Our STN: BL 103552/6180

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL
September 15, 2020

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
Attention: Louise Parks Saldutti, Ph.D.
351 N. Sumneytown Pike
P.O. Box 1000
UG2D-68
North Wales, PA 19454

Dear Dr. Saldutti:

We have approved your request submitted and received March 16, 2020, to supplement your Biologics License Application (BLA) under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for Varicella Virus Vaccine Live (VARIVAX) to update the package insert and patient package insert labeling for the refrigerator-stable and frozen formulations to include revisions to Section 5 Warnings and Precautions and Section 12 Clinical Pharmacology of the package insert labeling and relevant sections of the US patient package insert labeling to state that secondary transmission of varicella vaccine virus (Oka/Merck) between vaccine recipients and contacts susceptible to varicella, including healthy as well as high-risk individuals, can lead to disseminated disease.

LABELING

Under 21 CFR 201.57(c)(18), patient labeling must be referenced in section 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION. Patient labeling must be available and may either be reprinted immediately following the full prescribing information of the package insert or accompany the prescription product labeling.

We hereby approve the draft package insert labeling submitted under amendment 3, dated September 15, 2020, and the draft patient package insert labeling under amendment 2, dated September 15, 2020.

CONTENT OF LABELING

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, please submit the final content of labeling (21 CFR 601.14) in Structured Product Labeling (SPL) format via the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), as described at http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm. Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry *SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As* at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf.

The SPL will be accessible via publicly available labeling repositories.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL LABELING

You may submit two draft copies of the proposed advertising and promotional labeling with Form FDA 2253 to the Advertising and Promotional Labeling Branch at the following address:

Food and Drug Administration
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
Document Control Center
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
WO71–G112
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

You must submit copies of your final advertising and promotional labeling at the time of initial dissemination or publication, accompanied by Form FDA 2253 (21 CFR 601.12(f)(4)).

All promotional claims must be consistent with and not contrary to approved labeling. You should not make a comparative promotional claim or claim of superiority over other products unless you have substantial evidence or substantial clinical experience to support such claims (21 CFR 202.1(e)(6)).

Please submit an amendment to all pending supplemental applications for this BLA that include revised labeling incorporating a revised content of labeling that includes these changes.

We will include information contained in the above-referenced supplements in your BLA files.

Sincerely,

Doran L. Fink, M.D., Ph.D.
Deputy Director - Clinical
Division of Vaccines and
Related Products Applications
Office of Vaccines
Research and Review
Center for Biologics
Evaluation and Research