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Sandoz launches generic version of Casodex® tablets

Princeton, New Jersey; July 9, 2009 -- Sandoz today announced the introduction of bicalutamide tablets, USP a generic equivalent of Casodex®, in the United States. Bicalutamide is an androgen receptor inhibitor indicated for use in combination therapy with a luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) analog for the treatment of Stage D₂ metastatic carcinoma of the prostate. Prostate cancer is the second leading death-causing cancer in men.¹

According to IMS Health, US sales for branded bicalutamide tablets, USP were approximately USD 319 million for the twelve months ending April 2009. Sandoz will market bicalutamide in 50mg strength tablets, the same as Casodex®.

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 "will", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential additional marketing approvals or potential future revenues from bicalutamide tablets. 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 bicalutamide tablets will be approved for sale in any additional markets, or will achieve any particular levels of revenue in the future. In particular,

¹ American Cancer Society, "Detailed Guide: Prostate Cancer." Last updated 1/09/2009. Available at: http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_4_1X_What_are_the_key_statistics_for_prostate_cancer_36.asp

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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Casodex® is a registered trademark of AstraZeneca.