



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville, MD 20857

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NDA 21-035

UCB Pharma, Inc.
Attention: Patricia A. Fritz
Director, Regulatory Affairs
1950 Lake Park Drive
Smyrna, GA 30080

Dear Ms. Fritz:

Please refer to the Written Request, originally issued on August 21, 2001, that you received from the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. This Written Request was issued under Section 505A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to conduct pediatric studies using levetiracetam. As you know, on January 4, 2002, the President signed into law the "Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act," (BPCA) which both extended the pediatric exclusivity program established in the 1997 FDA Modernization Act (FDAMA) and provided new mechanisms for studying pediatric uses for drugs. The BPCA also contains new provisions of which you should be aware related to user fees, priority review, drug labeling, and disclosure of pediatric study results. FDA is revising its Guidance for Industry: Qualifying for Pediatric Exclusivity Under Section 505A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide additional information on the pediatric drugs study provisions of the BPCA.

FDA has received questions about whether sponsors who were issued Written Requests to conduct pediatric studies prior to passage of the BPCA, but who had not as yet submitted the reports of the studies as of January 4, 2002, would be governed by the provisions of FDAMA or the BPCA. In order to maximize the benefit to be derived from the BPCA and to minimize uncertainty and delay in implementing the pediatric exclusivity program, FDA has decided to reissue those Written Requests originally issued prior to passage of the BPCA for which studies have not already been submitted.

This letter is your notification that the Written Request (and any subsequent amendments) described above is considered to be reissued as of the date of this letter. The terms of the Written Request are not otherwise altered by this letter. If you believe that the Written Request should be amended, please contact the division directly.

Please note that if the original Written Request was issued under Section 505A(a), it will now be considered to be issued under Section 505A(b), due to the reordering of the sections, as described in Section 19 of the BPCA. If the original Written Request was issued under Section 505A(c), it will still be considered to be issued under Section 505A(c).

An important change to note is that, if the drug for which FDA issued the Written Request under 505A(c) has listed patent or exclusivity protection, new section 505(d)(4)(A) states that within 180 days of receipt of this "reissued" Written Request, you must notify FDA when the pediatric studies will be initiated, or that you do not agree to conduct the requested studies. New provisions at Section 505(d)(4)(B)-(F) describe alternative methods for obtaining these pediatric studies.

If you have questions regarding the BPCA, please contact the Division of Pediatric Drug Development at (301) 594-7337. As noted above, requests to amend your Written Request should be directed to the review division.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

M. Dianne Murphy, M.D.
Director
Office of Counter-terrorism and Pediatric Drug
Development
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/

Dianne Murphy
7/3/02 11:31:40 AM