**Supplementary File 2**

**Eligibility criteria**

***Inclusion criteria***

A patient must meet the following criteria to be eligible for inclusion:

1. Capable of understanding and signing a written Informed Consent Form, which has to be obtained before screening;
2. Male and non-pregnant, non-lactating female subjects aged 18-65 years (subject to signing the informed consent). Women of childbearing age with serum pregnancy test negative;
3. With recorded sign(s) of chronic HBV infection (e.g., HBsAg-positive for more than 6 months);
4. HBeAg-positive or -negative, HBV DNA ≥ 2 × 104 IU/mL; serum 1 × ULN < ALT level ≤ 10 × ULN at screening;
5. Treatment-naïve subjects defined as subjects who have received < 12 weeks of treatment with any oral nucleoside or nucleos(t)ide analog antiviral agent) or non-treatment-naïve subjects (defined as subjects who meet all inclusion criteria [including HBV DNA and serum ALT criteria] and have received ≥ 12 weeks of treatment with any oral nucleoside or nucleos(t)ide analog. Subjects who are on oral antiviral treatment at screening must continue their treatment regimen until randomization, by then their treatment regimen can be discontinued;
6. Any interferon therapy (both pegylated and non-pegylated) must be completed at least 6 months before the baseline visit;
7. Based on the estimated creatinine clearance rate (CLCr) ≥ 50 mL/min obtained from the serum creatinine and actual weight measured during screening assessment, the creatinine clearance rate was calculated by Cockcroft-Gault formula:

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| --- | --- |
| (140-age) × weight (kg) | (female × 0.85) |
| 72 × serum creatinine (mg/dL) |

1. Normal electrocardiogram (ECG) or only with an abnormality considered not clinically significant by the investigator;
2. Willing to and able to abide by all requirements for the study.

***Exclusion criteria***

Subjects were not selected in case of the following circumstances:

1. Pregnant, nursing female or female who plans to get pregnant during the study;
2. With childbearing potential but unwilling to take effective contraceptive measures during the study as required by the protocol;
3. Complicated with hepatitis C virus (HCV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or hepatitis D virus (HDV) infections;
4. Imaging diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma;
5. With earlier or present clinical hepatic decompensation (e.g., ascites, hepatic encephalopathy or varicose vein hemorrhage);
6. Hematology and biochemistry parameter abnormalities, including: hemoglobin < 10 g/dL; absolute neutrophil count < 0.75 × 109/L; blood platelet ≤ 50 × 109/L; AST or ALT > 10 × ULN; total bilirubin > 2.5 × ULN; albumin < 3.0 g/dL; INR > 1.5 × ULN (unless stabilized with an anticoagulant regimen);
7. Has received solid organ or bone marrow transplant;
8. Any renal, cardiovascular, pulmonary or nervous diseases considered serious by the investigator;
9. Serious bone disease (e.g., osteochondrosis, chronic osteomyelitis, osteogenesis imperfecta, chondromalacia) or multiple fractures;
10. There is a history of malignant tumors within 5 years before screening, except for specific tumors (i.e., basal cell skin cancer) cured by surgical resection;
11. On treatment with any immunomodulator (e.g., corticosteroids), investigational drug, nephrotoxic agent or any drug that regulates renal excretion;
12. Hypersensitive to the study drug, its metabolites or any excipient in its formula;
13. Alcohol or drug abuser that probably cannot abide by the study requirements at the investigator’s discretion;
14. With any other clinical disease or earlier treatment that renders the subject’s participation in the study inappropriate or his/her compliance with the dosing requirements impossible at the investigator’s discretion;
15. Is on treatment with any concomitant drug that contradicts the study drug. Subjects receiving contraindicated drugs were to require a minimum 30-day washout period.