

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FDA APPROVES FOLLISTIM® AQ CARTRIDGE - THE FIRST PRE-MIXED FERTILITY TREATMENT (FSH) IN THE U.S. DELIVERED BY A PEN DEVICE

Follistim® AQ Cartridge, for use with the Follistim Pen™, provides an accurate fertility drug delivery system that is convenient and easy to use

(ROSELAND, N.J., March 24, 2004) — **The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today announced approval of Follistim® AQ Cartridge (follitropin beta injection). Follistim® AQ Cartridge is the first follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) treatment available in a pre-filled, pre-mixed solution, approved in the U.S., eliminating the need for patients to mix one or more vials of medication. Follistim® AQ Cartridge is designed to be used only with the Follistim Pen™, an innovative pen device that facilitates accurate delivery of individualized doses of pre-mixed follitropin beta injection, a highly effective and widely used prescription fertility medication made from state of the art recombinant DNA technology. Follistim® AQ Cartridge, for use with the Follistim Pen™, is prescribed for women undergoing assisted reproductive treatments (ART) such as in vitro fertilization (IVF), and for the induction of ovulation to achieve pregnancy. Follistim® AQ Cartridge, for use with the Follistim Pen™, provides women with a discreet, convenient method to self-administer fertility treatment with ease and confidence using the unique dial-a-dose feature. Organon USA Inc. markets Follistim® AQ Cartridge and Follistim Pen™.**

“Fertility treatment can create anxiety for patients, in large part because they have to mix, measure and inject the medicine themselves,” said Samuel Pang, MD, Associate Medical Director, Reproductive Science Center of Boston, and an investigator in the Follistim® AQ Cartridge/Follistim Pen™ clinical trials. “This innovative method of delivering FSH makes the process go smoothly, because the medicine is already mixed and the patient just has to dial the correct dose. Also, the microneedle and small volume of medication may contribute to patient tolerability of the injection.”

Follistim® AQ Cartridge, for use with the Follistim Pen™, provides physicians with the flexibility to fine-tune a drug protocol for each patient. Patients, at the same time, can be assured that they are receiving an accurate dose with a self-injection of their fertility treatment, that has been rated as easy to use by patients who participated in clinical trials.

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The Follistim® AQ Cartridge is available in two convenient strengths of 300 and 600 IU providing multiple doses from one single cartridge. Unlike other FSH products on the market, Follistim® AQ Cartridge does not require mixing.

“Organon is pleased that the FDA has approved Follistim® AQ Cartridge for patients experiencing infertility,” said Michael Novinski, President, Organon USA Inc. “The introduction of Follistim® AQ Cartridge for use with the Follistim Pen™, enhances Organon’s position as a leader in the development, production and marketing of innovative, patient friendly fertility treatment.”

Results of clinical studies have shown that self-injection with Follistim® AQ Cartridge, for use with Follistim Pen™, is safe, convenient and well tolerated by patients. According to a recent study conducted by Samuel Pang, MD et al.¹, the lead author for the Follistim Pen™ COH Study Group, of the 60 women who participated in the study, 98.3 percent rated the overall experience of self-injecting with the Follistim Pen™ as “very-good” to “good.”

Follistim AQ® Cartridge administered with Follistim Pen™ delivers on average an 18% higher amount of follitropin beta compared to lyophilized preparations administered by a conventional syringe and needle. The difference is due to the accurate dosing obtained with the Follistim Pen™ compared to a conventional syringe and needle.

Like all gonadotropins, Follistim AQ® Cartridge is a potent substance capable of causing mild to severe side effects including ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS), with or without pulmonary or vascular complications. Treatment with Follistim AQ® Cartridge may result in multiple gestations. Follistim AQ® Cartridge should be used only by physicians who are experienced in infertility treatment and should advise their patients of treatment risks, including OHSS and multiple births. Please refer to the package insert for a complete list of side effects.

Infertility affects about six million American couples, approximately 10 percent of the reproductive age population. The Centers for Disease Control reports there were nearly 110,000 cycles of assisted reproductive technology in year 2001.

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¹ Pang, S. et al. “An open-label, non-controlled multi-center study to evaluate subject comprehension, ease of use, safety and efficacy of the Follistim Pen™ for the self-administration of Follistim® AQ Cartridge during Controlled Ovarian Hyperstimulation (COH) in subjects scheduled for IVF and ICSI.” Organon, Inc.

Organon USA Inc., headquartered in Roseland, NJ, USA creates and markets prescription medicines that improve the health and quality of human life. Through a combination of independent growth and business partnerships, Organon strives to become or remain one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in each of its core therapeutic fields: reproductive medicine, psychiatry and anesthesia. Organon products are sold in over 100 countries, of which more than 60 have an Organon subsidiary. Organon is the human health care business unit of Akzo Nobel, NV.

Akzo Nobel, NV, based in the Netherlands, serves customers throughout the world with healthcare products, coatings and chemicals. Consolidated sales for 2003 totaled EUR 13 billion. The Company currently employs approximately 64,500 people in more than 80 countries. Financial results for the first quarter will be published on April 20, 2004.

This press release contains statements, which address such key issues as Akzo Nobel's growth strategy, future financial results, market positions, product development, pharmaceutical products in the pipeline, and product approvals. Such statements should be carefully considered and it should be understood that many factors could cause forecasted and actual results to differ from these statements. These factors include, but are not limited to price fluctuations, currency fluctuations, developments in raw material and personnel costs, physical and environmental risks, legal issues, and legislative, fiscal, and other regulatory measures. Stated competitive positions are based on management estimates supported by information provided by specialized external agencies. For a more complete discussion of the risk factors affecting our business please refer to our Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

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Editors Note: For complete prescribing information, please visit www.follistim.com.

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