The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

30 April 2004
EMEA/CPMP/1747/04

COMMITTEE FOR PROPRIETARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (CPMP) OPINION FOLLOWING AN ARTICLE 31 REFERRAL

FOR ALL MEDICINAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING CELECOXIB, ETORICOXIB, PARECOXIB, ROFECOXIB OR VALDECOXIB

INTERNATIONAL NON-PROPRIETARY NAME (INN): CELECOXIB

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The COX-2 inhibitors celecoxib, etoricoxib, rofecoxib, parecoxib and valdecoxib, comprise a relatively new group of substances whose common pharmacological action is the selective inhibition of cyclooxygenase-2. COX-2 inhibitors have been introduced in medical practice for treatment of patients with chronic inflammatory degenerative diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

Rofecoxib and celecoxib have been first authorised in the EU for these indications, and subsequently rofecoxib for treatment of acute pain and pain due to primary dysmenorrhoea. Etoricoxib received later authorisation with similar indications in some EU-member states. Valdecoxib received a positive opinion for the rheumatic indications and primary dysmenorrhoea and was authorised in March 2003. Parecoxib, a prodrug of valdecoxib, was authorised in March 2002 for short-term treatment of post-surgical pain, when used intravenously or intramuscularly. Celecoxib received an authorisation in October 2003 in an orphan drug indication (familial adenomatous polyposis).

In July 2002, France notified the EMEA and submitted grounds for the referral under Article 31 of Council Directive 2001/83/EC as amended for medicinal products containing celecoxib, etoricoxib, rofecoxib, valdecoxib and parecoxib.

The CPMP, during its meeting held from 23 to 25 July 2002 decided to start a referral procedure under Article 31 of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, for medicinal products containing celecoxib, etoricoxib, parecoxib, rofecoxib and valdecoxib. The questions identified related to gastrointestinal and cardiovascular safety. In October 2002, the CPMP asked additional questions relating to serious hypersensitivity reactions (anaphylaxis and angioedema) and serious skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, erythema multiforme and exfoliative dermatitis in patients treated with COX-2 inhibitors.

The Marketing Authorisation Holders provided written explanations by 31 October 2002, and supplementary information by 30 April 2003 and by 15 August 2003. An oral explanation was given by the Marketing Authorisation Holders on 24 September 2003.

Upon consideration of all available data, the CPMP adopted an opinion on 20 November 2003. This opinion recommended the maintenance of the Marketing Authorisations for celecoxib containing medicinal in the indications stated in the Summary of Product Characteristics as set out in Annex III.

The list of product names concerned is given in Annex I. The scientific conclusions are provided in Annex II, together with the amended Summary of Product Characteristics in Annex III.

On the basis of the CPMP Opinion, the European Commission issued a Decision on 29 April 2004.

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* **Notes:** The information given in this document and Annexes reflect only the CPMP Opinion dated 20 November 2003. The Member States competent authorities will continue to keep the product under regular review.