

Merck Statement on New Access Initiative to Provide IMPLANON® (etonogestel implant) to Patients in Low-Income Countries

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J., July 15, 2011 – As a developer of important women’s health products, Merck/MSD has long been committed to supporting activities around the world to ensure that women have access to products that can help protect and improve their health.

Long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) are often important options for women’s family planning choices. However, due to various complexities and challenges, including access to healthcare services, more than 215 million women in low income countries who want to protect themselves from unintended pregnancies do not have access to long-acting contraceptive methods, including IMPLANON® (etonogestel implant).

IMPLANON is indicated for the prevention of pregnancy in women. IMPLANON is a progestin-only implantable rod that provides up to three years of pregnancy protection. IMPLANON must be removed by the end of the third year and may be replaced by a new IMPLANON at the time of removal if continued contraceptive protection is desired.

Through our long-standing efforts to support the health of women around the globe, Merck/MSD has learned valuable lessons about barriers to treatment access – barriers that extend beyond the price of medicines.

Merck/MSD is an active member of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC), and fully supports the group’s HANDtoHAND campaign to have 100 million new women using the modern contraception method of their choice by 2015.

Merck/MSD is partnering with RHSC members to help achieve the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDG) # 5 through enhanced access and appropriate and effective use of IMPLANON.

- *Merck/MSD is working to increase access to IMPLANON in resource-limited countries.* Merck/MSD is engaging in this new partnership to further enhance access to IMPLANON for women in low-income countries.

- *Merck/MSD is committed to working with others in low-income countries.*
Merck/MSD will actively engage with local ministries of health, the local and global development community, donors, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help achieve the MDG goal through enhanced access to IMPLANON.
- *Merck/MSD is establishing a lower price for IMPLANON.* Through a new approach, Merck/MSD is working to increase affordability of IMPLANON by establishing a new lower access price for low-income countries and is in discussions with the United Nations Foundation, to utilize The Pledge Guarantee for Health, to implement a financing mechanism to help donor funds go further to increase access to contraceptives. Donors, governments and NGOs will be eligible for the access price for IMPLANON in these countries. This is a continuing commitment by Merck/MSD to increase access to IMPLANON resource-limited countries through community investment, access pricing, medical education, and engagement with local ministries of health, the local and global development community, donors, governments and NGOs.

Merck's engagement in supporting women's access to contraceptive options that help meet their needs is part of our broader commitment to addressing the health needs of the developing world and making access to health a guiding principle of the way we conduct business.

We are proud of our long-standing history of bringing important medicines to patients in need.

About IMPLANON

IMPLANON (etonogestrel implant) is approved for women for the prevention of pregnancy.

IMPLANON must be removed by the end of the third year and may be replaced by a new IMPLANON at the time of removal, if continued contraceptive protection is desired.

SELECTED SAFETY INFORMATION

Women should be informed that this product does not protect against infection from HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Serious consequences may be associated with the insertion and removal of IMPLANON. IMPLANON should be inserted subdermally so that it is palpable after insertion. Failure to insert IMPLANON properly may go unnoticed unless the implant is palpated immediately after insertion. Deep insertions may lead to difficult or impossible removals. Failure to remove IMPLANON may result in infertility, ectopic pregnancy, or inability to stop a drug-related adverse event. Undetected failure to insert IMPLANON may lead to an unintended pregnancy.

In clinical trials, 1.0% of patients had complications at implant insertion and 1.7% had complications at implant removal. Deep insertions may result in the need for a surgical procedure in an operating room in order to remove IMPLANON. When IMPLANON is inserted too deeply, this may cause neural or vascular damage. Too deep insertions have been associated with paraesthesia and migration of the implant and, in rare cases, with intravascular insertion. In postmarketing use, there have been cases of failure to localize and remove the implant, probably due to deep insertion. All healthcare providers performing insertions and/or removals of IMPLANON must receive instruction and training and, where appropriate, supervision prior to inserting or removing IMPLANON.

IMPLANON should not be used in women who have the following conditions: known or suspected pregnancy, current or past history of thrombosis or thromboembolic disorders, hepatic tumors (benign or malignant), active liver disease, undiagnosed abnormal genital bleeding, known or suspected carcinoma of the breast (or a personal history of breast cancer), or hypersensitivity to any of the components of IMPLANON.

Pregnancy must be excluded before inserting IMPLANON.

The use of IMPLANON and other progestin-only hormonal contraceptives have been associated with ectopic pregnancy, bleeding irregularities, and ovarian cysts. The use of hormonal contraceptives is associated with increased risks of several serious

cardiovascular conditions including myocardial infarction, stroke, venous thromboembolism, deep venous thrombosis, retinal vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism. There have been postmarketing reports of serious thromboembolic events, including cases of pulmonary emboli (some fatal) and strokes, in patients using IMPLANON. IMPLANON should be removed in the event of a thrombosis. Consider removal of IMPLANON in case of long-term immobilization due to surgery or illness. Women with a history of thromboembolic disorders should be made aware of the possibility of a recurrence.

Cigarette smoking increases the risk of serious cardiovascular side effects from the use of hormonal contraceptives. This risk increases with age (women over 35 years of age) and with heavy smoking. Women who use hormonal contraceptives should be advised not to smoke.

In clinical trials including 942 patients, bleeding irregularities (11%) were the most common adverse event causing discontinuation of IMPLANON. Adverse events reported in >5% of subjects include headache, vaginitis, weight increase, acne, breast pain, upper respiratory tract infection, abdominal pain, pharyngitis, leukorrhea, influenza-like symptoms, dizziness, dysmenorrhea, back pain, emotional lability, nausea, pain, nervousness, sinusitis, depression, and insertion site pain.

About Merck

Today's Merck is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck is known as MSD outside the United States and Canada. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer care and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit www.merck.com.

Forward-Looking Statement

This news release includes “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the merger between Merck and Schering-Plough, including future financial and operating

results, the combined company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of Merck's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the possibility that the expected synergies from the merger of Merck and Schering-Plough will not be realized, or will not be realized within the expected time period; the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships; Merck's ability to accurately predict future market conditions; dependence on the effectiveness of Merck's patents and other protections for innovative products; the risk of new and changing regulation and health policies in the U.S. and internationally and the exposure to litigation and/or regulatory actions.

Merck undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in Merck's 2010 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the company's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC's Internet site (www.sec.gov).

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Please see Prescribing Information and Patient Information for IMPLANON at www.spfiles.com/piimplanon.pd.pdf.

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