

Interim Policy on Compounding Using Bulk Drug Substances Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Guidance for Industry

DRAFT GUIDANCE

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Office of Compliance/OUDLC**

**October 2015
Compounding and Related Documents**

Interim Policy on Compounding Using Bulk Drug Substances Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act Guidance for Industry

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**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
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Contains Nonbinding Recommendations

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1 **Interim Policy on Compounding Using Bulk Drug Substances Under**
2 **Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act**
3 **Guidance for Industry¹**
4

5
6 This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug
7 Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not
8 binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the
9 applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff responsible
10 for this guidance as listed on the title page.
11

12
13
14 **I. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE**
15

16 This guidance sets forth the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA or Agency) interim
17 regulatory policy concerning compounding using bulk drug substances under section 503A of the
18 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act or Act). Section 503A of the FD&C Act
19 includes certain restrictions on the bulk drug substances² that can be used in compounding and
20 directs the FDA to develop a list of bulk drug substances that can be used in compounding under
21 that section. FDA is developing this list of bulk drug substances (the 503A bulks list), and this
22 guidance describes FDA’s interim regulatory policy for licensed pharmacists in State-licensed
23 pharmacies and Federal facilities, and for licensed physicians that compound human drug
24 products using bulk drug substances while the list is being developed.^{3 4}
25
26

¹ This guidance has been prepared by multiple offices in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) and in consultation with the Office of Regulatory Affairs at the Food and Drug Administration.

² Section 503A references the definition of bulk drug substances in FDA regulations at 21 CFR 207.3(a)(4), which defines *bulk drug substance* as “any substance that is represented for use in a drug and that, when used in the manufacturing, processing, or packaging of a drug, becomes an active ingredient or finished dosage form of the drug, but the term does not include intermediates used in the synthesis of such substances.”

³ This guidance does not apply to drugs compounded from bulk drug substances for use in animals. For proposed policies pertaining to compounding drug products from bulk drug substances for use in animals, see FDA’s draft guidance, *Compounding Animal Drugs from Bulk Drug Substances*.

All FDA guidances are available on the FDA guidance web page. FDA updates guidances regularly. To make sure you have the most recent version of a guidance, always consult the guidance web page at <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

⁴ FDA is developing a separate list of bulk drug substances that can be used in compounding under section 503B of the FD&C Act. Because section 503B contains different criteria for that list and provides for a different process for its development, the section 503B bulks list is covered under a separate guidance (see “Interim Policy on Compounding Using Bulk Drug Substances Under Section 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act”).

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27 In general, FDA’s guidance documents do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities.
28 Instead, guidances describe the Agency’s current thinking on a topic and should be viewed only
29 as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are cited. The use of
30 the word *should* in Agency guidances means that something is suggested or recommended, but
31 not required.
32

33 II. BACKGROUND

34 A. Compounding From Bulk Drug Substances Under Section 503A of the Act

35
36 Section 503A of the FD&C Act describes the conditions that must be satisfied for human drug
37 products compounded by a licensed pharmacist in a State licensed pharmacy or Federal facility,
38 or by a licensed physician, to be exempt from the following three sections of the FD&C Act:
39 section 505 (concerning the approval of drugs under new drug applications or abbreviated new
40 drug applications); section 502(f)(1) (concerning the labeling of drugs with adequate directions
41 for use); and section 501(a)(2)(B) (concerning current good manufacturing practice
42 requirements).
43

44
45 One of the conditions that must be met for a compounded drug product to qualify for these
46 exemptions is that a licensed pharmacist or licensed physician compounds the drug product using
47 bulk drug substances that:
48

- 49 (1) Comply with the standards of an applicable United States Pharmacopeia (USP) or National
50 Formulary (NF) monograph,⁵ if a monograph exists, and the USP chapter on pharmacy
51 compounding;
- 52 (2) If such a monograph does not exist, are drug substances that are components of drugs
53 approved by the Secretary; or
- 54 (3) If such a monograph does not exist and the drug substance is not a component of a drug
55 approved by the Secretary, appears on a list developed by the Secretary through regulations
56 issued by the Secretary under subsection (c) of section 503A.
57 Section 503A(b)(1)(A)(i) of the FD&C Act.
58

59 Under section 503A(c)(1), before developing this list through regulation, FDA must also
60 convene and consult an advisory committee on compounding unless FDA determines that the
61 issuance of such regulation before consultation with the advisory committee is necessary to
62 protect the public health.⁶ The criteria for determining which bulk drug substances should
63 appear on the section 503A bulks list “shall include historical use, reports in peer reviewed
64 medical literature, or other criteria the Secretary may identify.” Section 503A(c)(2) of the FD&C
65 Act.

⁵ A bulk drug substance is defined, in part, as a substance that “becomes an active ingredient or a finished dosage form of the drug, but does not include intermediates used in the synthesis of such substances” (see section 503A(b)(1)(A) and 21 CFR 207.3(4)). FDA has interpreted “an applicable USP or NF monograph” to mean an official USP or NF **drug substance** monograph. Accordingly, FDA does not consider USP monographs for dietary supplements to be “applicable” USP or NF monographs within the meaning of section 503A(b)(1)(A)(i)(I).

⁶ Section 503A(c)(2) requires that FDA also consult with the USP in developing this list.

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66
67 Bulk drug substances used in compounding under section 503A must also meet certain other
68 requirements, including: (1) the bulk drug substance must be manufactured by an establishment
69 registered under section 510 of the FD&C Act; and (2) the bulk drug substance must be
70 accompanied by a valid certificate of analysis (COA). *See* 503A(b)(1)(A) of the FD&C Act.
71

72 In July 2014, FDA issued a guidance, *Pharmacy Compounding of Human Drug Products Under*
73 *Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act*, that states:

74
75 Until a bulk drug substances list is published in the *Federal Register* as a final rule,
76 human drug products should be compounded using only bulk drug substances that are
77 components of drugs approved under section 505 of the FD&C Act, or are the subject of
78 USP or NF monographs⁷.
79

80 FDA has received comments that this policy could be causing unnecessary and inappropriate
81 disruptions in patient care because there are patients receiving drugs compounded with bulk drug
82 substances that are not components of FDA-approved drugs, or the subject of an applicable USP
83 or NF monograph, but that may ultimately be included on the 503A bulks list, and those patients'
84 care should not be disrupted while the list is under development. After considering this issue,
85 FDA has decided to use this guidance to describe its interim policy concerning compounding
86 with bulk drug substances while the 503A bulks list is being developed. Once this guidance is
87 finalized, FDA intends to revise the July 2014 guidance to state:

88
89 FDA's interim policy concerning bulk drug substances that are not components of drugs
90 approved under section 505 of the FD&C Act or that are not the subject of applicable
91 USP or NF monographs can be found in the guidance, *Interim Policy on Compounding*
92 *Using Bulk Drug Substances Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug and*
93 *Cosmetic Act*.
94

95 FDA seeks to avoid unnecessary disruption to patient treatment while the Agency considers the
96 bulk drug substances that were nominated with sufficient support to permit FDA to evaluate
97 them and promulgates the regulations required under section 503A. Therefore, as described
98 further below, FDA is issuing this interim guidance stating that it does not intend to take action
99 for compounding of drug products under section 503A using a bulk drug substance if an
100 applicable USP or NF monograph for the substance does not exist, and the substance is not a
101 component of an FDA-approved product if, among other conditions, FDA has determined that
102 the nomination for the bulk drug substance included adequate information for FDA to evaluate
103 the substance and at this time, the substance does not appear to present safety concerns .
104

B. Efforts to Develop the List of Bulk Drug Substances under Section 503A

1. Section 503A Bulks List -- Early History

108

⁷ See page 5.

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109 Section 503A was enacted in 1997 as part of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization
110 Act. In the *Federal Register* of April 7, 1998, (63 FR 17011), FDA invited all interested
111 persons to nominate bulk drug substances for inclusion on the list of bulk drug substances that
112 can be used in compounding under section 503A and received nominations for 41 different drug
113 substances. In November 1998, FDA published a guidance for industry, *Enforcement Policy*
114 *During Implementation of Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act*. In this
115 guidance, FDA announced that it would not normally take regulatory action relating to a drug
116 product that had been compounded with a bulk drug substance that had been nominated for
117 inclusion on the bulk drug substances list on or before November 21, 1999, while the substance
118 was being evaluated, as long as the compounding complied with the other effective
119 requirements in section 503A and did not appear to present a safety risk.⁸

120
121 In January 1999, after evaluating the nominated drug substances and consulting with the
122 Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee (PCAC) as required by section 503A, FDA
123 published a proposed rule listing 20 drug substances on the section 503A bulks list (64 FR 996,
124 January 7, 1999). The preamble to the proposed rule indicated that 10 of the 41 nominated drug
125 substances were the subject of a USP or NF monograph, or components of FDA approved drugs
126 and did not need to be considered for inclusion on the list.⁹ The proposed rule also described 10
127 nominated drug substances that were still under consideration for the bulk drug substances list
128 and stated that one of the substances was withdrawn by its nominator at the first meeting of the
129 PCAC. The PCAC reconvened in May 1999 to discuss drugs included in the proposed rule, in
130 addition to other bulk drug substances (see 64 FR 19791 (April 22, 1999)).

131
132 However, after a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision holding that certain provisions of section
133 503A were unconstitutional,¹⁰ FDA suspended its efforts to develop the bulk drugs list under
134 section 503A.

135
136 Because of the amount of time that had passed between the publication of the proposed rule and
137 the enactment of the 2013 Drug Quality and Security Act, which removed the provisions of the
138 FD&C Act that the U.S. Supreme Court held to be unconstitutional in 2002, FDA felt it was
139 necessary to begin again to develop the 503A bulk drug substance list. In the December 4, 2013,
140 *Federal Register* (78 FR 72841), FDA published a notice withdrawing the 1999 proposed rule
141 and inviting all interested persons to nominate bulk drug substances for inclusion on a list of bulk
142 drug substances that can be used for compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act.

143
144 **2. *Current Nominations for the 503A Bulks List***

145

⁸ The 1998 guidance was withdrawn in the *Federal Register* notice announcing the availability of the draft guidance *Pharmacy Compounding of Human Drug Products Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act*. See 78 FR 72901 (Dec. 4, 2013). The final guidance was published in July 2014. .

⁹ See 64 FR 996, at 997 (January 7, 1999).

¹⁰ For additional legal history of section 503A, see the guidance *Pharmacy Compounding of Human Drug Products Under Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act*.

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146 In response to the December 2013, Federal Register notice, over 2,000 substances were
147 nominated for the 503A bulks list. However, many of the substances nominated for the 503A list
148 were for substances that can be compounded without being on the list because they are the
149 subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph or are a component of an FDA-approved drug.
150 In addition, many of the nominations were not for bulk drug substances used in compounding as
151 active ingredients, or did not include sufficient information for FDA to evaluate the nominated
152 substances for inclusion on the list. To improve the efficiency of the process for developing the
153 503A bulks list, FDA reopened the nomination process in July 2014 (79 FR 37742) and provided
154 more detailed information on what it needs to evaluate nominations for the 503A bulks list.
155 FDA stated that bulk drug substances that were previously nominated would not be considered
156 further unless they were re-nominated with adequate support to permit a meaningful evaluation.
157 Substances that were already eligible for use in compounding or that were not adequately
158 supported would not be evaluated for placement on the 503A bulks list.

159
160 In response to this request for nominations, approximately 740 unique substances were
161 nominated. Of the nominated substances:

- 162
- 163 • Approximately 275 substances are already eligible for use in compounding and do not
164 need to appear on the 503A bulks list. They are components of an FDA-approved drug
165 product or the subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph, which can be used in
166 compounding pursuant to sections 503A(b)(1)(A)(i)(I) and (II) and, therefore, can be
167 compounded without being included on the 503A bulks list. To determine if a bulk drug
168 substance is the subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph, see the *USP-NF*
169 available at www.USP.NF.com. To determine if a bulk drug substance is a component of
170 an FDA approved drug, see the FDA's *Orange Book: Approved Drug Products with*
171 *Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations*, available at
172 <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/ob/default.cfm>.
 - 173 • At least one¹¹ of the nominated substances is not a bulk drug substance. Rather, it is a
174 finished drug product that was nominated by its brand name. Finished drug products are
175 not eligible for the 503A bulks list because they do not meet the definition of a bulk drug
176 substance in 21 CFR 207.3(4). Finished drug products can be used for compounding,
177 provided that all of the other conditions of section 503A are met. *See* section
178 503A(b)(1)(B) of the FD&C Act.
 - 179 • At least one of the substances is considered a biological product subject to approval in a
180 biologics license application (BLA) under section 351 of the Public Health Service (PHS)
181 Act when used for the indication proposed in the nomination. This substance is not
182 eligible for the 503A bulks list because biological products subject to approval in a BLA
183 under section 351 of the PHS Act are not eligible for the exemptions in section 503A of

¹¹ The over-the-counter finished drug product Maalox was nominated. Maalox is not a bulk drug substance.

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184 the FD&C Act.¹² No biological products subject to approval in a BLA will be considered
185 for the 503A bulks list.

186 • At least two of the substances are radiopharmaceuticals.¹³ Section 503A does not apply
187 to radiopharmaceuticals. Section 503A(d)(2) of the FD&C Act. Compounding of
188 radiopharmaceuticals will be addressed in a separate guidance document, and no
189 radiopharmaceuticals will be considered for the 503A bulks list.

190 • At least four of the nominated substances appear on the list published by FDA of
191 substances that have been withdrawn or removed from the market because such drug
192 products or components of such drug products have been found to be unsafe or not
193 effective (withdrawn or removed list). Section 503A(b)(1)(C) of the FD&C Act.¹⁴ Such
194 substances cannot be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act and,
195 therefore, are not eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list.

196 • One of the nominated substances has no currently accepted medical use and is included
197 on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (21 U.S.C. § 812(c)).¹⁵ The CSA
198 does not allow possession or distribution of Schedule I substances (see 21 USC §§
199 841(a)(1) and 829), except for research purposes (see 21 U.S.C. § 823(f)), and these
200 substances will not be considered for the 503A bulk drug substances list at this time.
201 Those desiring to do research on a Schedule I substance may apply to do so under an
202 investigational new drug application (IND).

203 • Of the substances that are not components of an approved drug or the subject of an
204 applicable USP or NF monograph and that are not biological products subject to licensure
205 in a BLA or radiopharmaceuticals and do not appear on the withdrawn or removed list,
206 approximately 390 substances were nominated without sufficient supporting evidence for
207 FDA to evaluate them.

208 • The remaining substances may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A list and were
209 nominated with sufficient supporting information for FDA to evaluate them. However,
210 FDA has determined that some of these substances raise safety concerns.

211 FDA's website, available at

212 [http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCo](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf)
213 [mpounding/UCM467373.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf) contains the following lists of substances nominated for the 503A
214 bulks list:
215
216

¹² The nominated substance is sodium hexachloroplatinate (IV) hexahydrate. See the draft guidance, *Mixing, Diluting, or Repackaging Biological Products Outside the Scope of an Approved Biologics License Application (BLA)*.

¹³ The two substances are GHRP-2 and GHRP-6.

¹⁴ See 21 CFR 216.24. The four substances are: chloroform reagent, cobalt chloride hexahydrate, cobalt gluconate, and phenacetin.

¹⁵ An extract of cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) derived from marijuana (marihuana) was nominated. Marijuana (marihuana) is a Schedule I substance.

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217 503A List 1 – Bulk Drug Substances Under Evaluation: These bulk drug substances that
218 may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list were nominated with sufficient
219 supporting information for FDA to evaluate them and do not appear on any other list.

220
221 503A List 2 – Bulk Drug Substances That Raise Safety Concerns: These bulk drug
222 substances were nominated with sufficient supporting information to permit FDA to
223 evaluate them and they may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list. However,
224 because FDA has identified safety concerns relating to the use of these bulk drug
225 substances, FDA has placed them on a list on FDA’s website of substances that may not
226 be used in compounding under section 503A unless and until FDA publishes a final rule
227 authorizing their use under section 503A.

228
229 503A List 3 – Bulk Drug Substances Nominated Without Adequate Support: These bulk
230 drug substances may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list but were nominated
231 with insufficient supporting information for FDA to evaluate them. These substances
232 may be renominated with sufficient supporting information through a docket that FDA
233 has established, as discussed below in section III.B.

234
235 503A List 4 – Bulk Drug Substances That May Not Be Used to Compound Drug
236 Products Under Section 503A (to be developed): These bulk drug substances were
237 considered for inclusion on the 503A list, but after notice-and-comment rulemaking,
238 FDA determined that they should not be used in compounding under section 503A.

239
240 3. *Process for Developing the 503A List*

241
242 FDA is currently evaluating the bulk drug substances that were nominated for the 503A bulks list
243 with sufficient information to permit evaluation. FDA is considering a number of factors in
244 prioritizing the order in which it reviews the nominated bulk drug substances, including but not
245 limited to the following:

- 246
- 247 • Safety concerns about use of the bulk drug substance in compounding
 - 248 • Whether the bulk drug substance was nominated by multiple parties or identified as
249 necessary by medical professional organizations; and the
 - 250 • The efficiency with which the evaluation can be completed, based on ease of acquiring
251 the necessary information to conduct the review, available resources, and other logistical
252 issues.

253
254 FDA may also group some nominated drug substances to facilitate efficient review and
255 discussion. These include drugs that raise similar issues (such as vitamins or botanicals) or have
256 been nominated for the treatment of the same condition (such as warts).

257
258 In conducting its evaluations, FDA reviews the information provided in support of the
259 nomination and other available information to assess each bulk drug substance according to the
260 following four criteria discussed at the PCAC meeting on February 23, 2015:

- 261
- 262 • The physical and chemical characterization of the substance;

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- 263 • Any safety issues raised by the use of the substance in compounded drug products;
- 264 • Historical use of the substance in compounded drug products, including information
265 about the medical condition(s) the substance has been used to treat and any references in
266 peer-reviewed medical literature; and
- 267 • The available evidence of effectiveness or lack of effectiveness of a drug product
268 compounded with the substance, if any such evidence exists.

269 In evaluating candidates for the 503A bulks list under these criteria, the Agency is using a
270 balancing test. No single one of these criteria is dispositive. Rather, the Agency is considering
271 each criterion in the context of the others and balancing them, on a substance-by-substance basis,
272 to evaluate whether a particular substance is appropriate for inclusion on the list.

273
274 Once the evaluation of a substance is complete, FDA will present the results of its review to the
275 PCAC to obtain its advice on whether to include the substance on the list. Section 503A(c)(1) of
276 the FD&C Act.

277
278 Section 503A requires that FDA create the 503A bulks list by regulation. Section 503A(c) of the
279 FD&C Act. After FDA has evaluated some substances and after it has consulted with the PCAC
280 and USP and considered their input, FDA will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).
281 The NPRM will propose to place some substances on the list and will also address the substances
282 FDA has evaluated in consultation with the PCAC and USP, but is not proposing to include on
283 the 503A bulks list. After publication of the NPRM, the public will have an opportunity to
284 comment on the substances FDA has proposed for inclusion on the 503A bulks list as well as
285 those FDA has proposed not to include on the list. FDA will then consider all comments
286 submitted to the proposed rule and publish a final rule that establishes the 503A bulks list and
287 identifies the substances that will not be placed on the list. FDA does not intend to evaluate all
288 of the sufficiently supported nominations before publishing the NPRM. Rather, FDA intends to
289 evaluate the substances and prepare the list on a rolling basis.

290
291 After FDA has made a determination on a group of substances (e.g., 10 substances), it will
292 prepare an NPRM. The final rule will list the substances that can be used in compounding under
293 section 503A and the preamble will identify those substances that have been evaluated and not
294 placed on the list, if any. The substances that have been evaluated and that FDA will not place
295 on the list will appear on 503A List 4 on FDA's web site.

296
297 After the final rule is published, drug products compounded using the substances on the 503A
298 bulks list will be eligible for the section 503A exemptions provided the drug product is
299 compounded in compliance with the other conditions of section 503A. Also, after the final rule
300 is published, products compounded using the substances that have been evaluated and identified
301 on 503A List 4 will remain ineligible for the exemptions under section 503A.
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303 **III. POLICY**¹⁶

304

305

306

A. Compounding from Bulk Drug Substances under Section 503A

307 Under section 503A of the FD&C Act, a bulk drug substance that is not the subject of an
308 applicable USP or NF monograph or is not a component of an FDA-approved drug cannot be
309 used in compounding unless it appears on a list promulgated as a regulation pursuant to section
310 503A(b)(1)(A)(i)(III) of the FD&C Act. This list will be codified at 21 CFR part 216 subpart E.

311

312 However, until a substance has been considered and is identified in a final rule as being included
313 or in the preamble of the final rule as not included on the 503A bulks list (and included on 503A
314 list 4 as described in this guidance), FDA does not intend to take action against a State-licensed
315 pharmacy, Federal facility, or licensed physician compounding a drug product using a bulk drug
316 substance that is not a component of an FDA-approved drug product and that is not the subject of
317 an applicable USP or NF monograph, provided that the following conditions are met:

318

319 1. The bulk drug substance appears on the 503A List 1 on FDA’s website at

320 [http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Pharmac](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf)
321 [yCompounding/UCM467373.pdf](http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf). The substance may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A

322 bulks list, was nominated with sufficient supporting information for FDA to evaluate it, and
323 has not been identified by FDA as a substance that appears to present safety concerns.

324

325 2. The bulk drug substance:

326

327 • Was originally manufactured by an establishment that is registered under section 510
328 (including a foreign establishment that is registered under section 510(i)) of the
329 FD&C Act; and

330 • Is accompanied by a valid COA from the original manufacturer.

331

332 “Original manufacturer” means the entity that originally produced the bulk drug substance and
333 not a subsequent packer, repacker, labeler, or distributor.

334

335 3. The drug product compounded using the bulk drug substance is compounded in compliance
336 with all other conditions of section 503A of the FD&C Act.

337

338 A drug product that is compounded by a licensed pharmacist in a State licensed pharmacy or
339 Federal facility or by a licensed physician from a bulk drug substance that is not a component of
340 an FDA-approved drug, is not the subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph, and/or that
341 does not meet the three conditions described above is *not* eligible for the exemptions in section
342 503A and could be subject to regulatory action.

343

B. Bulk Drug Substances Not Nominated or Nominated Without Adequate Support

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345

¹⁶ See Appendix A for a chart summarizing FDA’s interim policy.

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346 As stated above, FDA is providing a list on its website of bulk drug substances that may be
347 eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list but that FDA is unable to evaluate for inclusion on
348 the list because the substances were nominated with insufficient supporting evidence for FDA to
349 evaluate them (503A List 3). In the *Federal Register* of October 27, 2015, FDA has established
350 a docket where these substances can be re-nominated with sufficient supporting information or to
351 receive nominations for substances that were not previously nominated. FDA does not intend to
352 evaluate these submissions until the Agency completes its review of the substances that were
353 nominated for the 503A bulks list with adequate supporting information pursuant to the July 2,
354 2014, request for nominations (79 FR 37747).¹⁷
355

C. Comments about Nominated Bulk Drug Substances

356
357
358 If you feel that a substance that you nominated does not appear on the appropriate list or
359 category as described in this guidance you can submit your comment to docket number FDA-
360 2015-N-3534.
361
362

¹⁷ Patients with medical conditions that need to be treated with drug products that are made from bulk drug substances that cannot be used in compounding may be able to obtain the drug products through FDA's Expanded Access programs. For information about these programs, visit FDA's website at <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ExpandedAccessCompassionateUse/default.htm>.

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APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF POLICY

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The following table summarizes the interim policy set forth in this guidance:

Category	FDA Policy
The bulk drug substance appears on 503A List 1 on FDA’s website at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf . Such substances may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list, were nominated with sufficient supporting information for FDA to evaluate them, and do not appear to present a safety concern.	FDA does not intend to take action for compounding a drug product from a bulk drug substance that does not meet the conditions of section 503A(b)(1)(A)(i) provided that the bulk drug substance was originally manufactured by an establishment registered with FDA under section 510 of the FD&C Act and is accompanied by a valid COA from the original manufacturer, and provided that the drug compounded from the bulk drug substance is compounded in compliance with the other conditions of section 503A.
The bulk drug substance is a component of an FDA-approved drug and/or the subject of an applicable USP or NF monograph.	The bulk drug substance can be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act provided it complies with the standards of the monograph (if one exists) and is compounded in compliance with the other conditions of section 503A.
The bulk drug substance appears on the withdrawn or removed list.	The bulk drug substance cannot be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act.
The bulk drug substance appears on 503A List 2 on FDA’s website at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf . The substance has been identified by FDA as presenting a safety concern.	The bulk drug substance cannot be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act unless and until FDA publishes a final rule authorizing its use under section 503A.
The bulk drug substance is a biological product subject to approval in a BLA.	The substance is not eligible for the 503A bulks list. FDA has issued a separate draft guidance document describing the Agency’s proposed policies concerning mixing, diluting, and repackaging biological products subject to approval in a BLA. ¹⁸
The bulk drug substance is a radiopharmaceutical product.	The substance is not eligible for the 503A bulks list. Compounding radiopharmaceuticals will be addressed in a separate guidance document.
The bulk drug substance appears on 503A List 3 on FDA’s website at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf . The substance may be eligible for inclusion on the 503A bulks list, but was nominated with insufficient supporting information for FDA to evaluate it.	The bulk drug substance cannot be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act. See section III.B of this guidance for information about re-nominating substances that were previously nominated with insufficient supporting information.
The bulk drug substance appears on 503A List 4 on FDA’s website at http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf . The substance has been	The bulk drug substance cannot be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act.

¹⁸ See FDA’s draft guidance, *Mixing, Diluting, and Repackaging Biological Products Subject to Approval in a Biologics License Application (BLA)*.

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identified by FDA after notice-and-comment rulemaking as a substance that should not be used in compounding under section 503A.	
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