



ANDA 219421

**ANDA TENTATIVE APPROVAL**

Ascend Laboratories, LLC  
U.S. Agent for Alkem Laboratories Limited  
Attention: Hindy Schiff  
Vice President-Regulatory Affairs

Dear Hindy Schiff:

This letter is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) received for review on February 21, 2024, submitted pursuant to section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) for Bempedoic Acid and Ezetimibe Tablets, 180 mg/10 mg.

Reference is also made to any amendments submitted prior to the issuance of this letter.

We have completed the review of this ANDA and have concluded that adequate information has been presented to demonstrate that the drug meets the requirements for approval under the FD&C Act. We have determined your Bempedoic Acid and Ezetimibe Tablets, 180 mg/10 mg to be bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug (RLD), Nexlizet Tablets, 180 mg/10 mg, of Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. (Esperion), NDA - 211617.

However, we are unable to grant final approval to your ANDA at this time because of the patent issue noted below. Therefore, the ANDA is **tentatively approved**. This determination is based upon information available to the Agency at this time (e.g., information in your ANDA and the status of current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs) of the facilities used in the manufacturing and testing of the drug product). This determination is subject to change on the basis of new information that may come to our attention. This letter does not address issues related to the 180-day exclusivity provisions under section 505(j)(5)(B)(iv) of the FD&C Act.

The reference listed drug (RLD) upon which you have based your ANDA, Esperion's Nexlizet Tablets, 180 mg/10 mg, is subject to periods of patent protection. The following patents and expiration dates are currently listed in the Agency's publication titled *Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations* (the "Orange Book"):

<u>U.S. Patent Number</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
7,335,799 (the '799 patent)	December 3, 2030
10,912,751 (the '751 patent)	March 14, 2036
11,613,511 (the '511 patent)	June 19, 2040
11,744,816 (the '816 patent)	March 14, 2036
11,760,714 (the '714 patent)	June 19, 2040
11,926,584 (the '584 patent)	June 19, 2040
12,398,087 (the '087 patent)	June 19, 2040
12,404,227 (the '227 patent)	June 19, 2040

With respect to the '799 patent, your ANDA contains a paragraph III certification to the patent under section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(III) of the FD&C Act stating that Alkem Laboratories Limited (Alkem) will not market Bempedoic Acid and Ezetimibe Tablets, 180 mg/10 mg prior to the expiration of the patent. Therefore, final approval of your ANDA may not be granted pursuant to section 505(j)(5)(B)(ii) of the FD&C Act until the '799 patent has expired, currently December 3, 2030.

Your ANDA contains paragraph IV certifications to the '751, '511, '816, '714, '584, '087 and '227 patents under section 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the FD&C Act stating that the patents are invalid, unenforceable, or will not be infringed by your manufacture, use, or sale of Bempedoic Acid and Ezetimibe Tablets, 180 mg/10 mg, under this ANDA. You have notified the Agency that Alkem Laboratories Limited (Alkem) complied with the requirements of section 505(j)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act. Litigation was initiated within the statutory 45-day period against Alkem for infringement of the '751, '511, '816 and '714, patents in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey [Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. v. Alkem Laboratories Ltd, Civil Action No. 24-06263].

Therefore, final approval cannot be granted until:

1. a. the expiration of the 7.5-year period provided for in sections 505(j)(5)(B)(iii) and 505(j)(5)(F)(ii) of the FD&C Act,
- b. the date the court decides<sup>1</sup> that the '751, '511, '816 and '714 patents are invalid or not infringed (see sections 505(j)(5)(B)(iii)(I), (II), and (III) of the FD&C Act), or
- c. the '799, '751, '511, and '816 patents have expired, and

2. The Agency is assured there is no new information that would affect whether final approval should be granted.

Please note that if FDA requires a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for a listed drug, an ANDA referencing that listed drug also will be required to have a REMS. See section 505-1(i) of the FD&C Act.

## **REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS POST APPROVAL**

Under applicable statutes, regulations, and guidances, if your ANDA receives final approval, it may be subject to certain requirements and recommendations post approval, including requirements regarding changes to approved ANDAs, postmarketing reporting, promotional materials, and annual facility fees, among others. For information on post-approval requirements and recommendations for ANDAs and a list of resources for ANDA holders, we refer you to <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/abbreviated-new-drug-application-anda/requirements-and-resources-approved-andas>.

## **RESUBMISSION**

To request final approval, please submit an amendment titled "FINAL APPROVAL REQUESTED" with enough time to permit FDA review prior to the date you believe that your ANDA will be eligible for final approval. A request for final approval that contains no new data, information, or other changes to the ANDA generally requires a period of 3 months for Agency review. Accordingly, such a request for final approval should be submitted no later than 3 months prior to the date on which you seek approval. A request for final approval that contains substantive changes to this ANDA or changes in the status of the manufacturing and testing facilities' compliance with cGMPs will be classified and reviewed according to OGD policy in effect at the time of receipt. Applicants should review available agency guidance for industry related to amendments under the generic drug user fee program to determine the duration of Agency review needed to review the changes submitted. As part of this consideration, applicants should monitor any changes to the RLD that occur after tentative approval, including changes in labeling, patent or exclusivity information, or marketing status. The submission of multiple amendments prior to final approval may also result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

The amendment requesting final approval should provide the legal/regulatory basis for your request for final approval and should include a copy of a court decision, settlement or licensing agreement, or other information described in 21 CFR 314.107, as appropriate. It should also identify changes, if any, in the conditions under which the ANDA was tentatively approved, e.g., updated information such as final-printed labeling, chemistry, manufacturing, and controls data as appropriate. This amendment should be submitted even if none of these changes were made, and it should be designated clearly in your cover letter as a "FINAL APPROVAL REQUESTED."

In addition to the amendment requested above, the Agency may request, at any time prior to the date of final approval, that you submit an additional amendment containing information as specified by the Agency. Failure to submit either or, if requested, both types of amendments described above may result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

This drug product may not be marketed without final Agency approval under section 505(j) of the FD&C Act. The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of this drug product before the final approval date is prohibited under section 301 of the FD&C Act. Also, until the Agency issues the final approval letter, this drug product will not be deemed approved for marketing under section 505(j) of the FD&C Act, and will not be listed in the Orange Book.

For further information on the status of this ANDA or upon submitting an amendment to the ANDA, please contact Uzoma Nnebe, Regulatory Project Manager, at (240) 402 - 5828.

Sincerely yours,

*{See appended electronic signature page}*

For Kendra S. Stewart, R.Ph., Pharm.D.  
CAPT, United States Public Health Service  
Director  
Office of Regulatory Operations  
Office of Generic Drugs  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

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<sup>1</sup> This decision may be either a decision of the district court or the court of appeals, whichever court is the first to decide that the patent is invalid or not infringed.



Paul  
Levine

Digitally signed by Paul Levine  
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