



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

FEB 13 2003

Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd.
Attention: Robert Kurkiewicz
1150 Elijah McCoy Drive
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Docket No. 02P-0460/CP1

Dear Mr. Kurkiewicz:

This is in response to your petition filed on October 21, 2002, requesting permission to file an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for the following drug product: Metoprolol Tartrate Tablets, 25 mg. The listed drug product to which you refer in your petition is Lopressor® (Metoprolol Tartrate) Tablets, 100 mg approved under NDA 17-963 held by Novartis.

Your request involves a change in strength from that of the listed drug product (i.e., from 100 mg tablets to 25 mg tablets). The change you request is the type of change that is authorized under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Act).

We have reviewed your petition under Section 505(j)(2)(C) of the Act and have determined that it is approved. This letter represents the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) determination that an ANDA may be submitted for the above-referenced drug product.

Under Section 505(j)(2)(C)(i) of the Act, the FDA must approve a petition seeking a strength that differs from the strength of the listed drug product unless it finds that investigations must be conducted to show the safety and effectiveness of the differing strength.

The FDA finds that the change in the strength for the specific proposed drug product does not pose questions of safety or effectiveness because the uses, dose, and route of administration of the proposed drug product are the same as that of the listed drug product. In addition, the labeling of the reference listed drug supports the administration of a 25 mg dose of metoprolol tartrate. The FDA concludes, therefore, that investigations are not necessary in this instance. In addition, if shown to meet bioavailability requirements, the proposed drug product can be expected to have the same therapeutic effect as the listed reference drug product.

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The approval of this petition to allow an ANDA to be submitted for the above-referenced drug product does not mean that the FDA has determined that an ANDA will be approved for the drug product. The determination of whether an ANDA will be approved is not made until the ANDA itself is submitted and reviewed by the FDA.

To permit review of your ANDA submission, you must submit all information required under Sections 505(j)(2)(A) and (B) of the Act. To be approved, the drug product will, among other things, be required to meet current bioavailability requirements under Section 505(j)(2)(A)(iv) of the Act. We suggest that you submit your protocol for this drug product to the Office of Generic Drugs, Division of Bioequivalence prior to the submission of your ANDA. During the review of your application, the FDA may require the submission of additional information.

The listed drug product to which you refer in your ANDA must be the drug product upon which you based this petition. In addition, you should refer in your ANDA to the appropriate petition docket number cited above, and include a copy of this letter in the ANDA submission.

A copy of this letter approving your petition will be placed on public display in the Dockets Management Branch, Room 1061, Mail Stop HFA-305, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Sincerely yours,



Gary J. Buehler
Director
Office of Generic Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research