MERZ DERMATOLOGY ANNOUNCES ENHANCED NAFTIN® CO-PAYMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM

Merz Dermatology, a division of Merz North America, announces the launch of a new co-payment savings program designed to enhance the affordability of the Naftin® (naftifine HCl) family of topical antifungal treatments.

GREENSBORO, N.C. – BUSINESS WIRE – Merz Dermatology, a division of Merz North America (U.S. affiliate of the global Merz Pharma Group), announces the launch of an enhanced co-payment savings program for Naftin® (naftifine HCl), the #1 topical antifungal brand prescribed by dermatologists and podiatrists in the U.S.¹

“Merz is dedicated to advancing the quality of care in the medical dermatology space, and we are especially committed to facilitating patient access to effective, high-quality treatment options, regardless of the patient’s financial situation,” said Greg Besase, Vice President and Head of US Dermatology for Merz North America. “Our co-payment savings program is simply one more way for us to demonstrate our commitment to the patients and physicians who benefit from our medical dermatology products.”

The enhanced co-pay savings program for the Naftin® (naftifine HCl) family of products is specifically designed to benefit dermatology patients with high-deductible insurance plans. At the beginning of a new calendar year, patients with high-deductible plans are required by their insurer to pay significant out-of-pocket costs until their deductible is met. With this program, the majority of eligible insured patients can expect a co-pay of no more than $15 for a Naftin® (naftifine HCl) prescription.

“Merz has a strong reputation in the dermatology space for delivering excellent, effective medical products. Amidst the complexities of the current managed care landscape, it is encouraging to realize that they are also committed to making those same products accessible and affordable,” said Dr. Emil Tanghetti, President of the Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery in Sacramento, California. “Patient-centric initiatives such as the Naftin® (naftifine HCl) co-payment savings program are clear evidence of Merz’s ongoing leadership in medical dermatology.”

The most recent addition to the Merz Dermatology franchise is Naftin® (naftifine HCl) Gel 2%, which improves on the original formulation of Naftin® (naftifine HCl) Gel 1% by delivering the efficacy of naftifine hydrochloride with a once-daily application treatment regimen.

¹ Symphony Health Solutions – PHAST Data, December 2013
The enhanced co-payment savings program for the Naftin® (naftifine HCl) family of products will continue through February 28th, 2014, in order to benefit insured patients whose deductibles reset at the beginning of the calendar year. The original Naftin® (naftifine HCl) co-pay savings program will resume on March 1st, 2014. For more information, please visit www.Naftin.com.

About Naftin Gel 2%
Naftin (naftifine HCl) Gel 2% is an allylamine antifungal that is applied topically once a day for 2 weeks. In clinical studies, Naftin (naftifine HCl) Gel 2% demonstrated continuous improvement in post-treatment efficacy for up to four weeks after treatment regimen had ended. The approval of Naftin® (naftifine HCl) Gel 2% is based on results from 2 pivotal U.S. clinical trials involving 47 investigational sites and included 1715 adult patients. The results indicate that patients treated with Naftin® (naftifine HCl) Gel 2% experienced clinically significant cure rates when compared to placebo.

Naftin® (naftifine hydrochloride) Gel, 2% is an allylamine antifungal indicated for the treatment of interdigital tinea pedis caused by the organisms Trichophyton rubrum, Trichophyton mentagrophytes, and Epidermophyton floccosum in patients 18 years of age and older. The most likely adverse reactions are application skin reactions. (2%)  

About Merz North America
Merz North America is a specialty healthcare company that develops and commercializes innovative treatment solutions in aesthetics, dermatology and neurosciences in the U.S. and Canada. Our ambition is to become a recognized leader in the treatment of movement disorders, and in aesthetics and dermatology. Our future is promising, and we are committed to advancing new therapeutic options and improving patients’ lives. For more than 100 years, the development of Merz products has been based on our commitment to providing innovative medical approaches that earn trust of patients, physicians and partners worldwide. Globally, the companies of Merz Pharma Group are focused on medications for treating neurological and psychiatric illnesses, and they have assumed a leading role in the field of Alzheimer’s disease research. Founded in 1908, Merz Pharma Group is a privately-owned company headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.

Strategic skin care brands in the U.S. include Naftin®, Onmel™, Mederma® and Aqua Glycolic®. For more information about Merz or the Company’s products, please visit www.merzusa.com.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION for ONMEL™, INCLUDING BOXED WARNING

WARNING: CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE, CARDIAC EFFECTS AND DRUG INTERACTIONS
Do not administer ONMEL™ for the treatment of onychomycosis in patients with evidence of ventricular dysfunction such as congestive heart failure (CHF) or a history of CHF. When itraconazole was administered intravenously to dogs and healthy human volunteers, negative inotropic effects were seen. If signs or symptoms of congestive heart failure occur during administration of ONMEL™, discontinue administration.

Drug Interactions: Co-administration of cisapride, pimozide, quinidine, dofetilide, levacetylmethadol (levomethadyl), felodipine, oral midazolam, nisoldipine, triazolam, lovastatin, simvastatin, ergot alkaloids such as dihydroergotamine, ergometrine (ergonovine), ergotamine and methylergometrine (methylergonovine) or methadone with ONMEL™ is contraindicated. ONMEL™, a potent cytochrome P450 3A4 isoenzyme system (CYP3A4) inhibitor, may increase plasma concentrations of drugs metabolized by this pathway. Serious cardiovascular events, including QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, ventricular tachycardia, cardiac arrest, and/or sudden death have occurred in patients using cisapride, pimozide, levacetylmethadol (levomethadyl), methadone or quinidine concomitantly with itraconazole and/or other CYP3A4 inhibitors.

Please see Full Prescribing Information, including Medication Guide for more information.

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