DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring MD 20993

NDA 020818/S-047

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
Attention: Nancy Price
Director, Drug Regulatory Affairs
One Health Plaza
East Hanover, NJ 07936

Dear Ms Price:

Please refer to your Supplemental New Drug Application (sNDA) dated and received March 3, 2011, submitted under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) for Diovan HCT (valsartan/hydrochlorothiazide) 80/12.5 mg, 160/12.5 mg., 160/25 mg, 320/12.5 mg, and 320/25 mg Tablets.

This "Changes Being Effected" supplemental new drug application provides for labeling revised as follows:

1. In **HIGHLIGHTS/Recent Major Changes**, the following was added:

   Warnings and Precautions: Acute Angle-Closure Glaucoma (5.9) 2/2011

2. In **HIGHLIGHTS/WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**, the following bullet was added:

   - Hydrochlorothiazide has been associated with acute angle-closure glaucoma (5.9)

3. Under **FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS,** a new section has been added to **WARNING AND PRECAUTIONS**. It reads as follows:

   5.9 Acute Myopia and Secondary Angle-Closure Glaucoma

4. Under **WARNING AND PRECAUTIONS**, a new section was added:

   5.9 Acute Myopia and Secondary Angle-Closure Glaucoma

   Hydrochlorothiazide, a sulfonamide, can cause an idiosyncratic reaction, resulting in acute transient myopia and acute angle-closure glaucoma. Symptoms include acute onset of decreased visual acuity or ocular pain and typically occur within hours to weeks of drug initiation. Untreated acute angle-closure glaucoma can lead to permanent vision loss. The primary treatment is to discontinue hydrochlorothiazide as rapidly as possible.

Prompt medical or surgical treatments may need to be considered if the intraocular pressure remains uncontrolled. Risk factors for developing acute angle-closure glaucoma may include a history of sulfonamide or penicillin allergy.

5. In **PATIENT INFORMATION/What are the possible side effects of DIOVAN HCT?**, the following text was added as the ninth bullet:

    - **Eye Problems.** One of the medicines in DIOVAN HCT can cause eye problems that may lead to vision loss. Symptoms of eye problems can happen within hours to weeks of starting DIOVAN HCT. Tell your doctor right away if you have:
        - decrease in vision
        - eye pain

There are no other changes from the last approved package insert from May 20, 2009.

We have completed our review of this supplemental application, and it is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed, agreed-upon labeling text.

CONTENT OF LABELING

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format using the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), as described at http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm. Content of labeling must be identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the package insert), with the addition of any labeling changes in pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements, as well as annual reportable changes not included in the enclosed labeling.

Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry titled "SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As" at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/DrugsGuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf.

The SPL will be accessible from publicly available labeling repositories.

Also within 14 days, amend all pending supplemental applications for this NDA, including CBE supplements for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 314.50(l)(1)(i)] in MS Word format, that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application, as well as annual reportable changes and annotate each change. To facilitate review of your submission, provide a highlighted or marked-up copy that shows all changes, as well as a clean Microsoft Word version. The marked-up copy should provide appropriate annotations, including supplement number(s) and annual report date(s).

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

You may request advisory comments on proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling. To do so, submit the following, in triplicate, (1) a cover letter requesting advisory comments, (2) the proposed materials in draft or mock-up form with annotated references, and (3) the package insert(s) to:

Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications
5901-B Ammendale Road
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

All promotional materials that include representations about your drug product must be promptly revised to be consistent with the labeling changes approved in this supplement, including any new safety information [21 CFR 314.70(a)(4)]. The revisions in your promotional materials should include prominent disclosure of the important new safety information that appears in the revised package labeling. Within 7 days of receipt of this letter, submit your statement of intent to comply with 21 CFR 314.70(a)(4) to the address above or by fax to 301-847-8444.

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, please call:

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

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Mary Ross Southworth, Pharm.D.
Deputy Director for Safety
Division of Cardiovascular and Renal Products
Office of Drug Evaluation 1
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURE:
Content of Labeling

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

/s/

MARY R SOUTHWORTH
06/03/2011