Par Pharmaceutical Begins Shipment of Generic ZegeridÃ,®

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WOODCLIFF LAKE, N.J., July 1 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc. (NYSE: PRX [1]) today announced that it began shipping the 20mg/1100mg and 40mg/1100mg strengths of omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate capsules to the trade. Omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate capsules are the generic version of Santarus' Zegerid®. Annual U.S. sales of Zegerid capsules are approximately $195 million, according to IMS Health data. Par has been awarded 180 days of marketing exclusivity for being the first to file an ANDA containing a paragraph IV certification for these strengths of the product.

On April 14, 2010, the District Court of Delaware held that the patents covering Zegerid are invalid. The case is currently on appeal at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Important information about omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate capsules

Omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate is a combination of omeprazole, a proton-pump inhibitor, and sodium bicarbonate, an antacid.

Omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate is indicated for the short-term treatment of duodenal ulcer, the short-term treatment (4-8 weeks) of active benign gastric ulcer, the treatment of heartburn and other symptoms associated with Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) and short-term treatment (4-8 weeks) of erosive esophagitis which has been diagnosed by endoscopy.

About Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc.

Par Pharmaceutical Companies, Inc. is a U.S.-based specialty pharmaceutical company. Through its wholly-owne
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