



**August 17, 2018**

**REFERENCE CMS #558212**

**UPS OVERNIGHT**

Veronica Taran, President  
Pharmacy Doctors Enterprises  
dba Zion Clinical Pharmacy  
205 East Hallandale Blvd.  
Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009

Ms. Taran:

From November 7, 2017, to November 20, 2017, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigator inspected your facility, Pharmacy Doctors Enterprises dba Zion Clinical Pharmacy, located at 205 East Hallandale Blvd, Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009. During the inspection, the investigator noted that drug products you produced failed to meet the conditions of section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) [21 U.S.C. § 353a] for exemption from certain provisions of the FDCA.

FDA issued a Form FDA 483 to your facility on November 20, 2017. FDA acknowledges receipt of your facility's response, on December 18, 2017. Based on this inspection, it appears your firm is producing drugs that violate the FDCA.

**A. Compounded Drug Products Under the FDCA**

Section 503A of the FDCA describes the conditions under which certain human drug products compounded by a licensed pharmacist in a State licensed pharmacy or a Federal facility, or a licensed physician, qualify for exemptions from three sections of the FDCA: compliance with current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) requirements (section 501(a)(2)(B)); labeling with adequate directions for use (section 502(f)(1)); and FDA approval prior to marketing (section 505) [21 U.S.C. §§ 351(a)(2)(B), 352(f)(1) and 355(a)].<sup>1</sup> Receipt of valid prescriptions for individually-identified patients is one of the conditions for the exemptions under section 503A.

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<sup>1</sup> We remind you that there are conditions other than those discussed in this letter that must be satisfied to qualify for the exemptions in section 503A of the FDCA.

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In addition, for a compounded drug product to qualify for the exemptions under section 503A, bulk drug substances used to compound it must: (I) comply with the standards of an applicable United States Pharmacopeia (USP) or National Formulary (NF) monograph, if a monograph exists, and the USP chapter on pharmacy compounding; (II) if such a monograph does not exist, be components of drugs approved by the Secretary; or (III) if such a monograph does not exist and the drug substance is not a component of a drug approved by the Secretary, appear on a list developed by the Secretary through regulation (“503A bulks list”) (section 503A(b)(1)(A)(i) of the FDCA) [21 U.S.C. § 353A(b)(1)(A)(i)].

## **B. Failure to Meet the Conditions of Section 503A**

During the inspection, the FDA investigator noted that drug products produced by your firm failed to meet the conditions of section 503A of the FDCA [21 U.S.C. § 353A]. Specifically, the investigator noted that:

1. Your firm did not receive valid prescriptions for individually-identified patients for a portion of the drug products you produced.
2. Your firm compounded drug products using GHRP-2 and GHRP-6. Drug products compounded using GHRP-2 and GHRP-6 are not eligible for the exemptions provided by section 503A(a), because GHRP-2 and GHRP-6 are not the subjects of applicable USP or NF monographs, are not components of an FDA-approved drug, and do not appear on the 503A bulks list.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, you compounded drug products that do not meet the conditions of section 503A and are not eligible for the exemptions from the FDA approval requirement of section 505 of the FDCA, the requirement under section 502(f)(1) of the FDCA that labeling bear adequate directions for use, and the requirement of compliance with

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<sup>2</sup> On June 9, 2016, FDA issued a final guidance titled, *Interim Policy on Compounding Using Bulk Drug Substances Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act*. This guidance describes FDA’s interim regulatory policy for State-licensed pharmacies, Federal facilities, and licensed physicians that compound human drug products using bulk drug substances that do not otherwise meet the conditions of section 503A(b)(1)(A)(i) while the 503A bulks list is being developed. Specifically, the guidance sets out the conditions under which FDA does not intend to take action against a State-licensed pharmacy, Federal facility, or licensed physician for compounding a drug product using a bulk drug substance that is not the subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph or a component of an FDA-approved drug, until the substance is identified in a final rule as included or not included on the 503A bulks list. These conditions include that the substance may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list, was nominated with adequate support for FDA to evaluate it, and has not been identified by FDA as a substance that appears to present significant safety risks pending further evaluation. GHRP-2 and GHRP-6 were nominated for inclusion on the 503A bulks list; however, these substances were nominated without adequate support for FDA to evaluate the substances. For additional information, see the guidance at <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM469120.pdf>.

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CGMP under section 501(a)(2)(B) of the FDCA. In the remainder of this letter, we refer to your drug products that do not qualify for exemptions under section 503A as the “ineligible drug products.”

### **C. Violations of the FDCA**

#### **Unapproved New Drug Products**

You do not have any FDA-approved applications on file for the ineligible drug products that you compounded.<sup>3</sup> Under sections 505(a) and 301(d) of the FDCA [21 U.S.C. § 331(d)], a new drug may not be introduced into or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce unless an application approved by FDA under section 505 of the FDCA is in effect for the drug. Marketing of these products, or other applicable products, without an approved application violates these provisions of the FDCA.

#### **Misbranded Drug Products**

The ineligible drug products you compounded are intended for conditions not amenable to self-diagnosis and treatment by individuals who are not medical practitioners; therefore, adequate directions for use cannot be written so that a layman can use these products safely for their intended uses. Consequently, their labeling fails to bear adequate directions for their intended uses.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, these ineligible drug products are misbranded under section 502(f)(1) of the FDCA [21 U.S.C. § 352(f)(1)]. The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of these products therefore violates section 301(a) of the FDCA. Further, it is a prohibited act under section 301(k) of the FDCA [21 U.S.C. § 331(k)] to do any act with respect to a drug, if such act is done while the drug is held for sale after shipment in interstate commerce and results in the drug being misbranded.

### **D. Corrective Action**

As explained above, receipt of valid prescriptions for individually-identified patients and the compounding of drug products using a bulk drug substance that complies with an applicable USP or NF monograph, is a component of an FDA-approved human drug or appears on the 503A bulks list are conditions of section 503A, which your firm failed to meet for a portion of the drug products you produced.

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<sup>3</sup> The specific products made by your firm are drugs within the meaning of section 201(g) of the Act, [21 U.S.C. § 321(g)] because they are intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of diseases and/or because they are intended to affect the structure or any function of the body. Further, they are “new drugs” within the meaning of section 201(p) [21 U.S.C. 321(p)] of the FDCA because they are not generally recognized as safe and effective for their labeled uses.

<sup>4</sup> Your ineligible drug products are not exempted from the requirements of section 502(f)(1) of the FDCA by regulations issued by the FDA (see, e.g., 21 CFR 201.115).

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Should you continue to compound and distribute drug products that do not meet the conditions of section 503A, the compounding and distribution of such drugs would be subject to the new drug approval requirement, the requirement to label drug products with adequate directions for use, and the drug CGMP regulations.

## E. Conclusion


The violations cited in this letter are not intended to be an all-inclusive statement of violations at your facility. You are responsible for investigating and determining the causes of the violations identified above and for preventing their recurrence or the occurrence of other violations. It is your responsibility to ensure that your firm complies with all requirements of federal law, including FDA regulations.

Within thirty (30) working days of receipt of this letter, please notify this office in writing if you have taken any steps to correct the violations. Please include an explanation of each step being taken to prevent the recurrence of the violations, as well as copies of related documentation. If you do not believe that the products discussed above are in violation of the FDCA, include your reasoning and any supporting information for our consideration. If you cannot complete the corrective actions within thirty (30) working days, state the reason for the delay and the time within which you will complete the correction.

Your written response should be sent to LCDR John Diehl, Director, Compliance Branch, Office of Pharmaceutical Quality Operations, Division 2, via e-mail at [ORAPHARM2\\_RESPONSES@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:ORAPHARM2_RESPONSES@fda.hhs.gov) and to Thao Ta, Compliance Officer, at [Thao.Ta@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Thao.Ta@fda.hhs.gov).

If you have questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact LCDR Diehl by phone at (214) 253-5288.

Sincerely,

  
Digitally signed by Monica R. Maxwell -S  
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=HHS, ou=FDA, ou=People,  
ou=2342.19200300.100.1.1+1300560034, cn=Monica R. Maxwell -S  
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Monica R. Maxwell  
Program Division Director  
Office of Pharmaceutical Quality Operations,  
Division II

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