DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring MD 20993

NDA 18-303/S-034 **APPROVAL LETTER**

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Donna Vivelo
Director, Drug Regulatory Affairs
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080

Dear Ms. Vivelo:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated June 26, 2009, received June 26, 2009 submitted under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Lopressor HCT (metoprolol tartrate and hydrochlorothiazide) Tablets.

We also refer to our supplement request letter dated February 24, 2009.

This "Changes Being Effected" supplemental new drug application provides for changes to the **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS** sections of the label. The following changes have been made:

1. In **CONTRAINDICATIONS**, "Pheochromocytoma (see **WARNINGS**)", has been removed.

2. In **WARNINGS**, a box as been placed around the paragraph regarding Ischemic Heart Disease.

3. In **WARNINGS/*Pheochromocytoma***, the paragraph has been changed from:

   In patients known to have, or suspected of having, a pheochromocytoma, Lopressor is contraindicated (see CONTRAINDICATIONS). If Lopressor is required, it should be given in combination with an alpha blocker, and only after the alpha blocker has been initiated. Administration of beta blockers alone in the setting of pheochromocytoma has been associated with a paradoxical increase in blood pressure due to the attenuation of beta mediated vasodilatation in skeletal muscle.

   To:

   If Lopressor is used in the setting of pheochromocytoma, it should be given in combination with an alpha blocker, and only after the alpha blocker has been initiated. Administration of beta blockers alone in the setting of pheochromocytoma has been associated with a paradoxical increase in blood pressure due to the attenuation of beta-mediated vasodilatation in skeletal muscle.

4. The revision date and version number have been updated.

We have completed our review of this supplemental new drug application and it is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the electronic final printed labeling (FPL) submitted on June 26, 2009.

If you issue a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Professional" letter), we request that you submit a copy of the letter to this NDA and a copy to the following address:

MedWatch
Food and Drug Administration
Suite 12B05
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, please call:

Lori Anne Wachter, RN, BSN
Regulatory Project Manager
(301) 796 3975

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Mary Ross Southworth, PharmD
Deputy Director for Safety
Division of Cardiovascular and Renal 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/

Lori A WACHTER
08/07/2009

MARY R SOUTHWORTH
08/07/2009