

Merck Frosst Statement in Response to the Health Canada July 2009 edition of the Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter (CARN) on SINGULAIR® (montelukast)

Montreal, Quebec – July 9, 2009 – Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. issued the following statement in response to the July 7, 2009 communication in Health Canada's Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter (CARN) addressing reports of suicidality and other psychiatric adverse reactions suspected of being associated with the use of SINGULAIR® (montelukast).

Since the introduction of SINGULAIR® in 1998, Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. has updated the section of the Product Monograph to communicate a range of adverse events reported with post-marketing use of the drug, including suicidality and other psychiatric adverse reactions addressed in the CARN communication. In fact, as Health Canada states in the newsletter, "Between September 2007 and July 2008, updates were made to the "Adverse drug reactions" section of the Canadian product monograph for montelukast to include depression, suicidality and anxiousness."

Also as noted in the Health Canada communication, consumers and healthcare professionals should be aware of the potential for behaviour and mood-related adverse reactions with this medication. Patients are encouraged to contact their physician or pharmacist if these events occur. The Consumer Information section of the Product Monograph states that if suicidal thoughts or actions occur, patients should contact their physician immediately and the use of montelukast should be discontinued.

Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. is confident in the efficacy and safety of SINGULAIR®, a medicine that has been prescribed to patients with asthma and allergic rhinitis since its approval more than 11 years ago. For the people suffering from either asthma or allergic rhinitis, SINGULAIR® is an important treatment option for appropriate patients.

The efficacy and safety profile of SINGULAIR® is supported by available data from controlled clinical trials, in which more than 20,000 patients received SINGULAIR®, and from a review of post-marketing adverse event reports collected since the drug was approved by Health Canada in 1998.

About SINGULAIR®

SINGULAIR® is indicated in adult and paediatric patients 2 years of age and older for the prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma, including prevention of day and night-time symptoms, the treatment of acetylsalicylic acid (ASA)-sensitive asthmatic patients, and the prevention of exercise-induced bronchoconstriction. SINGULAIR® is indicated for the relief of

symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in patients 15 years old or older. SINGULAIR® should be considered when other treatments are not effective or not tolerated.

SINGULAIR® is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation.

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 close to \$110 million in 2007. More information about Merck Frosst and SINGULAIR® is available at www.merckfrosst.com.

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