# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): January 31, 2020

### **Esperion Therapeutics, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware** (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

**001-35986** (Commission File Number)

**26-1870780** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

3891 Ranchero Drive, Suite 150 Ann Arbor, MI (Address of principal executive offices)

**48108** (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (734) 887-3903

#### **Not Applicable**

Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is inte provisions:	ended to simultaneously satisfy the filir	ng obligation of the registrant under any of the following
☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Se	ecurities Act (17 CFR 230.425)	
$\square$ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exch	ange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)	
☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-	-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR	. 240.14d-2(b))
☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-	-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR	.240.13e-4(c))
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:		
Title of each class	Trading Symbol	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share	ESPR	NASDAQ Stock Market LLC
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging s Securities Exchange Act of 1934.	growth company as defined in Rule 40	5 of the Securities Act of 1933 or Rule 12b-2 of the
		Emerging growth company $\ \Box$
If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Se	9	_

#### Item 8.01 Other Events

On January 31, 2020, Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use of the European Medicines Agency has adopted a positive opinion for the Marketing Authorisation Application for the bempedoic acid tablet for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidemia. A copy of the Press Release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

On January 31, 2020, the Company issued a press release announcing that the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use of the European Medicines Agency has adopted a positive opinion for the Marketing Authorisation Application for the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidemia. A copy of the Press Release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.2.

Item	9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.
(d) Exhibits	
Exhibit No.	Description
99.1 99.2	Press Release dated January 31, 2020. Press Release dated January 31, 2020.
104	The cover page from this Current Report on Form 8-K, formatted in Inline XBRL.

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### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: January 31, 2020 Esperion Therapeutics, Inc.

By: /s/ Tim M. Mayleben

Tim M. Mayleben

President and Chief Executive Officer



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Media Contact: Elliot Fox W2Opure 212-257-6724 efox@purecommunications.com

# Esperion Announces Positive CHMP Opinion for the Marketing Authorisation Application for Bempedoic Acid for the Treatment of Hypercholesterolemia and Mixed Dyslipidemia

– Bempedoic Acid is an Oral, Once-Daily, Non-Statin Medicine that Lowers Bad Cholesterol with a First-in-Class Mechanism –

– Positive CHMP Opinion is Based on the Completed Pivotal Phase 3 LDL-Cholesterol Lowering Program –

– European Commission Decision on the Marketing Authorisation Application (MAA) Expected in April 2020; Daiichi Sankyo Europe to Lead EU

Commercialization –

ANN ARBOR, Mich. January 31, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Esperion (NASDAQ: ESPR) today announced that the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has adopted a positive opinion for the MAA for the bempedoic acid tablet, recommending approval for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidemia. The positive CHMP opinion was achieved with no Oral Explanation as the Rapporteurs found there were no substantive issues that needed to be discussed with the CHMP at the time of the vote.

The benefits with the bempedoic acid tablet are its ability to reduce levels of LDL-C, but also non-high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (non HDL-C), apolipoprotein B (apo B), and total cholesterol (TC) in patients with hypercholesterolemia or mixed dyslipidemia when administered alone and in combination with other lipid-modifying medicinal products. The most common side effects are hyperuricemia, pain in extremity, and anaemia.

The CHMP recommended granting the bempedoic acid tablet marketing authorisation for the treatment of adults with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and non-familial) or mixed dyslipidemia as an adjunct to diet:

- · in combination with a statin or statin with other lipid lowering therapies in patients unable to reach LDL-C goals with the maximum tolerated dose of a statin, or
- alone or in combination with other lipid-lowering therapies in patients who are statin intolerant, or for whom a statin is contraindicated.



The CHMP is a scientific committee of the EMA that reviews medical product applications on their scientific and clinical merit. The European Commission will review the CHMP opinion and is expected to adopt a final decision in April 2020. The decision will be applicable to all 27 European Union member states plus the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

"Today's positive recommendations from the CHMP brings bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablets one step closer to helping the millions of patients in the European Economic Area who have not achieved their LDL-C goals despite currently available medicines including those who are statin intolerant," said Tim M. Mayleben, president and chief executive officer of Esperion. "We look forward to continuing to work with the EMA to complete the procedure for these two MAAs by next quarter."

"This is the first Positive Regulatory Agency acceptance for an ACL inhibitor and for our medicines," said Ashley Hall, chief development officer of Esperion. "Today's decisions validate bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination tablets for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidemia. It also demonstrates the results from the remarkable efforts of our Esperion Team to bring these new medicines to the community of physicians and their patients."

The positive CHMP opinion for the bempedoic acid tablet is supported by the global pivotal Phase 3 LDL-C Lowering Program conducted in more than 4,000 patients. The bempedoic acid tablet provided up to 18 percent placebo corrected LDL-C lowering when used with moderate- and high-intensity statins and 21 to 28 percent placebo corrected LDL-C lowering when used with low dose or no background statin. Results from the Phase 3 development program have been published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Journal of the American Heart Association*, and *Atherosclerosis*.

Daiichi Sankyo Europe has licensed exclusive commercialization rights to bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablets in the European Economic Area and Switzerland from Esperion. Daiichi Sankyo's European cardiovascular commercial capabilities include more than 1,000 professionals dedicated to the commercialization of cardiovascular medicines and includes synergies with an existing portfolio of novel oral anticoagulant and antiplatelet products. Upon approval, Daiichi Sankyo Europe intends to make bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablets available to physicians and their patients in these geographies that need treatment for hypercholesterolemia and mixed dyslipidemia.

Bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablets are being developed globally as affordable, convenient, oral, once-daily, non-statin medicines for the treatment of patients with elevated LDL-cholesterol (LDL-C) who are not at goal. Bempedoic acid and the bempedoic acid 180 mg + ezetimibe 10 mg fixed dose combination tablets new drug applications (NDAs) are also under regulatory review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with PDUFA dates of February 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2020.



#### **Bempedoic Acid**

Bempedoic acid is our lead, oral, once-daily, non-statin, LDL-C lowering therapeutic candidate, currently under regulatory review by the FDA and EMA. With a targeted mechanism of action, bempedoic acid is a first-in-class, ATP Citrate Lyase (ACL) inhibitor that lowers LDL-C by reducing cholesterol biosynthesis and up-regulating the LDL receptor. Bempedoic acid has been observed to reduce high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP), a key marker of inflammation associated with cardiovascular disease. Completed Phase 3 studies conducted in more than 4,000 patients, with over 2,600 patients treated with bempedoic acid, demonstrated up to 18 percent placebo corrected LDL-C lowering when used with moderate- and high-intensity statins and 21 to 28 percent placebo corrected LDL-C lowering when used with low dose or no background statin. Phase 3 results also show bempedoic acid reduced hsCRP 19 to 31 percent. Pooled phase 3 data highlighted that bempedoic acid reduced hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) by 0.19% versus placebo in patients with diabetes (n=1,134) at 12 weeks.

#### **Bempedoic Acid / Ezetimibe Fixed Dose Combination Tablet**

Through the complementary mechanisms of action of inhibition of cholesterol synthesis (bempedoic acid) and inhibition of cholesterol absorption (ezetimibe), the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet is a non-statin, oral, once-daily, LDL-C lowering therapeutic candidate, currently under review by the FDA and EMA. Inhibition of ATP Citrate Lyase (ACL) by bempedoic acid lowers LDL-C by reducing cholesterol biosynthesis and upregulating the LDL receptor. Inhibition of Niemann-Pick C1-Like 1 (NPC1L1) by ezetimibe results in reduced absorption of cholesterol from the gastrointestinal tract, thereby reducing delivery of cholesterol to the liver. Phase 3 data demonstrated that this combination resulted in a 29 percent placebo corrected LDL-C lowering when used with maximally tolerated statins, a 44 percent LDL-C lowering when used with no background statin (post-hoc analysis), and a 34 percent reduction in high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP).

#### **CLEAR Cardiovascular Outcomes Trial**

The effect of bempedoic acid on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality has not yet been determined. Esperion initiated a global cardiovascular outcomes trial (CVOT) to assess the effects of bempedoic acid on the occurrence of major cardiovascular events in patients with, or at high risk for, cardiovascular disease (CVD) who are only able to tolerate less than the lowest approved daily starting dose of a statin and considered "statin averse." The CVOT — known as CLEAR Cardiovascular Outcomes Trial — is an event-driven, global, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study that completed enrollment in August 2019 of 14,032 patients with hypercholesterolemia and high CVD risk at over 1,400 sites in 32 countries.

## Esperion Therapeutics' Commitment to Patients with Primary Hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and non-familial) or Mixed Dyslipidemia

High levels of LDL-C can lead to a build-up of fat and cholesterol in and on artery walls (known as atherosclerosis), potentially leading to cardiovascular events, including heart attack or stroke. In the U.S., 96 million people, or more than 37 percent of the adult population, have elevated LDL-C. There are approximately 18 million people in the U.S. with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) who live with elevated levels of LDL-C despite taking maximally tolerated lipid-modifying therapy — including individuals considered statin averse — leaving them at high risk for cardiovascular events<sup>1</sup>. In the United States, more than 50 percent of ASCVD patients who are not able to reach their LDL-C goals with statins alone need less than a 40 percent reduction to reach their LDL-C threshold<sup>2</sup>.



Esperion's mission as the Lipid Management Company is to deliver oral, once-daily, non-statin, medicines that complement existing oral drugs to provide the additional LDL-C lowering that these patients need.

#### **Esperion Therapeutics**

Through scientific and clinical excellence, and a deep understanding of cholesterol biology, the experienced Lipid Management Team at Esperion is committed to developing new LDL-C lowering medicines that will make a substantial impact on reducing global cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death around the world. For more information, please visit www.esperion.com and follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/EsperionInc.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the federal securities laws, including statements regarding the regulatory approval pathway for bempedoic acid tablet and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet, the therapeutic potential of, and the clinical development plan for bempedoic acid tablet and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet, including Esperion's timing, designs, plans for announcement of results regarding its CLEAR Outcomes study and other ongoing clinical studies for bempedoic acid tablet and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe combination fixed dose tablet, timing for the review and approval of the NDAs and the MAAs, and Esperion's expectations for the market for medicines to lower LDL-C, including the market adoption of bempedoic acid tablet and the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet, if approved. Any express or implied statements contained in this press release that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause Esperion's actual results to differ significantly from those projected, including, without limitation, delays or failures in Esperion's studies, that positive results from a clinical study of bempedoic acid may not be sufficient for FDA or EMA approval or necessarily be predictive of the results of future or ongoing clinical studies, that notwithstanding the completion of Esperion's Phase 3 clinical development program for LDL-C lowering, the FDA or EMA may require additional development in connection with seeking regulatory approval, that existing cash resources may be used more quickly than anticipated, and the risks detailed in Esperion's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Esperion disclaims any obligation or undertaking to update or revise any forward-looking statements contained in this press release, other than to the extent

#### References

- <sup>1</sup> Esperion market research on file: research project interviewing 350 physicians. Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. Sept-Oct 2018.
- <sup>2</sup> Data on file: analysis of NHANES database. Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. 2018.



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# Esperion Announces Positive CHMP Opinion for the Marketing Authorisation Application for the Bempedoic Acid / Ezetimibe Fixed Dose Combination Tablet for the Treatment of Hypercholesterolemia and Mixed Dyslipidemia

- Bempedoic Acid / Ezetimibe Fixed Dose Combination Tablet is an Oral, Once-Daily, Non-Statin Medicine that Lowers Bad Cholesterol with a First-in-Class Mechanism –
  - Positive CHMP Opinion is Based on the Completed Pivotal Phase 3 Fixed Dose Combination Tablet LDL-Cholesterol Lowering Program –
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The benefits with the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet are its ability to reduce levels of LDL-C, but also non-high density lipoprotein cholesterol (non-HDL-C), apolipoprotein B (apo B), and total cholesterol (TC) in patients with hypercholesterolemia or mixed dyslipidemia when administered alone and in combination with other lipid-modifying medicinal products. The most common side effects are hyperuricemia and constipation.

The CHMP recommended granting the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet marketing authorisation for the treatment of adults with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and non-familial) or mixed dyslipidemia, as an adjunct to diet:

- · in combination with a statin in patients unable to reach LDL-C goals with the maximum tolerated dose of a statin in addition to ezetimibe,
- · alone in patients who are either statin-intolerant or for whom a statin is contraindicated, and are unable to reach LDL-C goals with ezetimibe alone, or
- · in patients already being treated with the combination of bempedoic acid and ezetimibe as separate tablets with or without statin.



The CHMP is a scientific committee of the EMA that reviews medical product applications on their scientific and clinical merit. The European Commission will review the CHMP opinion and is expected to adopt a final decision in April 2020. The decision will be applicable to all 27 European Union member states plus the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein.

The positive CHMP opinion for the bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet is supported by the Phase 3 Fixed Dose Combination Tablet LDL-Cholesterol Lowering program. The bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet positive opinion is based on data from the pivotal Phase 3 053 Study conducted in more than 300 patients, as well as safety data from the bempedoic acid global pivotal Phase 3 LDL-C Lowering program together with the established ezetimibe safety profile. The bempedoic acid / ezetimibe fixed dose combination tablet significantly reduced LDL-C 38 percent from baseline to week 12 compared with placebo. Results from the pivotal Phase 3 053 Study have been published in *The European Journal of Preventative Cardiology*.

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