DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 09053/S-021

SmithKlineBeecham Corporation d/b/a GlaxoSmithKline
1250 S. Collegeville Road
P.O. Box 5089
Philadelphia, PA 19426-0989

Attention: Matthew Whitman
Associate Director, U.S. Regulatory Affairs

Dear: Mr. Whitman:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated March 15, 2002, received March 18, 2002, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Purinethol (mercaptopurine) Tablets.

This "Changes Being Effected in 30 days" supplemental new drug application provides updated safety information in the package insert. The insert has been revised under **ADVERSE REACTIONS**(to add reports of alopecia and oligospermia), **OVERDOSAGE** [Active measures (such as the use of activated charcoal or gastric lavage) may not be effective in the event of overdose unless the procedure can be undertaken within 60minutes of ingestion] and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** (Studies in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia suggest that the administration of PURINETHOL in the evening compared with the morning lowered the risk of relapse).

We have completed the review of this supplemental application, as amended, and have concluded that adequate information has not been presented to demonstrate that the drug product is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted final printed labeling (package insert RL1063 dated March, 2002). However, since the labeling is in use already, the supplemental application is considered approved effective on the date of this letter.

Please submit correspondence to this supplement as a pre-submission to a labeling supplement if you do not agree to the following changes. If you do agree with the following changes, please submit a Changes Being Effected supplement with final printed labeling including the requested changes.

1. This submission contains changes to the label that are not appropriate for a CBE supplement. Labeling changes concerning efficacy such as the phrase (b)----------r(b)----" require review and should be submitted as a labeling or effica----------e future, please submit only well-supported safety information for inclusion in a CBE supplement.

2. The following change is acceptable: Alopeica has been reported.

3. The following revision is recommended: Oligospermia has been reported. Please revise your statement in the labeling.

4. The following sentence is not acceptable: (b)----------
c(b)----------
(b)----------. Please delete this statement from your labeling.

5. The following sentence is not acceptable: (b)----------
---
w(b)----------Please delete this statement from your labeling.

If a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter) is issued to physicians and others responsible for patient care, we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MEDWATCH, HF-2
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

We remind you that you must comply with the requirements for an approved NDA set forth under 21 CFR 314.80 and 314.81.

If you have any questions, call Maureen Pelosi, Project Manager, at (301) 594-5768.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}
Richard Pazdur, M.D.
Director
Division of Oncology Drug Products
Office of Drug Evaluation I
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

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

/s/

Richard Pazdur

9/6/02 04:13:38 PM