DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring MD 20993

NDA 021995/S-017

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL
RELEASE REMS REQUIREMENT

Merck Sharp and Dohme Corp.
Attention: Richard J. Swanson, Ph.D.
Director, Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 1000, UG2C-50
North Wales, PA 19454-1099

Dear Dr. Swanson:

Please refer to your supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) dated and received March 19, 2010, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for JANUVIA (sitagliptin) Tablets, 25 mg, 50 mg, and 100 mg.

We also acknowledge receipt of your amendments dated November 12 and December 13, 2010, and January 26, February 4, and March 25, 2011. We also acknowledge receipt of your risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS) assessment dated March 25, 2011.

This supplemental new drug application provides for the addition of information regarding postmarketing reports of worsening renal function, including acute renal failure (sometimes requiring dialysis) to the package insert and corresponding text in the Medication Guide. This supplemental NDA also provides for a proposed REMS modification requesting the elimination of the approved REMS.

We have completed our review of this supplemental application, as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed, agreed-upon labeling text.

CONTENT OF LABELING

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit, using the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm, that is identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert and Medication Guide) and include the labeling changes proposed in any pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements and any annual reportable changes not included in the enclosed labeling.

Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry titled "SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As" at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/DrugsGuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf.

The SPL will be accessible from publicly available labeling repositories.

Also within 14 days, amend all pending supplemental applications for this NDA, including CBE supplements, for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)(1)(i)] in MS Word format that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application.

We request that the labeling approved today be available on your website within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY REQUIREMENTS

The REMS for JANUVIA (sitagliptin) Tablets was originally approved on February 26, 2010. The REMS consists of a Medication Guide and a timetable for submission of assessments of the REMS.

In our letter dated December 28, 2010, we notified you that a REMS modification was required for JANUVIA (sitagliptin) Tablets to ensure that the benefits of the drug outweigh the risks of worsening renal function, including acute renal failure (sometimes requiring dialysis). We indicated that your proposed REMS must include a modification to the Medication Guide to include information about the risk of renal failure.

We acknowledge receipt of your proposed modified REMS in your January 26, 2011 submission. We also acknowledge receipt of your submission dated March 25, 2011, which included a REMS assessment, a report on the status of your postapproval study required under section 505(o) to investigate a safety issue, and a proposed REMS modification requesting the elimination of the approved REMS.

We have determined that it is no longer necessary to include the Medication Guide as an element of the approved REMS, and that a REMS is no longer necessary to ensure that the benefits of JANUVIA (sitagliptin) Tablets outweigh its risks. Therefore, we agree with your proposal and a REMS for JANUVIA (sitagliptin) Tablets is no longer required.

We remind you that the Medication Guide will continue to be part of the approved labeling in accordance with 21 CFR 208.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

You may request advisory comments on proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling. To do so, submit the following, in triplicate, (1) a cover letter requesting advisory

comments, (2) the proposed materials in draft or mock-up form with annotated references, and (3) the package insert(s) to:

Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications
5901-B Ammendale Road
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

You must submit final promotional materials and package insert(s), accompanied by a Form FDA 2253, at the time of initial dissemination or publication [21 CFR 314.(b)(3)(i)]. Form FDA 2253 is available at http://www.fda.gov/opacom/morechoices/fdaforms/cder.html; instructions are provided on page 2 of the form. For more information about submission of promotional materials to the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC), see http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/CDER/ucm090142.htm.

All promotional materials that include representations about your drug product must be promptly revised to be consistent with the labeling changes approved in this supplement, including any new safety information [21 CFR 314.70(a)(4)]. The revisions in your promotional materials should include prominent disclosure of the important new safety information that appears in the revised package labeling. Within 7 days of receipt of this letter, submit your statement of intent to comply with 21 CFR 314.70(a)(4) to the address above or by fax to 301-847-8444.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved NDA (21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81).

If you have any questions, please contact Mehreen Hai, Ph.D., Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-5073.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Mary Parks, M.D.
Director
Division of Metabolism & Endocrinology Products
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration

Enclosures:
Package Insert (submitted Februrary 4, 2011)
Medication Guide (submitted January 26, 2011)

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

MARY H PARKS
04/14/2011