

**CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH**

APPLICATION NUMBER:

215192Orig1s000

PROPRIETARY NAME REVIEW(S)

PROPRIETARY NAME REVIEW

Division of Medication Error Prevention and Analysis 2 (DMEPA 2)
Office of Medication Error Prevention and Risk Management (OMEPRM)
Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology (OSE)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)

***** This document contains proprietary information that cannot be released to the public*****

Date of This Review:	December 08, 2023
Application Type and Number:	NDA 215192
Product Name and Strength:	Vafseo (vadadustat) tablet, 150 mg, 300 mg and 450 mg
Product Type:	Single Ingredient Product
Rx or OTC:	Prescription (Rx)
Applicant/Sponsor Name:	Akebia Therapeutics, Inc. (Akebia)
PNR ID #:	2023-1044725455
DMEPA 2 Safety Evaluator:	Sue Black, PharmD
DMEPA 2 Team Leader (Acting):	Nicole Iverson, PharmD, BCPS
DMEPA 2 Director:	Danielle Harris, PharmD

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Regulatory History	1
1.2	Product Information	1
2	RESULTS.....	2
2.1	Misbranding Assessment	2
2.2	Safety Assessment.....	2
3	CONCLUSION	4
3.1	Comments to the Applicant/Sponsor	4
4	REFERENCES	5
	APPENDICES	6

1 INTRODUCTION

This review evaluates the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, from a safety and misbranding perspective. The sources and methods used to evaluate the proposed proprietary name are outlined in the reference section and Appendix A, respectively. Akebia submitted an external name study for this proposed proprietary name. The submitted external name study was previously reviewed under IND 102465 (see Section 1.1 below).

1.1 REGULATORY HISTORY

Akebia previously submitted the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, under IND 102465 on January 4, 2019. We found the name, Vafseo, conditionally acceptable under IND 102465 on June 28, 2019.^a

Thus, Akebia submitted the name, Vafseo, for review on March 29, 2021 under NDA 215192. We found the name, Vafseo, conditionally acceptable under NDA 215192 on June 7, 2021.^b However, the application received a complete response letter on March 29, 2022 due to clinical and statistical issues.

Thus, Akebia submitted the name, Vafseo, for review on September 27, 2023 as part of the Class 2 Resubmission for NDA 215192.

1.2 PRODUCT INFORMATION

The following product information is provided in the proprietary name submission^c and proposed Prescribing information^d received on September 27, 2023.

- Intended Pronunciation: VAFF-see-oh
- Active Ingredient: vadadustat
- Indication of Use: treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease in adults on dialysis.
- Route of Administration: oral
- Dosage Form: tablet
- Strength: 150 mg, 300 mg and 450 mg

^a DeGraw, S. Proprietary Name Review for Vafseo (IND 102465). Silver Spring (MD): FDA, CDER, OSE, DMEPA (US); 2019 JUN 28. PNR ID No. 2019-28459658.

^b DeGraw, S. Proprietary Name Review for Vafseo (NDA 215192). Silver Spring (MD): FDA, CDER, OSE, DMEPA (US); 2021 JUN 07. PNR ID No. 2021-1044723890.

^c Proposed Proprietary Name Request (NDA 215192 and Vafseo). Cambridge (MA): Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.; 2023 SEP 27. Available from: <\\CDSESUB1\EVSPROD\nda215192\0046\m1\us\12-cov-let\cover-letter.pdf>.

^d Draft Prescribing Information (NDA 215192 and Vafseo). Cambridge (MA): Akebia Therapeutics, Inc.; 2023 SEP 27. Available from: <\\CDSESUB1\EVSPROD\nda215192\0046\m1\us\114-label\1141-draft-label\proposed.pdf>.

- Dose and Frequency: The recommended starting dose is 300 mg once daily. Adjust dose in increments of 150 mg within the range of 150 mg to 600 mg to achieve or maintain hemoglobin levels (10 to 11 g/dL).
- How Supplied: Vafseo film-coated tablets are available in the following strengths and packages:

Tablet Strength	Pack size	NDC
150 mg	60 count bottle	59922-641-60
300 mg	60 count bottle	59922-642-60
450 mg	60 count bottle	59922-643-60

- Storage: Store at 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F).

2 RESULTS

The following sections provide information obtained and considered in the overall evaluation of the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo.

2.1 MISBRANDING ASSESSMENT

The Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP) determined that Vafseo would not misbrand the proposed product. The Division of Medication Error Prevention and Analysis 2 (DMEPA 2) concurred with the findings of OPDP’s assessment for Vafseo. The Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH) concurred with the findings of OPDP’s assessment for Vafseo.

2.2 SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The following aspects were considered in the safety evaluation of the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo.

2.2.1 United States Adopted Names (USAN) Search

There is no USAN stem present in the proposed proprietary name^o.

2.2.2 Components of the Proposed Proprietary Name

Akebia did not provide a derivation or intended meaning for the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, in their submission. This proprietary name is comprised of a single word that contains the letter strings “va-”, “-af-” and “-fs-” which are the medical abbreviations for “visual acuity”, the modifier “augmented formula” or “atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter” and the modifier “formulated with sucrose” respectively. Although we typically discourage the inclusion of medical abbreviations in proprietary names, we note the letter strings “va-”, “-af-” and “-fs-” are common letter strings in existing drug nomenclature (e.g., Advair, Livalo, Movantik, Tafinlar, Rizafilm, Odefsey, etc.) and we are unaware of post-market reports of medication errors associated with these specific abbreviations through our routine surveillance. We determined that the location of the letter strings “-af-” and “-fs-” within the proposed name are unlikely to be

^o USAN stem search conducted on December 1, 2023.

separated from the surrounding letters or to be misunderstood within the context of a prescription that could lead to confusion. As the letter string “Va-” is located at the beginning of the name, we evaluated the potential risk of misinterpreting the proposed proprietary name as “Va [drug name similar to fseo]” and did not identify any concerns.^f Therefore, in this case we do not object to the proposed proprietary name based on the inclusion of these medical abbreviations. Vafseo does not contain any other components (i.e., route of administration, dosage form, etc.) that can contribute to medication error.

2.2.3 Comments from Other Review Disciplines at Initial Review

On November 28, 2023, the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH) did not forward any comments or concerns relating to Vafseo at the initial phase of the review.

2.2.4 FDA Name Simulation Studies

Sixty-seven (n=67) practitioners participated in DMEPA’s prescription studies for Vafseo. The responses did not overlap with any currently marketed products nor did the responses sound or look similar to any currently marketed products or any products in the pipeline. Appendix B contains the results from the prescription simulation studies.

2.2.5 Phonetic and Orthographic Computer Analysis (POCA) Search Results

Our POCA search^g identified 31 names with the combined score of $\geq 55\%$ or individual orthographic or phonetic score of $\geq 70\%$. We had identified and evaluated some of the names in our previous proprietary name review. We re-evaluated the previously identified names of concern considering any lessons learned from recent post-marketing experience, which may have altered our previous conclusion regarding the acceptability of the name. We also evaluated the previously identified names taking into account the changes in product characteristics (i.e., updated indication from (b) (4) to “treatment of anemia associated with chronic kidney disease in adults on dialysis”). Our evaluation has not altered our previous conclusion regarding the acceptability of the proposed proprietary name. Therefore, we identified one name not previously analyzed. This name is included in Table 1 below.

2.2.6 Names Retrieved for Review Organized by Name Pair Similarity

Table 1 lists the number of names retrieved from our POCA search. These name pairs are organized as highly similar, moderately similar or low similarity for further evaluation.

Table 1. Names Retrieved for Review Organized by Name Pair Similarity	
Similarity Category	Number of Names
Highly similar name pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 70\%$	0

^f POCA search conducted on December 1, 2023 in version 5.3.

^g POCA search conducted on December 1, 2023 in version 5.3.

Moderately similar name pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$	1
Low similarity name pair: combined match percentage score $\leq 54\%$	0

2.2.7 Safety Analysis of Names with Potential Orthographic, Spelling, and Phonetic Similarities

Our analysis of the one name contained in Table 1 determined this name will not pose a risk for confusion with Vafseo as described in Appendices C through H.

2.2.8 Communication of DMEPA’s Determination

On December 8, 2023, DMEPA 2 communicated our determination to the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH).

3 CONCLUSION

The proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, is conditionally acceptable.

If you have any questions or need clarifications, please contact Linda Wu, OSE project manager, at (240) 402-5120.

3.1 COMMENTS TO AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS, INC.

We have completed our review of the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, and have concluded that this name is conditionally acceptable.

If any of the proposed product characteristics as stated in your submission, received on September 27, 2023, are altered prior to approval of the marketing application, the name must be resubmitted for review.

4 REFERENCES

1. *USAN Stems* (<https://www.ama-assn.org/about/united-states-adopted-names-approved-stems>)

USAN Stems List contains all the recognized USAN stems.

2. *Phonetic and Orthographic Computer Analysis (POCA)*

POCA is a system that FDA designed. As part of the name similarity assessment, POCA is used to evaluate proposed names via a phonetic and orthographic algorithm. The proposed proprietary name is converted into its phonemic representation before it runs through the phonetic algorithm. Likewise, an orthographic algorithm exists that operates in a similar fashion. POCA is publicly accessible.

Drugs@FDA

Drugs@FDA is an FDA Web site that contains most of the drug products approved in the United States since 1939. The majority of labels, approval letters, reviews, and other information are available for drug products approved from 1998 to the present. Drugs@FDA contains official information about FDA-approved *brand name* and *generic drugs*; *therapeutic biological products*, *prescription* and *over-the-counter* human drugs; and *discontinued drugs* (see Drugs @ FDA Glossary of Terms, available at http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationOnDrugs/ucm079436.htm#ther_biological).

RxNorm

RxNorm contains the names of prescription and many OTC drugs available in the United States. RxNorm includes generic and branded:

- Clinical drugs – pharmaceutical products given to (or taken by) a patient with therapeutic or diagnostic intent
- Drug packs – packs that contain multiple drugs, or drugs designed to be administered in a specified sequence

Radiopharmaceuticals, contrast media, food, dietary supplements, and medical devices, such as bandages and crutches, are all out of scope for RxNorm

(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/rxnorm/overview.html>).

Division of Medication Errors Prevention and Analysis proprietary name consultation requests

This is a list of proposed and pending names that is generated by the Division of Medication Error Prevention and Analysis from the Access database/tracking system.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

FDA's Proprietary Name Risk Assessment evaluates proposed proprietary names for misbranding and safety concerns.

1. **Misbranding Assessment:** For prescription drug products, OPDP assesses the name for misbranding concerns. For over-the-counter (OTC) drug products, the misbranding assessment of the proposed name is conducted by DNDP. OPDP or DNDP evaluates proposed proprietary names to determine if the name is false or misleading, such as by making misrepresentations with respect to safety or efficacy. For example, a fanciful proprietary name may misbrand a product by suggesting that it has some unique effectiveness or composition when it does not (21 CFR 201.10(c)(3)). OPDP or DNDP provides their opinion to DMEPA for consideration in the overall acceptability of the proposed proprietary name.
2. **Safety Assessment:** The safety assessment is conducted by DMEPA, and includes the following:
 - a. **Preliminary Assessment:** We consider inclusion of USAN stems or other characteristics that when incorporated into a proprietary name may cause or contribute to medication errors (i.e., dosing interval, dosage form/route of administration, medical or product name abbreviations, names that include or suggest the composition of the drug product, etc.) See prescreening checklist below in Table 2*. DMEPA defines a medication error as any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm while the medication is in the control of the health care professional, patient, or consumer.^h

^h National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention. <https://www.nccmerp.org/about-medication-errors> Last accessed 10/05/2020.

***Table 2- Prescreening Checklist for Proposed Proprietary Name**

	Answer the questions in the checklist below. Affirmative answers to any of these questions indicate a potential area of concern that should be carefully evaluated as described in this guidance.
Y/N	Is the proposed name obviously similar in spelling and pronunciation to other names?
	Proprietary names should not be similar in spelling or pronunciation to proprietary names, established names, or ingredients of other products.
Y/N	Are there inert or inactive ingredients referenced in the proprietary name?
	Proprietary names should not incorporate any reference to an inert or inactive ingredient in a way that might create an impression that the ingredient's value is greater than its true functional role in the formulation (21 CFR 201.10(c)(4)).
Y/N	Does the proprietary name include combinations of active ingredients?
	Proprietary names of fixed combination drug products should not include or suggest the name of one or more, but not all, of its active ingredients (see 21 CFR 201.6(b)).
Y/N	Is there a United States Adopted Name (USAN) stem in the proprietary name?
	Proprietary names should not incorporate a USAN stem in the position that USAN designates for the stem.
Y/N	Is this proprietary name used for another product that does not share at least one common active ingredient?
	Drug products that do not contain at least one common active ingredient should not use the same (root) proprietary name.
Y/N	Is this a proprietary name of a discontinued product?
	Proprietary names should not use the proprietary name of a discontinued product if that discontinued drug product does not contain the same active ingredients.

- b. Phonetic and Orthographic Computer Analysis (POCA): Following the preliminary screening of the proposed proprietary name, DMEPA staff evaluates the proposed name against potentially similar names. In order to identify names with potential similarity to the proposed proprietary name, DMEPA enters the proposed proprietary name in POCA and queries the name against the following drug reference databases, Drugs@FDA, Cerner RxNorm, and names in the review pipeline using a 55% threshold in POCA. DMEPA reviews the combined orthographic and phonetic matches and group the names into one of the following three categories:
- Highly similar pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 70\%$.
 - Moderately similar pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$.
 - Low similarity: combined match percentage score $\leq 54\%$.

Using the criteria outlined in the check list (Table 3-5) that corresponds to each of the three categories (highly similar pair, moderately similar pair, and low similarity), DMEPA evaluates the name pairs to determine the acceptability or non-acceptability of a proposed proprietary name. The intent of these checklists is to increase the transparency and predictability of the safety determination of whether a proposed name is vulnerable to confusion from a look-alike or sound-alike perspective. Each bullet below corresponds to the name similarity category cross-references the respective table that addresses criteria that DMEPA uses to determine whether a name presents a safety concern from a look-alike or sound-alike perspective.

- For highly similar names, differences in product characteristics often cannot mitigate the risk of a medication error, including product differences such as strength and dose. Thus, proposed proprietary names that have a combined score of ≥ 70 percent are at risk for a look-alike sound-alike confusion which is an area of concern (See Table 3).
- Moderately similar names are further evaluated to identify the presence of attributes that are known to cause name confusion.
 - Name attributes: We note that the beginning of the drug name plays a significant role in contributing to confusion. Additionally, drug name pairs that start with the same first letter and contain a shared letter string of at least 3 letters in both names are major contributing factor in the confusion of drug namesⁱ. We evaluate all moderately similar names retrieved from POCA to identify the above attributes. These names are further evaluated to identify overlapping or similar strengths or doses.
 - Product attributes: Moderately similar names of products that have overlapping or similar strengths or doses represent an area for concern for FDA. The dose and strength information is often located in close proximity to the drug name itself on prescriptions and medication orders, and the information can be an important factor that either increases or decreases the potential for confusion between similarly named drug pairs. The ability of other product characteristics to mitigate confusion (e.g., route, frequency, dosage form) may be limited when the strength or dose overlaps. DMEPA reviews such names further, to determine whether sufficient differences exist to prevent confusion. (See Table 4).
- Names with low similarity that have no overlap or similarity in strength and dose are generally acceptable (See Table 5) unless there are data to suggest that the name might be vulnerable to confusion (e.g., prescription simulation study suggests that the name is likely to be misinterpreted as a marketed product). In these instances, we would reassign a low similarity name to the moderate similarity category and review according to the moderately similar name pair checklist.

ⁱ Shah, M, Merchant, L, Characteristics That May Help in the Identification of Potentially Confusing Proprietary Drug Names. Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science, September 2016

- c. FDA Prescription Simulation Studies: DMEPA staff also conducts a prescription simulation studies using FDA health care professionals.

Four separate studies are conducted within the Centers of the FDA for the proposed proprietary name to determine the degree of confusion of the proposed proprietary name with marketed U.S. drug names (proprietary and established) due to similarity in visual appearance with handwritten prescriptions, verbal pronunciation of the drug name or during computerized provider order entry. The studies employ healthcare professionals (pharmacists, physicians, and nurses), and attempts to simulate the prescription ordering process. The primary Safety Evaluator uses the results to identify vulnerability of the proposed name to be misinterpreted by healthcare practitioners during written, verbal, or electronic prescribing.

In order to evaluate the potential for misinterpretation of the proposed proprietary name during written, verbal, or electronic prescribing of the name, written inpatient medication orders, written outpatient prescriptions, verbal orders, and electronic orders are simulated, each consisting of a combination of marketed and unapproved drug products, including the proposed name.

- d. Comments from Other Review Disciplines: DMEPA requests the Office of New Drugs (OND) and/or Office of Generic Drugs (OGD), ONDQA or OBP for their comments or concerns with the proposed proprietary name, ask for any clinical issues that may impact the DMEPA review during the initial phase of the name review. Additionally, when applicable, at the same time DMEPA requests concurrence/non-concurrence with OPDP's decision on the name. The primary Safety Evaluator addresses any comments or concerns in the safety evaluator's assessment.

The OND/OGD Regulatory Division is contacted a second time following our analysis of the proposed proprietary name. At this point, DMEPA conveys their decision to accept or reject the name.

Additionally, other review disciplines opinions such as ONDQA or OBP may be considered depending on the proposed proprietary name.

When provided, DMEPA considers external proprietary name studies conducted by or for the Applicant/Sponsor and incorporates the findings of these studies into the overall risk assessment.

The DMEPA primary reviewer assigned to evaluate the proposed proprietary name is responsible for considering the collective findings, and provides an overall risk assessment of the proposed proprietary name.

Table 3. Highly Similar Name Pair Checklist (i.e., combined Orthographic and Phonetic score is $\geq 70\%$).

Answer the questions in the checklist below. Affirmative answers to some of these questions suggest that the pattern of orthographic or phonetic differences in the names

may render the names less likely to confusion, provided that the pair does not share a common strength or dose.

<u>Orthographic Checklist</u>		<u>Phonetic Checklist</u>	
Y/N	Do the names begin with different first letters? <i>Note that even when names begin with different first letters, certain letters may be confused with each other when scripted.</i>	Y/N	Do the names have different number of syllables?
Y/N	Are the lengths of the names dissimilar* when scripted? <i>*FDA considers the length of names different if the names differ by two or more letters.</i>	Y/N	Do the names have different syllabic stresses?
Y/N	Considering variations in scripting of some letters (such as z and f), is there a different number or placement of upstroke/downstroke letters present in the names?	Y/N	Do the syllables have different phonologic processes, such as vowel reduction, assimilation, or deletion?
Y/N	Is there different number or placement of cross-stroke or dotted letters present in the names?	Y/N	Across a range of dialects, are the names consistently pronounced differently?
Y/N	Do the infixes of the name appear dissimilar when scripted?		
Y/N	Do the suffixes of the names appear dissimilar when scripted?		

Table 4: Moderately Similar Name Pair Checklist (i.e., combined score is $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$).

<p>Step 1</p>	<p>Review the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING sections of the prescribing information (or for OTC drugs refer to the Drug Facts label) to determine if strengths and doses of the name pair overlap or are very similar. Different strengths and doses for products whose names are moderately similar may decrease the risk of confusion between the moderately similar name pairs. Name pairs that have overlapping or similar strengths or doses have a higher potential for confusion and should be evaluated further (see Step 2). Because the strength or dose could be used to express an order or prescription for a particular drug product, overlap in one or both of these components would be reason for further evaluation.</p> <p>For single strength products, also consider circumstances where the strength may not be expressed.</p> <p>For any i.e., drug products comprised of more than one active ingredient, consider whether the strength or dose may be expressed using only one of the components.</p> <p>To determine whether the strengths or doses are similar to your proposed product, consider the following list of factors that may increase confusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative expressions of dose: 5 mL may be listed in the prescribing information, but the dose may be expressed in metric weight (e.g., 500 mg) or in non-metric units (e.g., 1 tsp, 1 tablet/capsule). Similarly, a strength or dose of 1000 mg may be expressed, in practice, as 1 g, or vice versa. • Trailing or deleting zeros: 10 mg is similar in appearance to 100 mg which may potentiate confusion between a name pair with moderate similarity. • Similar sounding doses: 15 mg is similar in sound to 50 mg
<p>Step 2</p>	<p>Answer the questions in the checklist below. Affirmative answers to some of these questions suggest that the pattern of orthographic or phonetic differences in the names may reduce the likelihood of confusion for moderately similar names with overlapping or similar strengths or doses.</p>

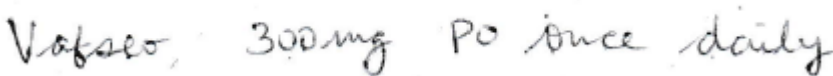
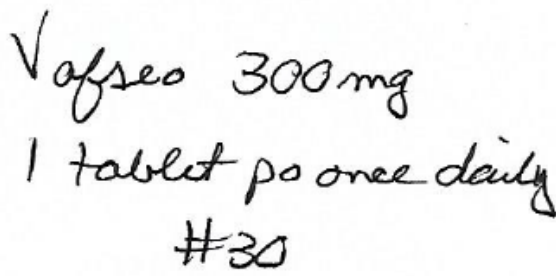
	<p>Orthographic Checklist (Y/N to each question)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the names begin with different first letters? Note that even when names begin with different first letters, certain letters may be confused with each other when scripted. • Are the lengths of the names dissimilar* when scripted? *FDA considers the length of names different if the names differ by two or more letters. • Considering variations in scripting of some letters (such as <i>z</i> and <i>f</i>), is there a different number or placement of upstroke/downstroke letters present in the names? • Is there different number or placement of cross-stroke or dotted letters present in the names? • Do the infixes of the name appear dissimilar when scripted? • Do the suffixes of the names appear dissimilar when scripted? 	<p>Phonetic Checklist (Y/N to each question)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the names have different number of syllables? • Do the names have different syllabic stresses? • Do the syllables have different phonologic processes, such vowel reduction, assimilation, or deletion? • Across a range of dialects, are the names consistently pronounced differently?
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Table 5: Low Similarity Name Pair Checklist (i.e., combined score is ≤54%).

Names with low similarity are generally acceptable unless there are data to suggest that the name might be vulnerable to confusion (e.g., prescription simulation study suggests that the name is likely to be misinterpreted as a marketed product). In these instances, we would reassign a low similarity name to the moderate similarity category and review according to the moderately similar name pair checklist.

Appendix B: Prescription Simulation Samples and Results

Figure 1. Vafseo Study (Conducted on November 13, 2023)

Handwritten Medication Order/Prescription	Verbal Prescription
<p>Medication Order:</p> 	<p>Vafseo 300 mg 1 tablet by mouth once daily</p>
<p>Outpatient Prescription:</p> 	<p>Dispense 30</p>
<p>CPOE Study Sample (displayed as sans-serif, 12-point, bold font)</p>	
<p>Vafseo</p>	

FDA Prescription Simulation Responses (Aggregate Report)

<p>Study Name: Vafseo People Received Study: 229 People Responded: 67</p>					
Total	16	20	12	19	67
INTERPRETATION	INPATIENT	OUTPATIENT	VOICE	CPOE	TOTAL
VAFCEO	0	0	1	0	1
VAFCEZIO	0	0	1	0	1
VAFSEO	14	16	0	19	49
VASFCO	1	0	0	0	1
VASIO	0	0	1	0	1
VAVCEO	0	0	1	0	1
VAVCIO	0	0	4	0	4

VAVSIO	0	0	1	0	1
VAVSYO	0	0	1	0	1
VAZCIO	0	0	1	0	1
VAZSIO	0	0	1	0	1
VOFSEO	1	4	0	0	5

Appendix C: Highly Similar Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\geq 70\%$) – N/A

Appendix D: Moderately Similar Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$) with no overlap or numerical similarity in Strength and/or Dose – N/A

Appendix E: Moderately Similar Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$) with overlap or numerical similarity in Strength and/or Dose – N/A

Appendix F: Low Similarity Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\leq 54\%$) – N/A

Appendix G: Names not likely to be confused or not used in usual practice settings for the reasons described.

No.	Name	POCA Score (%)	Failure preventions
1.	(b) (4)	56	(b) (4)

Appendix H: Names not likely to be confused due to absence of attributes that are known to cause name confusion^j. – N/A

^j Shah, M, Merchant, L, Chan, I, and Taylor, K. Characteristics That May Help in the Identification of Potentially Confusing Proprietary Drug Names. Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science, September 2016

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.

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PNR ID #:	2021-1044723890
DMEPA Safety Evaluator:	Stephanie DeGraw, PharmD
DMEPA Team Leader:	Hina Mehta, PharmD
DMEPA Associate Director of Nomenclature and Labeling:	Chi-Ming (Alice) Tu, PharmD

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
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1.2 PRODUCT INFORMATION

The following product information is provided in the proprietary name submission received on March 29, 2021.

- Intended Pronunciation: VAFF-see-oh
- Active Ingredient: vadadustat
- Indication of Use: treatment of anemia due to chronic kidney disease (CKD) in adult patients, (b) (4) on dialysis (DD)
- Route of Administration: oral
- Dosage Form: tablets
- Strength: 150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg
- Dose and Frequency: recommended starting dosage is 300 mg once daily
 - Do not increase the dose more frequently than once every 4 weeks. Decreases in dose can occur more frequently.
 - Dose adjustment should be done in increments of 150 mg within the range of 150 mg to 600 mg to achieve or maintain hemoglobin (Hb) levels within 10 to 11 g/dL.
 - If the Hb rises rapidly (e.g., more than 1 g/dL in any 2-week period or more than 2 g/dL in 4 weeks), interrupt or reduce the dose.
 - If the Hb level exceeds 11 g/dL, interrupt the dose until Hb is less than or equal to 11 g/dL then resume with dose that is 150 mg less than the dose prior to interruption.
- How Supplied: 60-count bottles
- Storage: 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F)

^a DeGraw, S. Proprietary Name Review for Vafseo (IND 102465). Silver Spring (MD): FDA, CDER, OSE, DMEPA (US); 2019 JUN 27. Panorama No. 2019-28459658.

2 RESULTS

The following sections provide information obtained and considered in the overall evaluation of the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo.

2.1 MISBRANDING ASSESSMENT

The Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP) determined that Vafseo would not misbrand the proposed product. The Division of Medication Error Prevention and Analysis (DMEPA) and the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH) concurred with the findings of OPDP's assessment for Vafseo.

2.2 SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The following aspects were considered in the safety evaluation of the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo.

2.2.1 *United States Adopted Names (USAN) Search*

There is no USAN stem present in the proposed proprietary name^b.

2.2.2 *Components of the Proposed Proprietary Name*

Akebia did not provide a derivation or intended meaning for the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, in their submission. This proprietary name is comprised of a single word that does not contain any components (i.e. a modifier, route of administration, dosage form, etc.) that are misleading or can contribute to medication error.

2.2.3 *Comments from Other Review Disciplines at Initial Review*

On April 21, 2021, the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH) did not forward any comments or concerns relating to Vafseo at the initial phase of the review.

2.2.4 *FDA Name Simulation Studies*

Eighty-six (86) practitioners participated in DMEPA's prescription studies for Vafseo. The responses did not overlap with any currently marketed products nor did the responses sound or look similar to any currently marketed products or any products in the pipeline. Appendix B contains the results from the prescription simulation studies.

2.2.5 *Phonetic and Orthographic Computer Analysis (POCA) Search Results*

Our POCA search^c identified 31 names with the combined score of $\geq 55\%$ or individual orthographic or phonetic score of $\geq 70\%$. We had identified and evaluated some of the names in our previous proprietary name review. We note that since our previous review, the proposed dose and frequency of administration changed from (b) (4) to "300 mg once daily. Dose adjustments should be done in increments of 150 mg, within the range of 150 mg to 600 mg, occurring no more frequently

^b USAN stem search conducted on April 8, 2021.

^c POCA search conducted on April 8, 2021 in version 4.4.

than every 4 weeks to achieve or maintain hemoglobin levels within 10 g/dL to 11 g/dL.” Therefore, we re-evaluated the previously identified names of concern considering the newly proposed dosage and frequency of administration information, as well as any lessons learned from recent post-marketing experience, which may have altered our previous conclusion regarding the acceptability of the name. Our re-evaluation determined we agree with the findings from our previous review for the names evaluated previously. Therefore, we identified 3 names not previously analyzed. These names are included in Table 1 below.

2.2.6 Names Retrieved for Review Organized by Name Pair Similarity

Table 1 lists the number of names retrieved from our POCA search. These name pairs are organized as highly similar, moderately similar or low similarity for further evaluation.

Table 1. Names Retrieved for Review Organized by Name Pair Similarity	
Similarity Category	Number of Names
Highly similar name pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 70\%$	1
Moderately similar name pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$	1
Low similarity name pair: combined match percentage score $\leq 54\%$	1

2.2.7 Safety Analysis of Names with Potential Orthographic, Spelling, and Phonetic Similarities

Our analysis of the 3 names contained in Table 1 determined none of the names will pose a risk for confusion with Vafseo as described in Appendices C through H.

2.2.8 Communication of DMEPA’s Analysis at Midpoint of Review

DMEPA communicated our findings to the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH). At that time, we also requested additional information or concerns that could inform our review. On June 7, 2021, the Division of Non-Malignant Hematology (DNH) stated no additional concerns with the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo.

3 CONCLUSION

The proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, is acceptable.

If you have any questions or need clarifications, please contact Linda Wu, OSE project manager, at 240-402-5120.

3.1 COMMENTS TO AKEBIA THERAPEUTICS

We have completed our review of the proposed proprietary name, Vafseo, and have concluded that this name is acceptable.

If any of the proposed product characteristics as stated in your submissions, received on March 29, 2021, are altered prior to approval of the marketing application, the name must be resubmitted for review.

4 REFERENCES

1. *USAN Stems* (<https://www.ama-assn.org/about/united-states-adopted-names-approved-stems>)

USAN Stems List contains all the recognized USAN stems.

2. *Phonetic and Orthographic Computer Analysis (POCA)*

POCA is a system that FDA designed. As part of the name similarity assessment, POCA is used to evaluate proposed names via a phonetic and orthographic algorithm. The proposed proprietary name is converted into its phonemic representation before it runs through the phonetic algorithm. Likewise, an orthographic algorithm exists that operates in a similar fashion. POCA is publicly accessible.

Drugs@FDA

Drugs@FDA is an FDA Web site that contains most of the drug products approved in the United States since 1939. The majority of labels, approval letters, reviews, and other information are available for drug products approved from 1998 to the present. Drugs@FDA contains official information about FDA-approved *brand name* and *generic drugs*; *therapeutic biological products*, *prescription* and *over-the-counter* human drugs; and *discontinued drugs* (see *Drugs @ FDA Glossary of Terms*, available at http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationOnDrugs/ucm079436.htm#ther_biological).

RxNorm

RxNorm contains the names of prescription and many OTC drugs available in the United States. RxNorm includes generic and branded:

- Clinical drugs – pharmaceutical products given to (or taken by) a patient with therapeutic or diagnostic intent
- Drug packs – packs that contain multiple drugs, or drugs designed to be administered in a specified sequence

Radiopharmaceuticals, contrast media, food, dietary supplements, and medical devices, such as bandages and crutches, are all out of scope for RxNorm

(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/rxnorm/overview.html>).

Division of Medication Errors Prevention and Analysis proprietary name consultation requests

This is a list of proposed and pending names that is generated by the Division of Medication Error Prevention and Analysis from the Access database/tracking system.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

FDA's Proprietary Name Risk Assessment evaluates proposed proprietary names for misbranding and safety concerns.

1. **Misbranding Assessment:** For prescription drug products, OPDP assesses the name for misbranding concerns. For over-the-counter (OTC) drug products, the misbranding assessment of the proposed name is conducted by DNDP. OPDP or DNDP evaluates proposed proprietary names to determine if the name is false or misleading, such as by making misrepresentations with respect to safety or efficacy. For example, a fanciful proprietary name may misbrand a product by suggesting that it has some unique effectiveness or composition when it does not (21 CFR 201.10(c)(3)). OPDP or DNDP provides their opinion to DMEPA for consideration in the overall acceptability of the proposed proprietary name.
2. **Safety Assessment:** The safety assessment is conducted by DMEPA, and includes the following:
 - a. Preliminary Assessment: We consider inclusion of USAN stems or other characteristics that when incorporated into a proprietary name may cause or contribute to medication errors (i.e., dosing interval, dosage form/route of administration, medical or product name abbreviations, names that include or suggest the composition of the drug product, etc.) See prescreening checklist below in Table 2*. DMEPA defines a medication error as any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm while the medication is in the control of the health care professional, patient, or consumer.^d

^d National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention. <https://www.nccmerp.org/about-medication-errors> Last accessed 10/05/2020.

***Table 2- Prescreening Checklist for Proposed Proprietary Name**

	Answer the questions in the checklist below. Affirmative answers to any of these questions indicate a potential area of concern that should be carefully evaluated as described in this guidance.
Y/N	Is the proposed name obviously similar in spelling and pronunciation to other names?
	Proprietary names should not be similar in spelling or pronunciation to proprietary names, established names, or ingredients of other products.
Y/N	Are there inert or inactive ingredients referenced in the proprietary name?
	Proprietary names should not incorporate any reference to an inert or inactive ingredient in a way that might create an impression that the ingredient's value is greater than its true functional role in the formulation (21 CFR 201.10(c)(4)).
Y/N	Does the proprietary name include combinations of active ingredients?
	Proprietary names of fixed combination drug products should not include or suggest the name of one or more, but not all, of its active ingredients (see 21 CFR 201.6(b)).
Y/N	Is there a United States Adopted Name (USAN) stem in the proprietary name?
	Proprietary names should not incorporate a USAN stem in the position that USAN designates for the stem.
Y/N	Is this proprietary name used for another product that does not share at least one common active ingredient?
	Drug products that do not contain at least one common active ingredient should not use the same (root) proprietary name.
Y/N	Is this a proprietary name of a discontinued product?
	Proprietary names should not use the proprietary name of a discontinued product if that discontinued drug product does not contain the same active ingredients.

- b. Phonetic and Orthographic Computer Analysis (POCA): Following the preliminary screening of the proposed proprietary name, DMEPA staff evaluates the proposed name against potentially similar names. In order to identify names with potential similarity to the proposed proprietary name, DMEPA enters the proposed proprietary name in POCA and queries the name against the following drug reference databases, Drugs@fda, CernerRxNorm, and names in the review pipeline using a 55% threshold in POCA. DMEPA reviews the combined orthographic and phonetic matches and group the names into one of the following three categories:

- Highly similar pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 70\%$.
- Moderately similar pair: combined match percentage score $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$.

- Low similarity: combined match percentage score $\leq 54\%$.

Using the criteria outlined in the check list (Table 3-5) that corresponds to each of the three categories (highly similar pair, moderately similar pair, and low similarity), DMEPA evaluates the name pairs to determine the acceptability or non-acceptability of a proposed proprietary name. The intent of these checklists is to increase the transparency and predictability of the safety determination of whether a proposed name is vulnerable to confusion from a look-alike or sound-alike perspective. Each bullet below corresponds to the name similarity category cross-references the respective table that addresses criteria that DMEPA uses to determine whether a name presents a safety concern from a look-alike or sound-alike perspective.

- For highly similar names, differences in product characteristics often cannot mitigate the risk of a medication error, including product differences such as strength and dose. Thus, proposed proprietary names that have a combined score of ≥ 70 percent are at risk for a look-alike sound-alike confusion which is an area of concern (See Table 3).
- Moderately similar names are further evaluated to identify the presence of attributes that are known to cause name confusion.
 - Name attributes: We note that the beginning of the drug name plays a significant role in contributing to confusion. Additionally, drug name pairs that start with the same first letter and contain a shared letter string of at least 3 letters in both names are major contributing factor in the confusion of drug names^e. We evaluate all moderately similar names retrieved from POCA to identify the above attributes. These names are further evaluated to identify overlapping or similar strengths or doses.
 - Product attributes: Moderately similar names of products that have overlapping or similar strengths or doses represent an area for concern for FDA. The dose and strength information is often located in close proximity to the drug name itself on prescriptions and medication orders, and the information can be an important factor that either increases or decreases the potential for confusion between similarly named drug pairs. The ability of other product characteristics to mitigate confusion (e.g., route, frequency, dosage form) may be limited when the strength or dose overlaps. DMEPA reviews such names further, to determine whether sufficient differences exist to prevent confusion. (See Table 4).
- Names with low similarity that have no overlap or similarity in strength and dose are generally acceptable (See Table 5) unless there are data to suggest that the name might be vulnerable to confusion (e.g., prescription simulation study suggests that the name is likely to be misinterpreted as a marketed product). In these instances, we would reassign a low similarity name to the moderate similarity category and review according to the moderately similar name pair checklist.

^e Shah, M, Merchant, L, Characteristics That May Help in the Identification of Potentially Confusing Proprietary Drug Names. Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science, September 2016

- c. FDA Prescription Simulation Studies: DMEPA staff also conducts a prescription simulation studies using FDA health care professionals.

Four separate studies are conducted within the Centers of the FDA for the proposed proprietary name to determine the degree of confusion of the proposed proprietary name with marketed U.S. drug names (proprietary and established) due to similarity in visual appearance with handwritten prescriptions, verbal pronunciation of the drug name or during computerized provider order entry. The studies employ healthcare professionals (pharmacists, physicians, and nurses), and attempts to simulate the prescription ordering process. The primary Safety Evaluator uses the results to identify vulnerability of the proposed name to be misinterpreted by healthcare practitioners during written, verbal, or electronic prescribing.

In order to evaluate the potential for misinterpretation of the proposed proprietary name during written, verbal, or electronic prescribing of the name, written inpatient medication orders, written outpatient prescriptions, verbal orders, and electronic orders are simulated, each consisting of a combination of marketed and unapproved drug products, including the proposed name.

- d. Comments from Other Review Disciplines: DMEPA requests the Office of New Drugs (OND) and/or Office of Generic Drugs (OGD), ONDQA or OBP for their comments or concerns with the proposed proprietary name, ask for any clinical issues that may impact the DMEPA review during the initial phase of the name review. Additionally, when applicable, at the same time DMEPA requests concurrence/non-concurrence with OPDP's decision on the name. The primary Safety Evaluator addresses any comments or concerns in the safety evaluator's assessment.

The OND/OGD Regulatory Division is contacted a second time following our analysis of the proposed proprietary name. At this point, DMEPA conveys their decision to accept or reject the name. The OND or OGD Regulatory Division is requested to provide any further information that might inform DMEPA's final decision on the proposed name.

Additionally, other review disciplines opinions such as ONDQA or OBP may be considered depending on the proposed proprietary name.

When provided, DMEPA considers external proprietary name studies conducted by or for the Applicant/Sponsor and incorporates the findings of these studies into the overall risk assessment.

The DMEPA primary reviewer assigned to evaluate the proposed proprietary name is responsible for considering the collective findings, and provides an overall risk assessment of the proposed proprietary name.

Table 3. Highly Similar Name Pair Checklist (i.e., combined Orthographic and Phonetic score is $\geq 70\%$).

<p>Answer the questions in the checklist below. Affirmative answers to some of these questions suggest that the pattern of orthographic or phonetic differences in the names may render the names less likely to confusion, provided that the pair does not share a common strength or dose.</p>			
<u>Orthographic Checklist</u>		<u>Phonetic Checklist</u>	
Y/N	<p>Do the names begin with different first letters?</p> <p><i>Note that even when names begin with different first letters, certain letters may be confused with each other when scripted.</i></p>	Y/N	<p>Do the names have different number of syllables?</p>
Y/N	<p>Are the lengths of the names dissimilar* when scripted?</p> <p><i>*FDA considers the length of names different if the names differ by two or more letters.</i></p>	Y/N	<p>Do the names have different syllabic stresses?</p>
Y/N	<p>Considering variations in scripting of some letters (such as <i>z</i> and <i>f</i>), is there a different number or placement of upstroke/downstroke letters present in the names?</p>	Y/N	<p>Do the syllables have different phonologic processes, such as vowel reduction, assimilation, or deletion?</p>
Y/N	<p>Is there different number or placement of cross-stroke or dotted letters present in the names?</p>	Y/N	<p>Across a range of dialects, are the names consistently pronounced differently?</p>
Y/N	<p>Do the infixes of the name appear dissimilar when scripted?</p>		
Y/N	<p>Do the suffixes of the names appear dissimilar when scripted?</p>		

Table 4: Moderately Similar Name Pair Checklist (i.e., combined score is $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$).

<p>Step 1</p>	<p>Review the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING sections of the prescribing information (or for OTC drugs refer to the Drug Facts label) to determine if strengths and doses of the name pair overlap or are very similar. Different strengths and doses for products whose names are moderately similar may decrease the risk of confusion between the moderately similar name pairs. Name pairs that have overlapping or similar strengths or doses have a higher potential for confusion and should be evaluated further (see Step 2). Because the strength or dose could be used to express an order or prescription for a particular drug product, overlap in one or both of these components would be reason for further evaluation.</p> <p>For single strength products, also consider circumstances where the strength may not be expressed.</p> <p>For any i.e. drug products comprised of more than one active ingredient, consider whether the strength or dose may be expressed using only one of the components.</p> <p>To determine whether the strengths or doses are similar to your proposed product, consider the following list of factors that may increase confusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative expressions of dose: 5 mL may be listed in the prescribing information, but the dose may be expressed in metric weight (e.g., 500 mg) or in non-metric units (e.g., 1 tsp, 1 tablet/capsule). Similarly, a strength or dose of 1000 mg may be expressed, in practice, as 1 g, or vice versa. • Trailing or deleting zeros: 10 mg is similar in appearance to 100 mg which may potentiate confusion between a name pair with moderate similarity. • Similar sounding doses: 15 mg is similar in sound to 50 mg
<p>Step 2</p>	<p>Answer the questions in the checklist below. Affirmative answers to some of these questions suggest that the pattern of orthographic or phonetic differences in the names may reduce the likelihood of confusion for moderately similar names with overlapping or similar strengths or doses.</p>

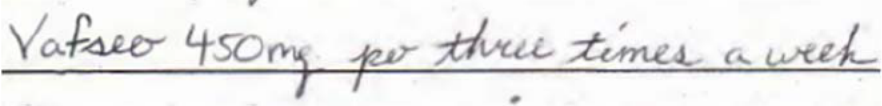
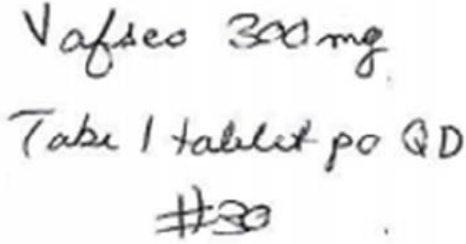
	<p>Orthographic Checklist (Y/N to each question)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the names begin with different first letters? Note that even when names begin with different first letters, certain letters may be confused with each other when scripted. • Are the lengths of the names dissimilar* when scripted? *FDA considers the length of names different if the names differ by two or more letters. • Considering variations in scripting of some letters (such as <i>z</i> and <i>f</i>), is there a different number or placement of upstroke/downstroke letters present in the names? • Is there different number or placement of cross-stroke or dotted letters present in the names? • Do the infixes of the name appear dissimilar when scripted? • Do the suffixes of the names appear dissimilar when scripted? 	<p>Phonetic Checklist (Y/N to each question)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the names have different number of syllables? • Do the names have different syllabic stresses? • Do the syllables have different phonologic processes, such vowel reduction, assimilation, or deletion? • Across a range of dialects, are the names consistently pronounced differently?
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Table 5: Low Similarity Name Pair Checklist (i.e., combined score is ≤54%).

Names with low similarity are generally acceptable unless there are data to suggest that the name might be vulnerable to confusion (e.g., prescription simulation study suggests that the name is likely to be misinterpreted as a marketed product). In these instances, we would reassign a low similarity name to the moderate similarity category and review according to the moderately similar name pair checklist.

Appendix B: Prescription Simulation Samples and Results

Figure 1. Vafseo Study (Conducted on April 20, 2021)

Handwritten Medication Order/Prescription	Verbal Prescription
<p><u>Medication Order:</u></p> 	<p>Vafseo 300 mg Take 1 tablet by mouth once daily Dispense #30</p>
<p><u>Outpatient Prescription:</u></p> 	
<p>CPOE Study Sample (displayed as sans-serif, 12-point, bold font)</p>	
<p>Vafseo</p>	

FDA Prescription Simulation Responses (Aggregate Report)

209 People Received Study
86 People Responded

Study Name: Vafseo

Total	19	22	15	30	
INTERPRETATION	OUTPATIENT	CPOE	VOICE	INPATIENT	TOTAL
VAFREO	3	0	0	0	3
VAFSEAL	0	0	3	0	3
VAFSEAL TABLETS	0	0	1	0	1
VAFSEC	1	0	0	0	1
VAFSEE	0	0	0	1	1
VAFSEEYO	0	0	1	0	1
VAFSEO	12	22	0	28	62
VAFSEO 450MG	0	0	0	1	1
VALUEO	1	0	0	0	1
VAS SEAL	0	0	1	0	1
VASCEO	0	0	1	0	1
VASCIEL	0	0	1	0	1
VASEAL	0	0	1	0	1
VASEO	1	0	0	0	1
VASQSEAL	0	0	1	0	1
VASSEEL	0	0	1	0	1
VATSEO	1	0	0	0	1
VAVSEAL	0	0	1	0	1
VAXCEL	0	0	1	0	1
VAZCEO	0	0	1	0	1
VOSFEEL	0	0	1	0	1

Appendix C: Highly Similar Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\geq 70\%$)

No.	Proposed name: Vafseo Established name: vadadustat Dosage form: tablets Strength(s): 150 mg, 300 mg, and 450 mg Usual Dose: 300 mg once daily (dosage range: 150 mg to 600 mg once daily)	POCA Score (%)	Orthographic and/or phonetic differences in the names sufficient to prevent confusion Other prevention of failure mode expected to minimize the risk of confusion between these two names.
1.	Vafseo	100	Subject of this review

Appendix D: Moderately Similar Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$) with no overlap or numerical similarity in Strength and/or Dose – N/A

Appendix E: Moderately Similar Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\geq 55\%$ to $\leq 69\%$) with overlap or numerical similarity in Strength and/or Dose – N/A

Appendix F: Low Similarity Names (e.g., combined POCA score is $\leq 54\%$) – N/A

Appendix G: Names not likely to be confused or not used in usual practice settings for the reasons described.

No.	Name	POCA Score (%)	Failure preventions
1.	Aservo	53	Veterinary product.

Appendix H: Names not likely to be confused due to absence of attributes that are known to cause name confusion^f.

No.	Name	POCA Score (%)
1.	(b) (4)	58

^f Shah, M, Merchant, L, Chan, I, and Taylor, K. Characteristics That May Help in the Identification of Potentially Confusing Proprietary Drug Names. Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science, September 2016

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