



Media Release

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### **Sandoz launches authorized generic version of Lotrel®**

**Princeton, New Jersey; June 11, 2007** -- Sandoz introduced amlodipine besylate/benazepril capsules, an authorized generic equivalent of Lotrel®, in the U.S. today. Sandoz launched amlodipine besylate/benazepril after a federal court judge declined a request from Novartis to stop shipments of generic copies of the Lotrel® hypertension drug.

Sandoz is marketing its generic equivalent of Lotrel in capsules of 2.5-10 mg, 5-10 mg, 5-20 mg, and 10-20 mg. It combines in a single capsule the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor benazepril hydrochloride and the calcium channel blocker amlodipine besylate. Both of these active ingredients no longer have US patent protection.

Lotrel had sales of \$ 1.35 billion in the U.S. last year.

#### **About Sandoz**

Sandoz, a division of the Novartis group, is a global leader in the field of generic pharmaceuticals, offering a wide array of high-quality, affordable products that are no longer protected by patents. Sandoz has a portfolio of more than 840 compounds in over 5,000 forms worldwide and sells its products in more than 110 countries. Key product groups include antibiotics, treatments for central nervous system disorders, gastrointestinal medicines, cardiovascular treatments and hormone therapies. Sandoz develops, produces and markets these drugs along with pharmaceutical and biotechnological active substances and anti-infectives. In addition to the strong organic growth in recent years, Sandoz has made a series of acquisitions including Lek (Slovenia), Sabex (Canada), Hexal (Germany) and Eon Labs (U.S.). In 2006, Sandoz employed approximately 21,000 people worldwide and posted sales of USD 6 billion.

#### **Disclaimer**

The foregoing release contains forward-looking statements which can be identified by the use of terminology such as "expected", "will continue", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding the patent life of Lotrel, the potential for the continued maintenance of the injunction imposed against Teva, the potential for Novartis to succeed in the underlying litigation against Teva, potential future revenue to be earned from Lotrel and the potential impact of Teva's actions on the net sales, operating income and net income results for Novartis. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements.

There can be no guarantee that Novartis will be successful in its efforts to defend its Lotrel patent, or that the court will continue to impose an injunction against the marketing of a generic version of Lotrel by Teva, or that Novartis will ultimately succeed in its litigation against Teva. Neither can there be any guarantees that Lotrel will achieve or maintain any particular sales levels in the future or that the Novartis Group will achieve any particular levels of net sales, operating income or net income results. In particular, management's expectations regarding Lotrel could be affected by, among other things, uncertainties involved in US patent law and the US litigation process; the company's ability to maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; increased government, industry, and general public pricing pressures; competition in general; unexpected regulatory actions or delays or government regulation generally; and other risks and factors referred to in Novartis AG's current Form 20-F on file with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Novartis is providing the information in this press release as of this date and does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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Lotrel® is a registered trademark of Novartis International AG.