DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

NDA 20-616/S-017 and S-021

Alpharma Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
One New England Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Attention: Charlene Salmorin
Associate Director, Labeling and Registrations

Dear Ms. Salmorin:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug applications dated December 23, 2004 (S-017) and November 30, 2005 (S-021), received December 27, 2004 (S-017) and December 1, 2005 (S-021), submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Kadian (morphine sulfate extended-release) Capsules, 20 mg, 30, mg, 50 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg, and 100 mg.

We acknowledge receipt of your submissions dated March 24, April 15 and 22, May 6, June 3, and December 21, 2005, November 9, 2006, and January 25, 2007, for S-017, and May 18, June 30, August 11, September 5, October 10, and December 15, 2006 for S-021.

Supplemental new drug application 017 provides for a reformulated 100-mg capsule and new 200-mg strength capsule. Supplemental new drug application 021 provides for changes to the package insert to include information about the *in vitro* finding that the extended-release characteristics of Kadian are compromised in the presence of alcohol and warnings about the potential for dose dumping *in vivo* if Kadian is taken concomitantly with alcohol. We note that, due to your *in vivo* data demonstrating that there is not an interaction between Kadian and alcohol *in vivo* when administered concomitantly, the changes originally proposed in S-021 are no longer necessary.

We have completed our review of these applications, as amended, and they are approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the agreed-upon labeling text.

The final printed labeling (FPL) must be identical to the enclosed labeling text for the package insert, and to the immediate container and carton labels submitted on January 25, 2007.

Within 21 days of the date of this letter, submit content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at http://www.fda.gov/oc/datacouncil/spl.html, that is identical in content to the enclosed labeling text for the package insert. For administrative purposes, designate this submission "Final Printed Labeling for approved NDA 20-616/S-017 and S-021." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used. Upon receipt and verification, we will transmit that version to the National Library of Medicine for public dissemination.

Please submit electronically final printed carton and container labels that are identical to the enclosed carton and immediate container labels (submitted January 25, 2007). Alternatively, you may submit 12 paper copies of the carton and container labels as soon as they are available but no more than 30 days after they are printed. Individually mount 6 of the copies on heavy-weight paper or similar material. For administrative purposes, designate this submission "Final Printed Carton and Container Labels for approved NDA 20-616/S-017 and S-021." Approval of this submission by FDA is not required before the labeling is used.

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
5515 Security Lane
HFD-001, Suite 5100
Rockville, MD 20852

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 Lisa Basham, Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-1175.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Bob Rappaport, MD
Director
Division of Anesthesia, Analgesia and
Rheumatology Products
Office of Drug Evaluation II
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

Enclosure

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

/s/

Bob Rappaport

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