



Media Release

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Sandoz Inc.
506 Carnegie Center Drive,
Suite 400
Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone +1 609 627 8500
Fax +1 609 627 8682
www.us.sandoz.com

Sandoz launches generic version of Topamax® sprinkle capsules

Princeton, New Jersey; October 15, 2009 -- Sandoz today announced the introduction of topiramate sprinkle capsules, a generic equivalent of Topamax®, in the US. Topiramate is a sulfamate-substituted monosaccharide indicated as a monotherapy and as adjunctive therapy for the treatment of seizures.

According to IMS Health, US annual sales for topiramate sprinkle capsules were approximately USD 56 million for the last 12 months ending August 31, 2009. Sandoz will market topiramate sprinkle capsules in 15mg and 25mg strength tablets, the same as Topamax®.

Disclaimer

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements that can be identified by terminology such as “will”, or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential additional marketing approvals or potential future revenues from topiramate sprinkle capsules. 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 topiramate sprinkle capsules 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.

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.

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For further information

Sandoz US Communications:

Lauren Carhart

212 593 6354

Sandoz Global Communications

Chris Lewis

+49 172 141 8749

Topamax® is a registered trademark of Ortho-McNeil Neurologics, Inc.