

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 00D-0835]

Draft Guidance for Industry on Conjugated Estrogens, USP: LC-MS Method for Both Qualitative Chemical Characterization and Documentation of Qualitative Pharmaceutical Equivalence; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled "Conjugated Estrogens, USP: LC-MS Method for Both Qualitative Chemical Characterization and Documentation of Qualitative Pharmaceutical Equivalence." This draft guidance is intended to provide recommendations to applicants who wish to submit a new drug application or abbreviated new drug application for a natural source conjugated estrogens solid oral dosage form. This guidance provides a description of the liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) method that can be used to address both qualitative chemical characterization and qualitative pharmaceutical equivalence (PE).

DATES: Submit written comments on the draft guidance by [*insert date 90 days after date of publication in the Federal Register*]. General comments on agency guidance documents are welcome at any time.

ADDRESSES: Copies of this draft guidance for industry are available on the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/index.htm>. Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Drug Information Branch (HFD-210), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. Submit written comments on the

draft guidance to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

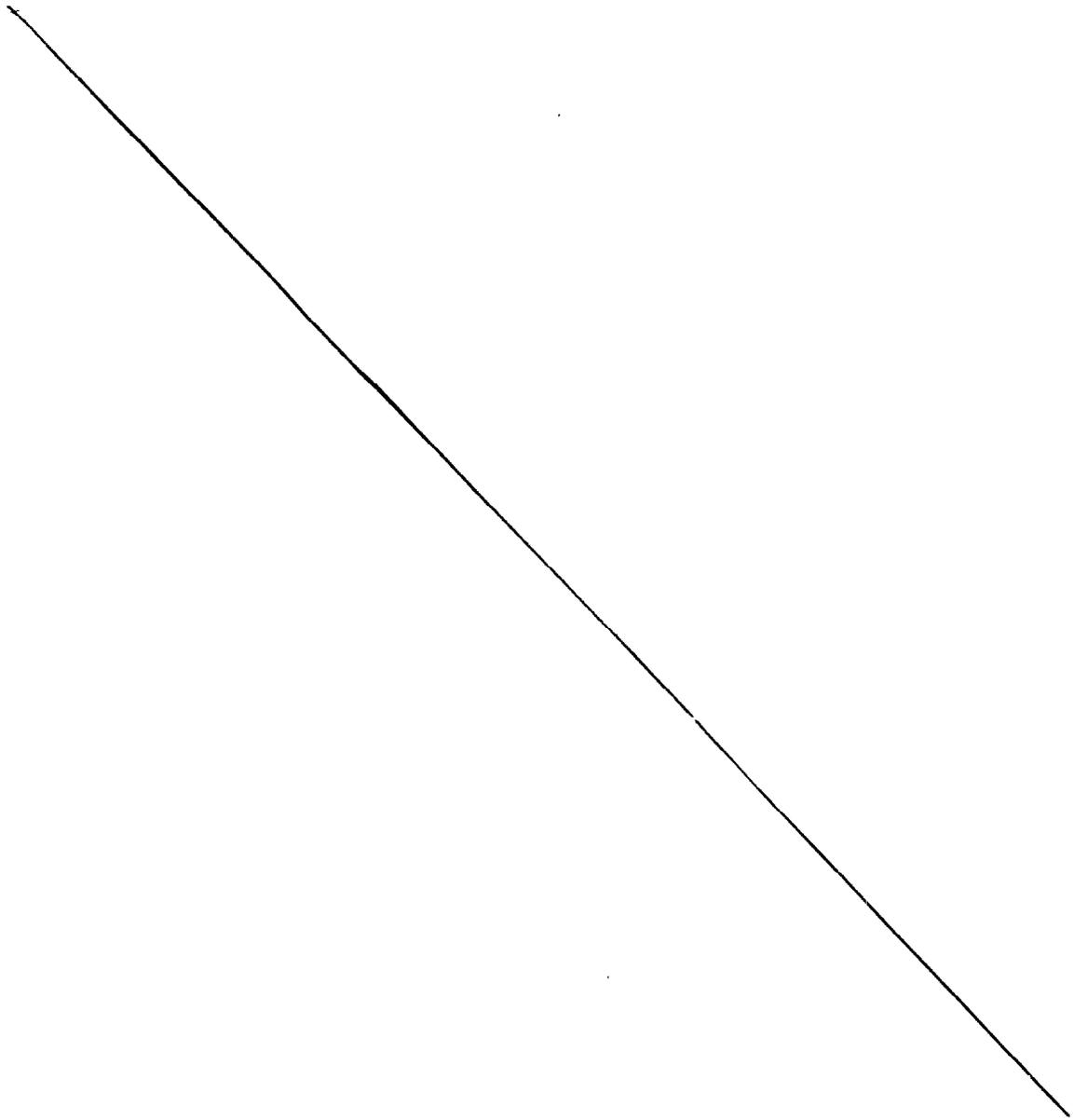
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wallace P. Adams, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-350), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-594-5651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FDA is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled “Conjugated Estrogens, USP: LC-MS Method for Both Qualitative Chemical Characterization and Documentation of Qualitative Pharmaceutical Equivalence.” Chemical characterization and PE of natural source conjugated estrogens involve both qualitative and quantitative aspects. Qualitative aspects of both chemical characterization and PE involve detection and measurement of certain of the components in conjugated estrogens. The recommended methodology, LC-MS, is applicable to both the drug substance and/or solid oral dosage forms. This draft guidance provides a description of the LC-MS method developed by the Division of Testing and Applied Analytical Development/Office of Pharmaceutical Science/Center for Drug Evaluation and Research for both the qualitative chemical characterization and documentation of qualitative PE of natural source conjugated estrogens. Interpretation of the data for PE is beyond the scope of this guidance and will be addressed in a separate document. Quantitative aspects of chemical characterization and PE use the gas chromatography (GC) (flame-ionization detector) and high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) (ultraviolet detector) assays described in a draft proposed Conjugated Estrogens, USP, monograph (<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/monographs/default.htm>), and they are not the subject of this guidance.

This Level 1 draft guidance is being issued consistent with FDA’s good guidance practices (62 FR 8961, February 27, 1997). The draft guidance represents the agency’s current thinking on this LC-MS method for both qualitative chemical characterization and documentation of qualitative pharmaceutical equivalence of conjugated estrogens, USP. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative

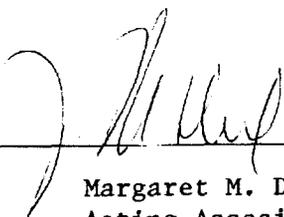
approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes, regulations, or both.

Interested persons may submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments on the draft guidance. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. The draft guidance and received comments are



available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.

Dated: 3/1/00
March 1, 2000



Margaret M. Dotzel
Acting Associate Commissioner for Policy

[FR Doc. 00-???? Filed ??-??-00; 8:45 am]

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