

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on May 17, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Hilton Washington DC North/Gaithersburg, The Ballrooms, 620 Perry Pkwy., Gaithersburg, MD, 301-977-8900.

Contact Person: Darrell Lyons, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane (for express delivery, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1093), Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-7001, e-mail: Darrell.Lyons@fda.hhs.gov or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1-800-741-8138 (301-443-0572) in the Washington, DC area), code 3014512543. Please call the information line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: The committee will discuss supplemental new drug application (NDA) 20823, SE1-016, EXELON (rivastigmine tartrate) Capsules (1.5 milligrams (mg), 3.0 mg, 4.5 mg, and 6.0 mg), Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., for the proposed indication of the treatment of mild to moderate dementia associated with Parkinson's disease. The background material will become available no later than the day before the meeting and will be posted on FDA's Web site at <http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/acmenu.htm> under the heading "Peripheral and Central Nervous System Drugs Advisory Committee." (Click on the year 2006 and scroll down to the previously named committee).

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by May 3, 2006. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before May 3, 2006, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Persons attending FDA's advisory committee meetings are advised that the agency is not responsible for providing access to electrical outlets.

FDA welcomes the attendance of the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to

a disability, please contact Darrell Lyons at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: February 24, 2006.

Jason Brodsky,

Acting Associate Commissioner for External Relations.

[FR Doc. E6-3021 Filed 3-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Report on the Performance of Drug and Biologics Firms in Conducting Postmarketing Commitment Studies; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is required, under the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 (Modernization Act), to report annually in the **Federal Register** on the status of postmarketing study commitments made by sponsors of approved drug and biological products. This is the agency's report on the status of the studies sponsors have agreed to or are required to conduct.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beth Duvall-Miller, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 22, rm. 6466, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-0700; or Robert Yetter, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM-25), Food and Drug Administration, 1400 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-827-0373.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 130(a) of the Modernization Act (Public Law 105-115) amended the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) by adding a new provision requiring reports of certain postmarketing studies (section 506B of the act (21 U.S.C. 356b)) for human drug and biological products. Section 506B of the act provides FDA with additional authority to monitor the progress of a postmarketing study commitment that an applicant has been required or has agreed to conduct by requiring the applicant to submit a report annually

providing information on the status of the postmarketing study commitment. This report must also include reasons, if any, for failure to complete the commitment.

On December 1, 1999 (64 FR 67207), FDA published a proposed rule providing a framework for the content and format of the annual progress report. The proposed rule also clarified the scope of the reporting requirement and the timing for submission of the annual progress reports. The final rule, published on October 30, 2000 (65 FR 64607), modified annual report requirements for new drug applications (NDAs) and abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs) by revising § 314.81(b)(2)(vii) (21 CFR 314.81(b)(2)(vii)). The rule also created a new annual reporting requirement for biologics license applications (BLAs) by establishing § 601.70 (21 CFR 601.70). These regulations became effective on April 30, 2001. The regulations apply only to human drug and biological products. They do not apply to animal drug or to biological products that also meet the definition of a medical device.

Sections 314.81(b)(2)(vii) and 601.70 apply to postmarketing commitments made on or before enactment of the Modernization Act (November 21, 1997) as well as those made after that date. Sections 314.81(b)(2)(vii) and 601.70 require applicants of approved drug and biological products to submit annually a report on the status of each clinical safety, clinical efficacy, clinical pharmacology, and nonclinical toxicology study that is required by FDA (e.g., accelerated approval clinical benefit studies) or that they have committed to conduct either at the time of approval or after approval of their NDA, ANDA, or BLA. The status of other types of postmarketing commitments (e.g., those concerning chemistry, manufacturing, production controls, and studies conducted on an applicant's own initiative) are not required to be reported under §§ 314.81(b)(2)(vii) and 601.70, and are not addressed in this report. It should be noted, however, that applicants are required to report to FDA on these commitments made for NDAs and ANDAs under § 314.81(b)(2)(viii).

According to the regulations, once a postmarketing study commitment has been made, an applicant must report on the progress of the commitment on the anniversary of the product's approval until the postmarketing study commitment is completed or terminated, and FDA determines that the postmarketing study commitment has been fulfilled or that the postmarketing study commitment is

either no longer feasible or would no longer provide useful information. The annual progress report must include a description of the postmarketing study commitment, a schedule for completing the study commitment, and a characterization of the current status of the study commitment. The report must also provide an explanation of the postmarketing study commitment's status by describing briefly the postmarketing study commitment's progress. A postmarketing study commitment schedule is expected to include the actual or projected dates for the following: (1) Submission of the study protocol to FDA, (2) completion of patient accrual or initiation of an animal study, (3) completion of the study, and (4) submission of the final study report to FDA. The postmarketing study commitment status must be described in the annual report according to the following definitions:

- Pending: The study has not been initiated, but does not meet the criterion for delayed;
- Ongoing: The study is proceeding according to or ahead of the original schedule;
- Delayed: The study is behind the original schedule;
- Terminated: The study was ended before completion, but a final study report has not been submitted to FDA; or
- Submitted: The study has been completed or terminated, and a final study report has been submitted to FDA.

Databases containing information on postmarketing study commitments are maintained at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). Information in this report covers any postmarketing study commitment that was made, in writing, at the time of approval or after approval of an application or a supplement to an application, including those required (e.g., to demonstrate clinical benefit of a product following accelerated approval) and those agreed to with the applicant. Information summarized in this report includes: (1) The number of applicants with open (uncompleted) postmarketing commitments, (2) the number of open postmarketing commitments, (3) the status of open postmarketing commitments as reported in § 314.81(b)(2)(vii) or § 601.70 annual reports, (4) the status of concluded postmarketing studies as determined by FDA, and (5) the number of applications with open postmarketing commitments for which sponsors did not submit an annual report within 60 days of the anniversary date of U.S. approval.

Additional information about postmarketing study commitments made by sponsors to CDER and CBER are provided on FDA's Web site at <http://www.fda.gov/cder>. Like this notice, the site does not list postmarketing study commitments containing proprietary information. It is FDA policy not to post information on the Web site until it has been reviewed for accuracy. The numbers published in this notice cannot be compared with the numbers resulting from searches of the Web site. This notice incorporates totals for all postmarketing study commitments in FDA databases, including those undergoing review for accuracy. The report in this notice will be updated annually while the Web site is updated quarterly (in January, April, July, and October).

II. Summary of Information From Postmarketing Study Progress Reports

This report summarizes the status of postmarketing commitments as of September 30, 2005. If a commitment did not have a schedule or a postmarketing progress report was not received, the commitment is categorized according to the most recent information available to the agency.

Data in table 1 of this document are numerical summaries generated from FDA databases. The data are broken out according to application type (NDAs/ANDAs or BLAs).

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF POST-MARKETING STUDY COMMITMENTS (NUMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2005)

	NDAs/ ANDAs (% of Total)	BLAs ¹ (% of Total)
Applicants With Open Postmarketing Commitments	154	44
Number of Open Postmarketing Commitments	1,231	321
Status of Open Postmarketing Commitments		
• Pending	797 (65%)	118 (37%)
• Ongoing	231 (19%)	94 (29%)
• Delayed	28 (2%)	53 (17%)
• Terminated	3 (<1%)	0
• Submitted	172 (14%)	56 (17%)

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF POST-MARKETING STUDY COMMITMENTS (NUMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2005)—Continued

	NDAs/ ANDAs (% of Total)	BLAs ¹ (% of Total)
Concluded Studies (October 1, 2004 Through September 30, 2005)	156	56
• Commitment Met	136 (87%)	41 (73%)
• Commitment Not Met	5 (3%)	0
• Study No Longer Needed or Feasible	15 (10%)	15 (27%)
Applications With Open Postmarketing Commitments With Annual Reports Due, but Not Submitted Within 60 Days of the Anniversary Date of U.S. Approval	170 (47%) ²	37 (50%)

¹On October 1, 2003, FDA completed a consolidation of certain products formerly regulated by the CBER into the CDER. The previous association of BLA reviews only with CBER is no longer valid; BLAs are now received by both CBER and CDER. Fiscal year (FY) statistics for CDER BLA postmarketing study commitments will continue to be counted under BLA totals in this table.

²The search strategy was improved for the FY 2005 report and may explain, in part, the increased number of applications categorized as having overdue annual reports. Note that this statistic counts all annual reports submitted more than 60 days after the anniversary date of U.S. approval as overdue, including reports that may have been submitted on a modified reporting schedule in accordance with prior FDA agreement. Of the applications categorized as having overdue annual reports using this definition, annual reports were subsequently submitted in FY 2005 for 170/170 (100 percent) of NDAs/ANDAs and 19/37 (51 percent) of BLAs.

Dated: February 23, 2006.

Jeffrey Shuren,

Assistant Commissioner for Policy.

[FR Doc. E6-3019 Filed 3-2-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, the NIH is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be