



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2016-D-1490]

Quality Attribute Considerations for Chewable Tablets; Draft Guidance for Industry; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled "Quality Attribute Considerations for Chewable Tablets." This guidance describes the Agency's thinking on the critical quality attributes that should be assessed when developing a chewable tablet dosage form and recommends that the selected acceptance criteria be appropriate and meaningful indicators of product performance throughout the shelf life of the product.

DATES: Although you can comment on any guidance at any time (see 21 CFR 10.115(g)(5)), to ensure that the Agency considers your comment on this draft guidance before it begins work on the final version of the guidance, submit either electronic or written comments on the draft guidance by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments as follows:

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to

<http://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see "Written/Paper Submissions" and "Instructions").

#### Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- Mail/Hand delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions): Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Division of Dockets Management, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in "Instructions."

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA-2016-D-1490 for "Quality Attribute Considerations for Chewable Tablets." Received comments will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as "Confidential Submissions," publicly viewable

at <http://www.regulations.gov> or at the Division of Dockets Management between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- Confidential Submissions--To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION." The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Submit both copies to the Division of Dockets Management. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as "confidential." Any information marked as "confidential" will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public docket, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at:  
<http://www.fda.gov/regulatoryinformation/dockets/default.htm>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, found in brackets in the heading of this document, into the "Search" box and follow the

prompts and/or go to the Division of Dockets Management, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Division of Drug Information, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10001 New Hampshire Ave., Hillandale Building, 4th Floor, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nallaperumal Chidambaram, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, rm. 3112, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 301-796-1339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled "Quality Attribute Considerations for Chewable Tablets." Chewable tablets are an immediate release oral dosage form intended to be chewed and then swallowed by the patient, rather than swallowed whole. They should be designed to have a pleasant taste and be easily chewed and swallowed. Chewable tablets should be safe and easy to use in a diverse patient population, pediatric, adults, or elderly patients, who are unable or unwilling to swallow intact tablets due to the size of the tablet or difficulty with swallowing. In addition, certain tablets must be chewed before swallowing to avoid choking and to ensure the release of the active ingredient. The availability of safe, easy-to-use dosage forms is important in clinical practice, and chewable tablet formulations are available as both over-the-counter and prescription drug products.

A review of numerous applications for chewable tablet drug products revealed that in certain cases, critical quality attributes such as hardness, disintegration, and dissolution were not given as much consideration as may have been warranted. This draft guidance describes the critical quality attributes that should be assessed when developing a chewable tablet dosage form. No single quality characteristic should be considered sufficient to control the performance of a chewable tablet. Instead, the goal should be to develop the proper combination of these attributes to ensure the performance of the chewable tablet for its intended use.

This draft guidance is being issued consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of FDA on Quality Attribute Considerations for Chewable Tablets. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

## II. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This draft guidance refers to previously approved collections of information found in FDA regulations. These collections of information are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). The collection of information in investigational new drug applications is approved under OMB control number 0910-0014; the collection of information (including prescription drug labeling) in new drug applications and abbreviated new drug applications, as well as supplements to these applications, is approved under OMB control number 0910-0001; the collection of biologics license applications is approved under OMB control number 0910-0338; and the format and content of prescription drug labeling is approved under OMB control number 0910-0572.

### III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the draft guidance at either <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm> or <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: June 13, 2016.

Leslie Kux,

Associate Commissioner for Policy.

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