

**CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH**

APPLICATION NUMBER:

215875Orig1s000

**ADMINISTRATIVE and CORRESPONDENCE
DOCUMENTS**



PIND 148210

**MEETING REQUEST-
WRITTEN RESPONSES**

Nevakar Injectables, Inc.
Attention: Elizabeth da Silva, PhD
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
NJ Center of Excellence
1019 US Highway 202/206, Building K
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Dear Dr. da Silva:

Please refer to your pre-investigational new drug application (PIND) file for NVK019 (Epinephrine in Sodium Chloride Injection).

We also refer to your submission dated August 26, 2021, containing a Pre-NDA meeting request. The purpose of the requested meeting was to discuss your proposal to submit a 505(b)(2) New Drug Application for NVK019.

Further reference is made to our Meeting Granted letter dated September 8, 2021, wherein we agreed that written responses to your questions would be provided in lieu of a meeting.

The enclosed document constitutes our written responses to the questions contained in your August 26, 2021 background package.

If you have any questions, call Quynh Nguyen, PharmD, RAC, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-0510.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Norman Stockbridge, MD, PhD
Director
Division of Cardiology and Nephrology
Office of Cardiology, Hematology,
Endocrinology, and Nephrology
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure:

- Written Responses



FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

WRITTEN RESPONSES

Meeting Type: B
Meeting Category: Pre-NDA

Application Number: PIND 148210

Product Name: NVK019 (Epinephrine in Sodium Chloride Injection)
Indication: To increase mean arterial blood pressure in adult patients with hypotension associated with septic shock

Sponsor Name: Nevakar Injectables, Inc.
Regulatory Pathway: 505(b)(2) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act

1.0 BACKGROUND

Epinephrine is a sympathomimetic catecholamine (adrenergic agent). Nevakar Injectables, Inc. is developing NVK019 (Epinephrine in Sodium Chloride Injection), a ready-to-use formulation of epinephrine. The Sponsor plans to submit a 505(b)(2) New Drug Application (NDA) using Adrenalin (epinephrine injection) approved under NDA 204640 as the Listed Drug (LD) and relevant information from the published literature in support of the 505(b)(2) application.

The proposed indication is to increase mean arterial blood pressure in adult patients with hypotension associated with septic shock, which is the same indication approved for the LD. In addition, the proposed dose and dosing regimen will be the same as those of the LD.

The Sponsor's proposed product will be available as a ready-to-use, premixed, sterile solution in 250-mL non-PVC (polyvinyl chloride) infusion bags at five (5) concentrations containing epinephrine base equivalent to 8 µg/mL, 16 µg/mL, 20 µg/mL, 32 µg/mL and 40 µg/mL, respectively. In contrast, the LD is available as a concentrate (1 mg/mL) in vials that must be diluted in 5 percent dextrose or 5 percent dextrose and sodium chloride solution prior to administration.

The Division issued Written Responses to the Sponsor's Pre-IND meeting request on July 22, 2020 regarding the Sponsor's development plans for NVK019. The Division issued an Advice/Information Request letter on January 25, 2021 in response to the Sponsor's General Correspondence dated December 14, 2020, which provided clarification to address the FDA requests in the July 22, 2020 Pre-IND Meeting Written Responses.

The Sponsor has submitted this Pre-NDA meeting request (Written Responses Only) to discuss the planned 505(b)(2) NDA for NVK019, specifically the proposal to submit the NDA with 9 months of long-term registration stability data.

2.0 QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

2.1 Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls

Question 1:

Nevakar plans to submit a NDA for NVK019 under the 505(b)(2) regulatory pathway, referencing Adrenalin as the LD, in the fourth quarter of 2021. Based on the current Drug Shortage information on FDA's and ASHP's drug shortages websites, Epinephrine Injection is currently in shortage. Availability of a new ready-to-use product upon approval of NVK019 would help ease the ongoing drug shortage of Epinephrine Injection and help mitigate the corresponding public health need.

Does the Agency agree that Nevakar's proposal to submit its planned NDA for NVK019 with 9 months of long term and 6 months of accelerated stability data is acceptable?

FDA Response to Question 1:

Your proposal appears reasonable. We recommend you provide additional stability data by the middle of review cycle so that a commercially viable expiration period can be granted for the proposed product.

3.0 OTHER IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION

PREA REQUIREMENTS

Under the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA) (21 U.S.C. 355c), all applications for new active ingredients (which includes new salts and new fixed combinations), 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.

Please be advised that under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA), you must submit an Initial Pediatric Study Plan (iPSP) within 60 days of an End-of-Phase-2 (EOP2) meeting. In the absence of an EOP2 meeting, refer to the draft guidance below. The iPSP must contain an outline of the pediatric study or studies that you plan to conduct (including, to the extent practicable study objectives and design, age groups, relevant endpoints, and statistical approach); any request for a deferral, partial waiver, or waiver, if applicable, along with any supporting documentation, and any previously negotiated pediatric plans with other regulatory authorities. The iPSP should be submitted in PDF and Word format. Failure to include an Agreed iPSP with a marketing application could result in a refuse to file action.

For additional guidance on the timing, content, and submission of the iPSP, including an iPSP Template, please refer to the draft guidance for industry *Pediatric Study Plans: Content of and Process for Submitting Initial Pediatric Study Plans and Amended Pediatric Study Plans*.¹ In addition, you may contact the Division of Pediatric and Maternal Health at 301-796-2200 or email Pedsdrugs@fda.hhs.gov. For further guidance on pediatric product development, please refer to FDA.gov.²

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

In your application, you must submit proposed prescribing information (PI) that conforms to the content and format regulations found at 21 CFR 201.56(a) and (d) and 201.57 including the Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Rule (PLLR) (for applications submitted on or after June 30, 2015). As you develop your proposed PI, we encourage you to review the labeling review resources on the PLR Requirements for Prescribing Information³ and Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Final Rule⁴ websites, which include:

- The Final Rule (Physician Labeling Rule) on the content and format of the PI for human drug and biological products.
- The Final Rule (Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling Rule) on the content and format of information related to pregnancy, lactation, and females and males of reproductive potential.
- Regulations and related guidance documents.
- A sample tool illustrating the format for Highlights and Contents, and
- The Selected Requirements for Prescribing Information (SRPI) – a checklist of important format items from labeling regulations and guidances.
- FDA's established pharmacologic class (EPC) text phrases for inclusion in the Highlights Indications and Usage heading.

Pursuant to the PLLR, you should include the following information with your application to support the changes in the Pregnancy, Lactation, and Females and Males of

¹ When final, this guidance will represent the FDA's current thinking on this topic. For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA guidance web page at

<https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

² <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/development-resources/pediatric-and-maternal-health-product-development>

³ <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/laws-acts-and-rules/plr-requirements-prescribing-information>

⁴ <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/labeling/pregnancy-and-lactation-labeling-drugs-final-rule>

Reproductive Potential subsections of labeling. The application should include a review and summary of the available published literature regarding the drug's use in pregnant and lactating women and the effects of the drug on male and female fertility (include search parameters and a copy of each reference publication), a cumulative review and summary of relevant cases reported in your pharmacovigilance database (from the time of product development to present), a summary of drug utilization rates amongst females of reproductive potential (e.g., aged 15 to 44 years) calculated cumulatively since initial approval, and an interim report of an ongoing pregnancy registry or a final report on a closed pregnancy registry. If you believe the information is not applicable, provide justification. Otherwise, this information should be located in Module 1. Refer to the draft guidance for industry *Pregnancy, Lactation, and Reproductive Potential: Labeling for Human Prescription Drug and Biological Products – Content and Format*.

Prior to submission of your proposed PI, use the SRPI checklist to ensure conformance with the format items in regulations and guidances.

DATA STANDARDS FOR STUDIES

Under section 745A(a) of the FD&C Act, electronic submissions “shall be submitted in such electronic format as specified by [FDA].” FDA has determined that study data contained in electronic submissions (i.e., NDAs, BLAs, ANDAs and INDs) must be in a format that the Agency can process, review, and archive. Currently, the Agency can process, review, and archive electronic submissions of clinical and nonclinical study data that use the standards specified in the Data Standards Catalog.⁵

On December 17, 2014, FDA issued the guidance for industry *Providing Electronic Submissions in Electronic Format - Standardized Study Data*. This guidance describes the submission types, the standardized study data requirements, and when standardized study data are required. Further, it describes the availability of implementation support in the form of a technical specifications document, *Study Data Technical Conformance Guide*, as well as email access to the eData Team (cdere-data@fda.hhs.gov) for specific questions related to study data standards. Standardized study data are required in marketing application submissions for clinical and nonclinical studies that started after December 17, 2016. Standardized study data are required in commercial IND application submissions for clinical and nonclinical studies that started after December 17, 2017. CDER has produced a Study Data Standards Resources web page⁶ that provides specifications for sponsors regarding implementation and submission of clinical and nonclinical study data in a standardized format. This web page will be updated regularly to reflect CDER's growing experience in order to meet the needs of its reviewers.

For commercial INDs and NDAs, Standard for Exchange of Nonclinical Data (SEND)

⁵ <http://www.fda.gov/forindustry/datastandards/studydatastandards/default.htm>

⁶ <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StudyDataStandards/default.htm>

datasets are required to be submitted along with nonclinical study reports for study types that are modeled in an FDA-supported SEND Implementation Guide version. The FDA Data Standards Catalog, which can be found on the Study Data Standards Resources web page noted above, lists the supported SEND Implementation Guide versions and associated implementation dates.

Although the submission of study data in conformance to the standards listed in the FDA Data Standards Catalog will not be required in studies that started on or before December 17, 2016, CDER strongly encourages IND sponsors to use the FDA supported data standards for the submission of IND applications and marketing applications. The implementation of data standards should occur as early as possible in the product development lifecycle, so that data standards are accounted for in the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical and nonclinical studies. For clinical and nonclinical studies, IND sponsors should include a plan (e.g., in the IND) describing the submission of standardized study data to FDA. This study data standardization plan (see the FDA Study Data Technical Conformance Guide) will assist FDA in identifying potential data standardization issues early in the development program.

If you have not previously submitted an eCTD submission or standardized study data, we encourage you to send us samples for validation following the instructions at FDA.gov. For general toxicology, supporting nonclinical toxicokinetic, and carcinogenicity studies, submit data in the Standards for the Exchange of Nonclinical Data (SEND) format. The validation of sample submissions tests conformance to FDA supported electronic submission and data standards; there is no scientific review of content.

The Agency encourages submission of sample data for review before submission of the marketing application. These datasets will be reviewed only for conformance to standards, structure, and format. They will not be reviewed as a part of an application review. These datasets should represent datasets used for the phase 3 trials. The FDA Study Data Technical Conformance Guide (Section 7.2 eCTD Sample Submission pg. 30) includes the link to the instructions for submitting eCTD and sample data to the Agency. The Agency strongly encourages Sponsors to submit standardized sample data using the standards listed in the Data Standards Catalog referenced on the FDA Study Data Standards Resources web site. When submitting sample data sets, clearly identify them as such with **SAMPLE STANDARDIZED DATASETS** on the cover letter of your submission.

Additional information can be found at FDA.gov.⁷

⁷ <https://www.fda.gov/industry/study-data-standards-resources/study-data-submission-cder-and-cber>

LABORATORY TEST UNITS FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

CDER strongly encourages IND sponsors to identify the laboratory test units that will be reported in clinical trials that support applications for investigational new drugs and product registration. Although Système International (SI) units may be the standard reporting mechanism globally, dual reporting of a reasonable subset of laboratory tests in U.S. conventional units and SI units might be necessary to minimize conversion needs during review. Identification of units to be used for laboratory tests in clinical trials and solicitation of input from the review divisions should occur as early as possible in the development process. For more information, please see the FDA website entitled Study Data Standards Resources⁸ and the CDER/CBER Position on Use of SI Units for Lab Tests website.⁹

SUBMISSION FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

The Electronic Common Technical Document (eCTD) is CDER and CBER's standard format for electronic regulatory submissions. The following submission types: **NDA**, **ANDA**, **BLA**, **Master File** (except Type III) and **Commercial INDs** must be submitted in eCTD format. Submissions that do not adhere to the requirements stated in the eCTD Guidance will be subject to rejection. For more information please visit FDA.gov.¹⁰

The FDA Electronic Submissions Gateway (ESG) is the central transmission point for sending information electronically to the FDA and enables the secure submission of regulatory information for review. Submissions less than 10 GB must be submitted via the ESG. For submissions that are greater than 10 GB, refer to the FDA technical specification *Specification for Transmitting Electronic Submissions using eCTD Specifications*. For additional information, see FDA.gov.¹¹

SECURE EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Secure email is required for all email communications from FDA when confidential information (e.g., trade secrets, manufacturing, or patient information) is included in the message. To receive email communications from FDA that include confidential information (e.g., information requests, labeling revisions, courtesy copies of letters), you must establish secure email. To establish secure email with FDA, send an email request to SecureEmail@fda.hhs.gov. Please note that secure email may not be used for formal regulatory submissions to applications (except for 7-day safety reports for INDs not in eCTD format).

⁸ <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StudyDataStandards/default.htm>

⁹ <https://www.fda.gov/media/109533/download>

¹⁰ <http://www.fda.gov/ectd>

¹¹ <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/ElectronicSubmissionsGateway>

MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

To facilitate our inspectional process, we request that you clearly identify *in a single location*, either on the Form FDA 356h, or an attachment to the form, all manufacturing facilities associated with your application. Include the full corporate name of the facility and address where the manufacturing function is performed, with the FEI number, and specific manufacturing responsibilities for each facility.

Also provide the name and title of an onsite contact person, including their phone number, fax number, and email address. Provide a brief description of the manufacturing operation conducted at each facility, including the type of testing and DMF number (if applicable). Each facility should be ready for GMP inspection at the time of submission.

Consider using a table similar to the one below as an attachment to Form FDA 356h. Indicate under Establishment Information on page 1 of Form FDA 356h that the information is provided in the attachment titled, "Product name, NDA/BLA 012345, Establishment Information for Form 356h."

Site Name	Site Address	Federal Establishment Indicator (FEI) or Registration Number (CFN)	Drug Master File Number (if applicable)	Manufacturing Step(s) or Type of Testing [Establishment function]
(1)				
(2)				

Corresponding names and titles of onsite contact:

Site Name	Site Address	Onsite Contact (Person, Title)	Phone and Fax number	Email address
(1)				
(2)				

To facilitate our facility assessment and inspectional process for your marketing application, we refer you to the instructional supplement for filling out Form FDA 356h¹² and the guidance for industry, *Identification of Manufacturing Establishments in Applications Submitted to CBER and CDER Questions and Answers*¹³. Submit all

¹² <https://www.fda.gov/media/84223/download>

¹³ <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/identification-manufacturing-establishments-applications-submitted-cber-and-cder-questions-and>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Silver Spring, MD 20993

www.fda.gov

related manufacturing and testing facilities in eCTD Module 3, including those proposed for commercial production and those used for product and manufacturing process development.

505(b)(2) REGULATORY PATHWAY

The Division recommends that sponsors considering the submission of an application through the 505(b)(2) pathway consult the Agency's regulations at 21 CFR 314.54, and the draft guidance for industry *Applications Covered by Section 505(b)(2)* (October 1999).¹⁴ In addition, FDA has explained the background and applicability of section 505(b)(2) in its October 14, 2003, response to a number of citizen petitions that had challenged the Agency's interpretation of this statutory provision (see Docket FDA-2003-P-0274-0015, available at Regulations.gov).¹⁵

If you intend to submit a 505(b)(2) application that relies for approval on FDA's finding of safety and/or effectiveness for one or more listed drugs, you must establish that such reliance is scientifically appropriate, and must submit data necessary to support any aspects of the proposed drug product that represent modifications to the listed drug(s). You should establish a "bridge" (e.g., via comparative bioavailability data) between your proposed drug product and each listed drug upon which you propose to rely to demonstrate that such reliance is scientifically justified.

If you intend to rely on literature or other studies for which you have no right of reference but that are necessary for approval, you also must establish that reliance on the studies described in the literature or on the other studies is scientifically appropriate. You should include a copy of such published literature in the 505(b)(2) application and identify any listed drug(s) described in the published literature (e.g. by trade name(s)). If you intend to rely on the Agency's finding of safety and/or effectiveness for a listed drug(s) or published literature describing a listed drug(s) (which is considered to be reliance on FDA's finding of safety and/or effectiveness for the listed drug(s)), you should identify the listed drug(s) in accordance with the Agency's regulations at 21 CFR 314.54. It should be noted that 21 CFR 314.54 requires identification of the "listed drug for which FDA has made a finding of safety and effectiveness," and thus an applicant may only rely upon a listed drug that was approved in an NDA under section 505(c) of the FD&C Act. The regulatory requirements for a 505(b)(2) application (including, but not limited to, an appropriate patent certification or statement) apply to each listed drug upon which a sponsor relies.

If FDA has approved one or more pharmaceutically equivalent products in one or more NDA(s) before the date of submission of the original 505(b)(2) application, you must identify one such pharmaceutically equivalent product as a listed drug (or an additional listed drug) relied upon (see 21 CFR 314.50(i)(1)(i)(C), 314.54, and 314.125(b)(19); see

¹⁴ We update guidances periodically. For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA Guidance Documents Database <https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

¹⁵ <http://www.regulations.gov>

also 21 CFR 314.101(d)(9)). If you identify a listed drug solely to comply with this regulatory requirement, you must provide an appropriate patent certification or statement for any patents that are listed in the Orange Book for the pharmaceutically equivalent product, but you are not required to establish a “bridge” to justify the scientific appropriateness of reliance on the pharmaceutically equivalent product if it is scientifically unnecessary to support approval.

If you propose to rely on FDA’s finding of safety and/or effectiveness for a listed drug that has been discontinued from marketing, the acceptability of this approach will be contingent on FDA’s consideration of whether the drug was discontinued for reasons of safety or effectiveness.

We encourage you to identify each section of your proposed 505(b)(2) application that is supported by reliance on FDA’s finding of safety and/or effectiveness for a listed drug(s) or on published literature (see table below). In your 505(b)(2) application, we encourage you to clearly identify (for each section of the application, including the labeling): (1) the information for the proposed drug product that is provided by reliance on FDA’s finding of safety and/or effectiveness for the listed drug or by reliance on published literature; (2) the “bridge” that supports the scientific appropriateness of such reliance; and (3) the specific name (e.g., proprietary name) of each listed drug named in any published literature on which your marketing application relies for approval. If you are proposing to rely on published literature, include copies of the article(s) in your submission.

In addition to identifying the source of supporting information in your annotated labeling, we encourage you to include in your marketing application a summary of the information that supports the application in a table similar to the one below.

List the information essential to the approval of the proposed drug that is provided by reliance on the FDA’s previous finding of safety and effectiveness for a listed drug or by reliance on published literature	
Source of information (e.g., published literature, name of listed drug)	Information Provided (e.g., specific sections of the 505(b)(2) application or labeling)
<i>(1) Example: Published literature</i>	<i>Nonclinical toxicology</i>
<i>(2) Example: NDA XXXXXX “TRADENAME”</i>	<i>Previous finding of effectiveness for indication A</i>
<i>(3) Example: NDA YYYYYY “TRADENAME”</i>	<i>Previous finding of safety for Carcinogenicity, labeling section B</i>
<i>(4)</i>	

Please be advised that circumstances could change that would render a 505(b)(2) application for this product no longer appropriate. For example, if a pharmaceutically equivalent product were approved before your application is submitted, such that your proposed product would be a “duplicate” of a listed drug and eligible for approval under section 505(j) of the FD&C Act, then it is FDA’s policy to refuse to file your application as a 505(b)(2) application (21 CFR 314.101(d)(9)). In such a case, the appropriate submission would be an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) that cites the duplicate product as the reference listed drug.

PATIENT-FOCUSED ENDPOINTS

An important component of patient-focused drug development is describing the patient’s perspective of treatment benefit in labeling based on data from patient-focused outcome measures [e.g., patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures]. Therefore, early in product development, we encourage sponsors to consider incorporating well-defined and reliable patient-focused outcome measures as key efficacy endpoints in clinical trials, when appropriate, and to discuss those measures with the Agency in advance of confirmatory trials. For additional information, refer to FDA’s guidance for industry *Patient-Reported Outcome Measures: Use in Medical Product Development to Support Claims*.

NEW PROTOCOLS AND CHANGES TO PROTOCOLS

To ensure that the Division is aware of your continued drug development plans and to facilitate successful interactions with the Division, including provision of advice and timely responses to your questions, we request that the cover letter for all new phase 2 or phase 3 protocol submissions to your IND or changes to these protocols include the following information:

- (1) Study phase
- (2) Statement of whether the study is intended to support marketing and/or labeling changes
- (3) Study objectives (e.g., dose finding)
- (4) Population
- (5) A brief description of the study design (e.g., placebo or active controlled)
- (6) Specific concerns for which you anticipate the Division will have comments
- (7) For changes to protocols only, also include the following information:
 - A brief summary of the substantive change(s) to the protocol

(e.g., changes to endpoint measures, dose, and/or population)

- Other significant changes
- Proposed implementation date

We recommend you consider requesting a meeting to facilitate discussion of multiple and/or complex issues.

UNITED STATES PATIENT POPULATION

FDA expects sponsors to enroll participants who are relevant to the planned use of the drug in the US population. Describe the steps you are taking to ensure that the clinical trial population will be relevant to the US patient population that will receive the drug. Include a discussion of participation of US vs. non-US sites and discuss whether the subjects likely to be enrolled will adequately represent the US patient population in terms of disease characteristics, sex, race/ethnicity, age, and standards of care. See 21 CFR 312.33(a)(2) and 21 CFR 314.50(d)(5)(v) and the guidance for industry *Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data in Clinical Trials* for more information.

We recommend you consider requesting a meeting to facilitate discussion of multiple and/or complex issues.

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically. Following this are manifestations of any and all electronic signatures for this electronic record.

/s/

NORMAN L STOCKBRIDGE
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