DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

NDA 20-671/S011

SmithKline Beecham db/a GlaxoSmithKline
2301 Renaissance Boulevard
P.O. Box 61540
King of Prussia, PA 19406-2772

Attention: Richard Swenson, Ph.D.
Director, U.S. Regulatory Affairs

Dear Dr. Swenson:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated December 6, 2002, received December 10, 2002, and submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Hycamtin (topotecan hydrochloride) for Injection, 4 mg.

This "Changes Being Effected" supplemental new drug application provides for the addition of a Drug Interactions paragraph to the PRECAUTIONS section of the package insert. The changes add or strengthen a precaution and add or strengthen dosage and administration instructions that are intended to increase the safe use of Hycamtin.

We completed the review of this supplemental new drug application and concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the final printed labeling submitted on December 6, 2002. Accordingly, the supplemental new drug application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

Just as a reminder, we note that your package insert does not currently include a Geriatric Use subsection in the PRECAUTIONS section in accordance with the final rule published in the Federal Register on August 27,1997 (62 FR 45313). Therefore, we suggest that you perform an analysis of existing clinical data and literature to evaluate any age differences in response and toxicity and submit this information as part of a Changes Being Effected, or prior approval, labeling supplement. Please refer to Guidance for Industry – Content and Format for Geriatric labeling.

If significant differences in response and toxicity related to age cannot be determined, we recommend that you submit a Changes Being Effected Supplement which incorporates the following statement in a new Geriatric Use subsection.

"Clinical studies did not include sufficient number of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautions, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased

hepatic, renal, or cardiac function and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy in elderly patients."

If you incorporate language in the Geriatric Use subsection that is different from the above, a prior approval supplement containing your proposed draft labeling should be submitted.

If a letter communicating important information about this drug product (i.e., a "Dear Health Care Practitioner" 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, contact Dotti Pease, Chief, Project Management Staff, at (301) 594-5742.

Sincerely,

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

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