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Press Release

Positive CHMP opinion moves Angiox™ closer to European approval

Nycomed has together with its US collaborator, The Medicines Company (Nasdaq:MDCO), successfully reached a milestone in the European registration process of Angiox™ (bivalirudin). The European Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has adopted a positive opinion, recommending marketing authorization for the thrombin-specific anticoagulant Angiox™ for patients undergoing percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI).

The CHMP (formerly the CPMP) is the scientific committee of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The adoption of a positive opinion is the last step in the European regulatory approval process prior to marketing authorization by the European Commission.

The Company anticipates that the Commission will ratify the CHMP opinion and issue a marketing authorization in Q4 this year. If granted, the marketing authorization for Angiox™ will be valid in all 25 member states of the European Union.

Angiox™ is one of a number of hospital specialist treatments that Nycomed aims to launch in Europe following EU marketing authorization.

"With the expected final EU approval of Angiox™ Nycomed takes another important step towards building a strong hospital specialist product portfolio in Europe. Also, it demonstrates the value of our in-licensing strategy to secure our future growth through partnering," said Håkan Björklund, Nycomed CEO.

Nycomed entered into a collaboration with The Medicines Company in March 2002 to be the exclusive distributor of Angiox™ in 33 European countries, and also in Russia/CIS.

"We are confident that Angiox™ will make a real difference in Europe by simplifying PCI treatment and improving patient outcomes," said Håkan Björklund, Nycomed CEO.

About Angiox™

Angiox™ (US tradename Angiomax®) is a thrombin-specific anticoagulant used in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary angioplasty. It was developed by The Medicines Company and launched successfully in the US in 2001. Angiox™ is currently approved in the US and other countries, including New Zealand, Canada, Argentina and Israel.

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In clinical trials, bivalirudin has demonstrated reductions in both ischemic and bleeding complications compared to heparin as the foundation anticoagulant in the contemporary catheterization laboratory setting. These reductions in ischemic and bleeding complications remain evident even in high-risk patients.

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About Nycomed

Nycomed is a pharmaceutical company differentiating itself by its European focus. The company's capabilities include product sourcing, late-stage clinical trials, registration, pricing and reimbursement negotiation and product life-cycle management. Dedicated sales teams target general practitioners, hospital specialists and pharmacists.

With 2,800 people, mostly in marketing & sales, Nycomed covers 19 European markets including the Russia/CIS. Products are also exported to other countries including Japan and the USA. Nycomed is a privately-owned company with 2003 revenue of € 635.5 million.

Further information is available on: www.nycomed.com