



Media Release

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## **Sandoz launches generic version of Vantin®**

**Princeton, New Jersey; July 9, 2009** – Sandoz today announced the introduction of Cefpodoxime Proxetil oral suspension, a generic equivalent of Vantin®, in the United States. Cefpodoxime Proxetil is a cephalosporin antibiotic indicated to treat mild to moderate infections caused by Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria, such as ear infections, sore throats and sinusitis.

Sandoz is marketing Cefpodoxime Proxetil oral suspension in 50 mg/5 mL and 100 mg/5 mL strengths. According to IMS Health, US sales of Cefpodoxime Proxetil Oral Suspension were approximately USD 4 million in twelve months ending in April 2009. Sandoz also markets Cefpodoxime Proxetil tablets in 100 and 200 mg strengths in the US.

### **About Sandoz**

Sandoz, a Division of the Novartis group, is a global leader in the field of generic pharmaceuticals, offering a wide array of high-quality, affordable products that are no longer protected by patents. Sandoz has a portfolio of approximately 1000 compounds and sells its products in more than 130 countries. Key product groups include antibiotics, treatments for central nervous system disorders, gastrointestinal medicines, cardiovascular treatments and hormone therapies. Sandoz develops, produces and markets these medicines along with pharmaceutical and biotechnological active substances and anti-infectives. In addition to strong organic growth in recent years, Sandoz has made a series of acquisitions including Lek (Slovenia), Sabex (Canada), Hexal (Germany) and Eon Labs (US). In 2008, Sandoz employed around 23,000 people worldwide and posted sales of USD 7.6 billion.

### **Disclaimer**

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by express or implied discussions regarding potential additional marketing approvals or potential future revenues from Cefpodoxime Proxetil oral suspension. You should not place undue reliance on these statements. Such forward-looking statements reflect the current views of the Company regarding future events, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that Cefpodoxime Proxetil oral suspension will be approved for sale in any additional markets, or will achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular, management's expectations could be affected by, among other things, unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; unexpected patent litigation outcomes; unexpected inability to obtain or maintain exclusivity periods for our products; competition in general; government, industry and

general public pricing pressures; the impact that the foregoing factors could have on the values attributed to the Novartis Group's assets and liabilities as recorded in the Group's consolidated balance sheet, and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Vantin® is a registered trademark of Pfizer.