

EMEND^{MC} (aprepitant), an antiemetic aimed at preventing nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing chemotherapy, is now reimbursed in Quebec.

Montreal, Quebec - December 5, 2008 – Patients living in the province of Quebec and suffering from cancer will have access under the provincial drug program to EMEND (aprepitant), an oral medicine which, when combined with the current treatment, helps prevent nausea and vomiting due to highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy. Discovered and developed by Merck, EMEND^{MD} (aprepitant) is a Neurokinin-1 (NK-1) receptor antagonist which, when combined with other antiemetics, helps protect patients from acute and delayed symptoms. EMEND^{MD} is the first in a new class of medicines indicated in for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting triggered by chemotherapy.

In Quebec, aprepitant will be reimbursed as per the following recognized indication: As first-line antiemetic treatment for nausea and vomiting during highly emetic chemotherapy, in combination with dexamethasone and a receptor antagonist of the 5-HT₃. The latter, however, is to be administered solely during the first day of chemotherapy treatment. Authorizations are given for a maximum of three doses of aprepitant for each chemotherapy treatment.

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.

“Nausea and vomiting triggered by chemotherapy are sometimes so severe to the point where certain patients that I have met in my practice sometimes consider delaying or even discontinuing treatment,” stated Mélanie Simard, hospital pharmacist at CHUQ, Pavillon Hôtel Dieu de Québec. “I’m thrilled at the idea that a new option is now available to patients undergoing chemotherapy to help prevent the appearance of symptoms as well as allow these patients to continue their day-to-day activities and treatment,” she added.

Information on EMEND^{MC}

EMEND^{MC} (aprepitant) was approved in 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 anthracycline¹. The recommended dosing regimen of EMEND^{MC} is 125 mg orally 1 hour prior to chemotherapy treatment (Day 1) and 80 mg once daily in the morning on Days 2 and 3¹.

About Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

At Merck Frosst, patients come first. Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. is a research-driven pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and markets a broad range of innovative products and vaccines to improve human health. Merck Frosst is one of the top 20 R&D investors in Canada. In 2007, the company invested close to \$110 million in R&D. More information about Merck Frosst and EMEND^{MC} 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 1 of Merck's Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2006, 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^{MD} Product Monograph