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Genzyme to Transition U.S. Renagel Market to Renvela

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Genzyme Corp. announced today that it will be working with physicians to transition all remaining U.S. patients on Renagel[®] (sevelamer hydrochloride) to Renvela[®] (sevelamer carbonate), with the goal of completing this transition by September 30, 2009. Renvela was launched in March 2008 and is a next-generation version of Renagel, the most-prescribed phosphate binder in the United States.

Like Renagel, Renvela is a calcium-free, metal-free, non-absorbed treatment approved for the control of serum phosphorus in patients with chronic kidney disease on dialysis. Renvela offers all of the advantages of Renagel with the added benefit of a carbonate buffer. In a clinical study comparing tablet formulations of Renvela to Renagel, both drugs controlled serum phosphorus within KDOQI recommended ranges. Renvela maintained serum phosphorus at a mean level of 4.6 mg/dL. Renvela patients, however, were more likely to achieve bicarbonate levels within the recommended KDOQI ranges, and had a lower overall incidence of gastrointestinal adverse events.

“We developed Renvela because we are committed to improving the care of kidney disease patients,” said Dan Regan, senior vice president of Genzyme’s U.S. renal business. “We believe that Renvela is the best option for patients who

need a phosphate binder, and this is why we are working to fully transition all appropriate patients to this treatment.”

Both Renagel and Renvela are protected by the same core patents, which expire in 2014. Renvela has comparable managed care coverage to Renagel, and is widely available through the majority of commercial insurance and Medicare Part D plans.

Genzyme continues to work with the FDA toward a label expansion in mid-2009 for Renvela to include the treatment of hyperphosphatemic chronic kidney disease patients who are not on dialysis. Renvela and Renagel are both currently available in tablet form. The company anticipates that it will launch a powder form of Renvela in the United States in mid-2009 for the control of serum phosphorus in chronic kidney disease patients on dialysis. The Renvela powder formulation will provide an additional therapeutic option for physicians and a no-pill phosphate binder option for patients. European approval of Renvela is also expected by the middle of this year, and Genzyme is pursuing approvals in other markets internationally.

About Renagel and Renvela

Renagel (sevelamer hydrochloride) and Renvela (sevelamer carbonate) both control serum phosphorus in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) on dialysis. Controlling serum phosphorus is an important element in the care of dialysis patients. Elevated serum phosphorus levels are common in dialysis patients and associated with increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity and

mortality. Sevelamer provides the added benefit of significant LDL cholesterol reduction.

Renagel and Renvela are the only phosphate binders available that do not contain either calcium or a metal. They have established safety profiles, are not systemically absorbed and provide phosphorus control without the concerns of calcium or metal accumulation. The National Kidney Foundation's 2003 Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI) guidelines for Bone Metabolism and Disease in CKD recommend sevelamer as a first-line treatment option to control phosphorus. Sevelamer is currently used by more than 350,000 patients worldwide.

Important Treatment Considerations

Renvela and Renagel are indicated for the control of serum phosphorus in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) on dialysis. Sevelamer is contraindicated in patients with hypophosphatemia or bowel obstruction. Caution should be exercised in patients with dysphagia, swallowing disorders, severe gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders including severe constipation or major GI tract surgery. Common adverse events reported with sevelamer include vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, and constipation. Other events reported include pruritus, rash, fecal impaction, and intestinal obstruction. Drug-drug interactions may occur with some medications and should be taken into consideration when instructing patients how to take sevelamer. Patients should be informed to take sevelamer with meals and to adhere to their prescribed diets. For more information, please see full Prescribing Information at

www.renagel.com or www.renvela.com, or call Genzyme Medical Information at 1-800-847-0069.

About Genzyme

One of the world's leading biotechnology companies, Genzyme is dedicated to making a major positive impact on the lives of people with serious diseases. Since 1981, the company has grown from a small start-up to a diversified enterprise with more than 10,000 employees in locations spanning the globe and 2008 revenues of \$4.6 billion. In 2007, Genzyme was chosen to receive the National Medal of Technology, the highest honor awarded by the President of the United States for technological innovation.

With many established products and services helping patients in nearly 90 countries, Genzyme is a leader in the effort to develop and apply the most advanced technologies in the life sciences. The company's products and services are focused on rare inherited disorders, kidney disease, orthopaedics, cancer, transplant and immune disease, and diagnostic testing. Genzyme's commitment to innovation continues today with a substantial development program focused on these fields, as well as cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative diseases, and other areas of unmet medical need.

This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding Genzyme's business plans and strategies including, without limitation, statements about the transition of patients to Renvela; the potential label expansion for Renvela and the expected timing of such label expansion; the powder formulation of Renvela, including the potential uses and launch timing; and approval of Renvela in Europe and additional markets. These statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those forecasted. These risks and uncertainties include, among others: the willingness of patients and physicians to transition from Renagel to Renvela; the outcome of discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regarding the potential label expansion of, and new formulation for, Renvela and the timing of such discussions; the outcome of discussions with regulatory authorities in Europe and other markets regarding the approval of Renvela and the timing of such discussions; the timing and content of submissions to and decisions made by regulatory authorities; the availability and extent of third-party reimbursement for Renvela; and the risks and uncertainties described in Genzyme's SEC reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including the factors discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" in Genzyme's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008. Genzyme cautions investors not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements contained in this press release. These statements speak only as of the date of this press release and Genzyme undertakes no obligation to update or revise the statements.

Genzyme's press releases and other company information are available at www.genzyme.com and by calling Genzyme's investor information line at 1-800-905-4369 within the United States or 1-678-999-4572 outside the United States.

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