April 18, 2007

Press Release

Ajinomoto Co., Inc.
Eisai Co., Ltd.
Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited

A ONCE-WEEKLY FORMULATION OF RISEDRONATE SODIUM HYDRATE, AN ANTIOSTEOPOROTIC AGENT, WAS APPROVED.

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (“Ajinomoto”, President and CEO: Norio Yamaguchi, Headquarters: Tokyo) and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (“Takeda”, President: Yasuchika Hasegawa, Headquarters: Osaka) are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare approved today “Actonel

The once-weekly formulation of risedronate sodium hydrate was approved in 2002 in the United States and now are being approved in more than 80 countries around the world.

In Japan, a once-daily formulation of this agent was launched in May 2002 under the brand names of “Actonel 2.5 mg tablets” (supplied by Ajinomoto) by Eisai and “Benet 2.5 mg tablets” by Takeda. These products have contributed to the treatment of a great number of osteoporosis patients.

The once-weekly formulation approved today was confirmed as safe and effective as the once-daily formulation in the phase III double-bind comparative studies conducted in Japan. In addition, the less frequent doses from once-daily to once-weekly enhance the convenience for patients and, eventually, can improve their quality of life.

The following is a product outline of “Actonel 17.5 mg tablets” and “Benet 17.5 mg tablets” for reference.

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Reference

Product outline of “Actonel　17.5 mg tablets” and “Benet　17.5 mg tablets”

【Brand Name】
“Actonel　17.5 mg tablets”, “Benet　17.5 mg tablets”

【Generic Name】
Risedronate sodium hydrate

【Indication】
Osteoporosis

【Dosage and Administration】
The usual dosage in adults is 17.5 mg of risedronate sodium to be taken orally once a week on awakening with an adequate amount of water (about 180 mL). Patients should not lie down at least for 30 minutes after taking the medication and avoid eating, drinking except for water and taking any other oral drugs.