessor's Comments about Carton Labeling
Name of manufacturer/distributor	(b) (4)	Adequate
Medication Guide (if applicable)	See Medication Guide	Adequate
No text on Ferrule and Cap overseal	None present	Adequate
When a drug product differs from the relevant USP standard of strength, quality, or purity, as determined by the application of the tests, procedures, and acceptance criteria set forth in the relevant compendium, its difference shall be plainly stated on its label.		NA
And others, if space is available	NA	NA

## Assessment of Carton and Container Labeling:

Adequate, pending the Applicant's acceptance of the revisions noted above in red.

Any deficiencies should be listed at the end in the "ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT."

#### ITEMS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT

## Overall Assessment and Recommendation:

This application is recommended for approval per labeling/labels perspective once the following changes have been made to the label.





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## CHAPTER VI: BIOPHARMACEUTICS

IQA NDA Assessment Guide Reference

NDA Number	NDA-214273-ORIG-1
Drug Product Name/ Strength	Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL
	(150 mL fill)
Route of Administration	Oral
Applicant Name	Eton Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Therapeutic Classification/	Anticonvulsant/DN2
OND Division	
RLD/RS Number	N020789, Zonegran® Capsules, 100 mg
Proposed Indication	As an adjunctive therapy in the treatment of
	partial seizures in adults with epilepsy
Primary Reviewer	Leah W. Falade, Ph.D.
Secondary Reviewer	Ta-Chen Wu, Ph.D.

#### Assessment Recommendation: Adequate

## Background:

The Applicant seeks approval for its Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL (150 mL fill) using Zonegran<sup>®</sup> Capsules, 100 mg (NDA 020789) as the Listed Drug (LD) and is seeking approval under the 505(b)(2) pathway relying on previous established safety and efficacy findings for Zonegran<sup>®</sup>.

The clinical package in support of this NDA includes 2 clinical studies. Fasting and fed pivotal studies were performed to establish bioequivalence to the LD. The to-be-marketed (TBM) formulation was used in the pivotal studies. In support of the Biopharmaceutics program, a suitable dissolution method was developed for the proposed oral suspension product.

#### Assessment Summary:

The review focuses on the Biopharmaceutics evaluation and acceptability of 1) the proposed dissolution method and acceptance criterion, and 2) formulation bridging. The key findings are summarized below:

#### 1) Dissolution Method and Acceptance Criterion:

The Applicant proposed a dissolution method using USP Apparatus 2 (paddle) at 60 rpm in 900 mL of deaerated water. The proposed dissolution method was shown to have discriminating ability toward API particle size and (b)(4)

concentrations.

(b) (4)

The Applicant agreed to the recommended acceptance criterion of Q (10)(4)% in 20 min on 03/22/2021.

The Applicant's proposed dissolution method and acceptance criterion are deemed acceptable for batch release and stability testing of the proposed suspension drug product.

2) Formulation Bridging: The pivotal studies (19-009 and 19-101) used the TBM formulation that was manufactured at LM Manufacturing Limited, UK. The commercial batches will be manufactured at the same site. Therefore, bridging is not needed.

#### Recommendation:

From the Biopharmaceutics perspective, NDA-214273-ORIG-1 for Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL is recommended for **approval**.

The FDA-approved dissolution method and acceptance criterion for the proposed Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL, for batch release and stability testing are as follows:

USP Apparatus	Speed	Medium	Volume	Acceptance criterion	
2 (paddle)	60 rpm	Deaerated Water	900 mL	Q % in 20 min	

#### List Submissions being assessed:

Document(s) Assessed	Date Received
Original (Seq 0001)	07/29/2020
IR Response (Seq 0004)	10/22/2020
IR Response (Seq 0015)	03/22/2021

#### Highlight Key Issues from Last Cycle and Their Resolution:

This is the first review cycle.

## Concise Description of Outstanding Issues:

None

#### **B.1 BCS DESIGNATION**

#### Assessment:

The Applicant claims that the API is a BCS Class 1 drug substance. However, the Applicant has not requested a BCS waiver.

#### Solubility:

The Applicant submitted solubility data in media with pH 1.2 to 6.8, and water.

The initial dose should be 100 mg/day. After two weeks it may be increased

The calculated dose solubility for the highest single dose is 400 mg/250 mL = 1.6 mg/mL. In all conditions, the measured solubility is <1.6 mg/mL and the drug substance is therefore not considered highly soluble, per the FDA's BCS Guidance. The Applicant's solubility data provided in the Dissolution Method Development Report is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. pH Dependent Solubility of Zonisamide in Different Buffer Solutions

Saturation Solubility	Dissolution Medium	Solubility (mg/mL)
of Zonisamide	Purified water	0.83
	1.2 pH (0.1N HCl)	0.81
	4.5 pH acetate buffer	0.83
	6.8 pH phosphate buffer	0.80

#### Permeability:

The Applicant submitted literature data showing that the drug demonstrates extensive oral bioavailability (approaching 100%).

#### Dissolution:

See assessment in section B2.

# B.2 DISSOLUTION METHOD AND ACCEPTANCE CRITERION Assessment: Adequate

#### **Dissolution Method**

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The final proposed dissolution method is acceptable and presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Final Dissolution Method

USP Apparatus	Speed	Medium	Volume
2 (paddle)	60 rpm	Deaerated Water	900 mL

## Discriminating Ability of the Dissolution Method

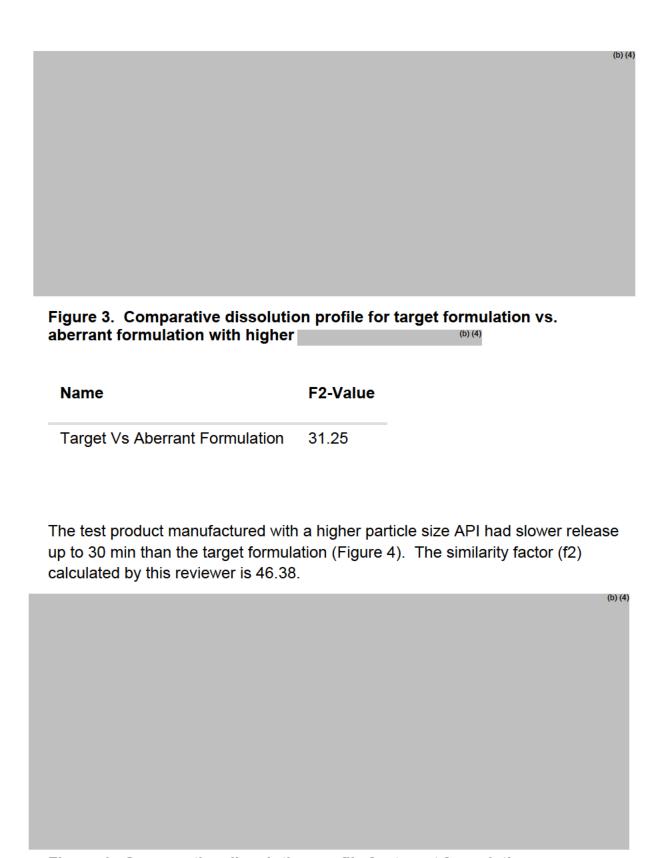


Figure 4. Comparative dissolution profile for target formulation vs. aberrant formulation with higher API particle size

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Name	F2-Value
Target Vs Higher API Particle Size	46.38

The dissolution method has discriminating ability toward changes in concentrations and API particle size.

#### **Acceptance Criterion**

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>\\CDSESUB1\evsprod\nda214273\0015\m1\us\ir-quality-response-seq0015.pdf

Table 8. Dissolution Data for Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL lot #VAL/18/0076

Sr. No.	Vessel number	% Drug Release				
SI. NO.	vesser number	10 min	20 min	30 min	45min	60min
01	Vessel-1					(b) (d
02	Vessel-2					
03	Vessel-3					
04	Vessel-4					
05	Vessel-5					
06	Vessel-6					
07	Vessel-7					
08	Vessel-8					
09	Vessel-9					
10	Vessel-10					
11	Vessel-11					
12	Vessel-12					
	Average	86	89	90	91	93
	%RSD	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.1

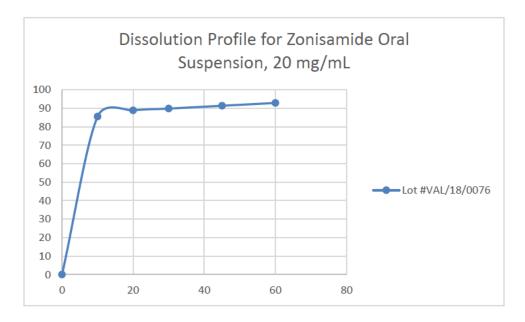


Figure 5. Dissolution profile for Zonisamide Oral Suspension (100 mg), N=12

## **B.3 BRIDGING OF FORMULATIONS**

Assessment: Adequate

The pivotal studies (19-009 and 19-101) used the TBM formulation that was manufactured at LM Manufacturing Limited, UK. The commercial batches will be manufactured at the same site. Therefore, bridging is not needed.

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## **CHAPTER VII: MICROBIOLOGY**

IQA ANDA Assessment Guide Reference

Product Information	
NDA Number	214273
Assessment Cycle Number	1
Drug Product Name / Strength	Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL, 150 mL fill
Route of Administration	Oral Solution
Applicant Name	Eton Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 21925 West Field Parkway, Suite 235 Deer Park, Illinois, 60010, USA
Manufacturing Site	LM Manufacturing Limited Sandretto Building, Cavalry Hill Industrial Area, Weedon, Northampton, NN7 4PP, UK
Method of Sterilization	Nonsterile Solution

Assessment Recommendation: Adequate			
Theme:			
⊠ N/A	☐ Depyrogenation Validation Data		
☐ Product Sterility Assurance	☐ Product Release and/or Stability Specifications		
☐ Media Fill Data	☐ Validation for Product Release and/or Stability Test Method		
☐ Validation of Product Test	☐ Other (Requires Division Director Approval)		
☐ Due to Consult			
Justification: view justification statements found at: <u>Justification Statements</u>			
N/A			
Other (Requires Division Director A here if "other" selected as theme.	Approval) – Assessor writes-in justification		
Assessment Summary: The subrathe basis of sterility assurance.	mission is <b>recommended</b> for approval on		

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#### List Submissions Being Assessed (table):

Date Submitted to FDA	Date Received by FDA	Date Assigned to Reviewer
07/28/2020	07/29/2020	08/10/2020

Highlight Key Issues from Last Cycle and Their Resolution: N/A

Remarks: The submission is in e-CTD format

Concise Description of Outstanding Issues (List bullet points with key information and update as needed): N/A

Supporting Documents: N/A

Select Number of Approved Comparability Protocols: 0

#### S DRUG SUBSTANCE

#### S.2. MANUFACTURE

#### **S.2.1 MANUFACTURERS**

#### Assessment:

As the drug product is nonsterile, the drug substance will not be reviewed by microbiology.

#### Adequate

#### P.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE DRUG PRODUCT

## Description of drug product –

Nonsterile, white off-white solution filled as a 150mL fill into a 150mL amber PET bottle and closed with white white closure. Zonisamide Oral Suspension, 20 mg/mL, 150 mL fill is indicated as an adjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures in adults multiple-dose bottle.

**Drug product composition** 

Ingredient	Function Quantity/m	L Quantity/Unit
------------	---------------------	-----------------



Zonisamide, USP	API	20.00 mg	3000.00mg
Microcrystalline Cellulose and			(b) (4)
Carboxymethylcellulose Sodium (b) (4)			
Sucralose			
Xanthan Gum			
Sodium Benzoate			
Citric Acid Monohydrate			
Trisodium Citrate Di-hydrate			
Strawberry Flavor			
Purified Water			

Exhibit Batch: Batch No. VAL/18/0076, VAL/18/0078, VAL/18/0081,

<u>Proposed Commercial Batch</u>: The commercial batch size is times the exhibit batch size

Description of container closure system – Drug Product

Component	Material Code No.	Description	Manufacturer
Bottle	(b) (4)	150mL amber PET Bottle	(b) (4)
Closure	(b) (4)	(b) (4) white (b) (4) child resistant (b) (4) -	

Assessment:

<u>Adequate</u>

#### P.2 PHARMACEUTICAL DEVELOPMENT



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/s/

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