DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20993

NDA 020560/S-061
NDA 021575/S-021

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL
RELEASE REMS REQUIREMENT

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
Attention: Elinor Chen, Ph.D.
Director, Worldwide Regulatory Affairs
126 E. Lincoln Ave., PO Box 2000, RY33-212
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Dr. Chen:

Please refer to your Supplemental New Drug Applications (sNDAs) dated and received May 26, 2011, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for Fosamax® (alendronate sodium) 5 mg, 10 mg, 35 mg, 40 mg, and 70 mg tablets; and 70 mg oral solution.

These supplemental new drug applications contain your Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) assessment and propose to eliminate the requirement for the approved Fosamax (alendronate sodium) REMS.

We have completed our review of these supplemental applications. They are approved, effective on the date of this letter.

RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY REQUIREMENTS

The REMS for Fosamax (alendronate sodium) was approved on January 25, 2011. The REMS consists of a Medication Guide and a timetable for submission of assessments of the REMS.

You propose that FDA no longer require a REMS for Fosamax (alendronate sodium).

We have determined that maintaining the Medication Guide as part of the approved labeling is adequate to address the serious and significant public health concern and meets the standard in 21 CFR 208.1. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to include the Medication Guide as an element of the approved REMS to ensure that the benefits of Fosamax outweigh its risks.

Therefore, we agree with your proposal and a REMS for Fosamax (alendronate sodium) 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.

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, call Meredith Alpert, M.S., Acting Safety Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-1218.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Audrey Gassman, M.D.
Deputy Director for Safety
Division of Reproductive and Urologic Products
Office of Drug Evaluation III
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/

AUDREY L GASSMAN
07/01/2011