



Media Release

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Sandoz launches generic version of CellCept®

Princeton, New Jersey; May 8, 2009 -- Sandoz today announced the introduction of mycophenolate mofetil capsules and tablets, generic equivalents of CellCept®, in the US. Mycophenolate mofetil is an immunosuppressant used to prevent organ rejection after kidney, liver or heart transplants.

“Today’s mycophenolate mofetil launch adds a third treatment to our growing line of transplant therapies in the US,” said Christine Mundkur, Chief Executive Officer of Sandoz Inc., the US subsidiary of Sandoz. “Sandoz, along with Novartis, is a leader in transplant therapies and we are pleased to be able to utilize our deep experience to provide cost-saving treatment options for this community.”

According to IMS Health, US sales for branded and generic mycophenolate mofetil capsules and tablets were approximately USD 1,024 million for the twelve months February 2009. Sandoz will market mycophenolate mofetil capsules in 250 mg strength and tablets in 500mg strength, the same as CellCept capsules and tablets.

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 terminology such as "may", "could", "likely", "suggests", "will", "risk", "confidence", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential future revenues from mycophenolate mofetil. 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 with mycophenolate mofetil to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no guarantee that mycophenolate mofetil will receive any additional marketing

approvals in any other countries or achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular, management's expectations regarding mycophenolate mofetil could be affected by, among other things, competition 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. Sandoz is providing this information as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this document as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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