



Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

Re: Benicar  
Docket No. 02E-0339

APR - 6 2004

The Honorable Jon Dudas  
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Box Pat. Ext.  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Acting Director Dudas:

This is in regard to the patent term extension application for U.S. Patent No. 5,616,599 filed by Sankyo Company, Ltd. under 35 U.S.C. § 156. The patent claims Benicar (olmesartan medoxomil), NDA 21-286.

In the July 31, 2003, issue of the *Federal Register* (68 Fed. Reg. 44954), the Food and Drug Administration published its determination of this product's regulatory review period, as required under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(A). The notice provided that on or before January 27, 2004, 180 days after the publication of the determination, any interested person could file a petition with FDA under 35 U.S.C. § 156(d)(2)(B)(i) for a determination of whether the patent term extension applicant acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period.

The 180-day period for filing a due diligence petition pursuant to this notice has expired and FDA has received no such petition. Therefore, FDA considers the regulatory review period determination to be final.

Please let me know if we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Jane A. Axelrad  
Associate Director for Policy  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

cc: Richard S. Barth, Esq.  
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