DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

NDA 21-286/S-002

Sankyo Pharma, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Albert Yehaskel
399 Thornall Street
11th Floor
Edison, New Jersey 08837

Dear Mr. Yehaskel:

Please refer to your supplemental new drug application dated November 11, 2002, submitted under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for Benicar (olmesartan medoxomil) 5, 20, and 40 mg Tablets.

This "Changes Being Effected" supplemental new drug application provides for the following changes to the package insert:

1. Under **PRECAUTIONS, Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility,** the 3rd and 4th sentences in the 2nd paragraph have been changed from:

   However, both were shown to induce chromosomal aberrations in cultured cells *in vitro* (Chinese hamster lung). Olmesartan medoxomil also tested positive for thymidine kinase mutations in the *in vitro* mouse lymphoma assay (olmesartan not tested).

   to:

   However, both were shown to induce chromosomal aberrations in cultured cells *in vitro* (Chinese hamster lung) and tested positive for thymidine kinase mutations in the *in vitro* mouse lymphoma assay.

2. Under **ADVERSE REACTIONS**, a new *Post-Marketing Experience* subheading has been added that reads as follows:

   Post-Marketing Experience: Rare cases of rhabdomyolysis have been reported in patients receiving angiotensin II receptor blockers.

We have completed the review of this supplemental application and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug product is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted electronic final printed labeling (package insert included in your submission of November 12, 2002). Accordingly, the supplemental application is approved effective on the date of this letter.

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 contact:

Mr. Edward Fromm
Regulatory Health Project Manager
(301) 594-5332

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Douglas C.Throckmorton M.D.
Director
Division of Cardio-Renal 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/

Doug Throckmorton

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