

# 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## ***DRAFT GUIDANCE***

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For questions regarding this draft document contact Sara Rothman, CDER Office of Compliance Office of Unapproved Drugs and Labeling Compliance (OUDLC) at 301-796-3110.

**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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Office of Communications, Division of Drug Information  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
Food and Drug Administration  
10001 New Hampshire Ave., Hillandale Bldg., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002  
Phone: 855-543-3784 or 301-796-3400; Fax: 301-431-6353  
Email: [druginfo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:druginfo@fda.hhs.gov)*

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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*

*Draft — Not for Implementation*

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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 Industry<sup>1</sup>**  
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6 This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug  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 substances<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3 4</sup>  
25  
26

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

<sup>4</sup> 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

### **II. BACKGROUND**

34

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

36

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

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,<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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).

<sup>6</sup> 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 monographs<sup>7</sup>.  
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

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<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup> 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,<sup>10</sup> 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

### ***2. Current Nominations for the 503A Bulks List***

144  
145

---

<sup>8</sup> 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. .

<sup>9</sup> See 64 FR 996, at 997 (January 7, 1999).

<sup>10</sup> 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.USPNF.com](http://www.USPNF.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 one<sup>11</sup> 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

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<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> 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)).<sup>15</sup> 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

---

<sup>12</sup> 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)*.

<sup>13</sup> The two substances are GHRP-2 and GHRP-6.

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

<sup>15</sup> 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

### *3. Process for Developing the 503A List*

240  
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.  
302

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### 303 **III. POLICY**<sup>16</sup>

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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.

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

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<sup>16</sup> 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).<sup>17</sup>  
355

### **C. Comments about Nominated Bulk Drug Substances**

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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

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<sup>17</sup> 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 <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf</a> . 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 <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf</a> . 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. <sup>18</sup>
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 <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf</a> . 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 <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/PharmacyCompounding/UCM467373.pdf</a> . The substance has been	The bulk drug substance cannot be used in compounding under section 503A of the FD&C Act.

<sup>18</sup> 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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