



1 Parrott Drive  
Shelton, Connecticut 06484

VIA EDGAR

January 28, 2014

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
Division of Corporation Finance  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Mail Stop 4720  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Attn: Mr. Jeffrey P. Riedler  
Mr. Scot Foley  
Mr. Bryan J. Pitko  
Ms. Ibolya Ignat  
Mr. Andrew Mew

Re: **Cara Therapeutics, Inc.**  
**Registration Statement on Form S-1**  
**File No. 333-192230**

**Acceleration Request**

**Requested Date: Thursday, January 30, 2014**  
**Requested Time: 4:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time**

Ladies and gentlemen:

In accordance with Rule 461 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the undersigned registrant (the "**Registrant**") hereby requests that the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "**Commission**") take appropriate action to cause the above-referenced Registration Statement on Form S-1 to become effective on January 30, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, or at such later time as the Registrant may orally request via telephone call to the staff (the "**Staff**"). The Registrant hereby authorizes each of Babak Yaghmaie, Darren DeStefano and Hosea Chang of Cooley LLP, counsel to the Registrant, to make such request on its behalf.

Once the Registration Statement has been declared effective, please orally confirm that event with Hosea Chang of Cooley LLP, counsel to the Registrant, at (703) 268-8220.

In connection with this request, the Registrant acknowledges that:

- should the Commission or the Staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, declare the filing effective, it does not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing;
- the action of the Commission or the Staff, acting pursuant to delegated authority, in declaring the filing effective, does not relieve the Registrant from its full responsibility for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing; and
- the Registrant may not assert Staff comments and the declaration of effectiveness as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

Very truly yours,

Cara Therapeutics, Inc.

By: /s/ Derek Chalmers

Derek Chalmers  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Babak Yaghmaie, Cooley LLP  
Darren DeStefano, Cooley LLP  
Stephane Levy, Cooley LLP  
Hosea Chang, Cooley LLP  
Peter N. Handrinis, Latham & Watkins LLP