

ALBERTA REIMBURSES NEW TREATMENT TO HELP PREVENT NAUSEA AND VOMITING IN CHEMOTHERAPY PATIENTS

Montreal, Québec – October 2, 2008 – Cancer patients living in Alberta now have better access to EMEND™ (aprepitant) an oral medicine for prevention of nausea and vomiting triggered by some types of chemotherapy. The government of Alberta has included EMEND™ (aprepitant) on the Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List effective October 1, 2008. Aprepitant will be reimbursed as a first line agent for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting due to highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy (HEC) and in women due to treatment with moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy (MEC) consisting of cyclophosphamide and anthracycline when prescribed by the Directors of Alberta Cancer Care Board (or their designates). Discovered and developed by Merck, aprepitant is the first in a new class of medicines (neurokinin-1 (NK₁) receptor antagonist), indicated in combination with additional therapies for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting triggered by chemotherapy.

"This new addition to the Drug Benefit List will provide better access to aprepitant to cancer patients living in Alberta," said Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. "We hope that other provinces will also include this treatment on their drug formularies to improve the quality of life of patients experiencing chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting."

Reducing chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting, contributes to the success of cancer therapy by preventing dehydration and permitting the continued, timely administration of optimal doses of chemotherapy which can make a real difference for these patients. Beginning on the first day of the first cycle of chemotherapy, aprepitant is added to an antiemetic treatment regimen intended to reduce or eliminate nausea and vomiting in patients receiving highly and moderately emetogenic chemotherapy.¹

Nausea and vomiting remain a significant burden for cancer patients

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting remains a significant, cancer care-limiting problem despite the development of new treatment entities in the last 12 years.² In the absence of antiemetic prophylaxis, chemotherapy agents with highly emetogenic potential will cause chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in over 90% of patients receiving them.

Information about EMEND™

EMEND™ (aprepitant) was approved by Health Canada in October 2007 and is indicated in combination with a 5-HT₃ antagonist class of antiemetics and dexamethasone for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting due to highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy and for the prevention of nausea and vomiting in women due to treatment with

moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy consisting of cyclophosphamide and anthracycline.¹ The recommended dosing regimen is EMEND™ 125 mg orally 1 hour prior to chemotherapy treatment (Day 1) and 80 mg once daily in the morning on Days 2 and 3.¹

About Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

At Merck Frosst, patients come first. Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. is a research-driven pharmaceutical company discovering, developing and marketing a broad range of innovative medicines and vaccines to improve human health. Merck Frosst is one of the top 25 R&D investors in Canada, with an investment of close to \$110 million in 2007. More information about Merck Frosst and EMEND™ is available at www.merckfrosst.com

Forward-looking statement

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. The forward-looking statements may include statements regarding product development, product potential or financial performance. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. Merck undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Forward-looking statements in this press release should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect Merck's business, particularly those mentioned in the cautionary statements in Item 1A of Merck's Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2007, and in its periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K, which the Company incorporates by reference.

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¹ EMEND™ Product Monograph

² Lachaine J, Yelle L, Kaizer L, Dufour A, Hopkins S, Deuson R. Chemotherapy-induced emesis: quality of life and economic impact in the context of current practice in Canada. Supportive Cancer Therapy 2005;2:181-7.

