

To: Stakeholders
From: AstraZeneca K.K. & Shionogi & CO., LTD.
Date: December 27, 2004

rosuvastatin calcium

It was reported at Pharmaceutical Affairs Council of the MHLW on December 24, 2004 that the regulatory approval be granted for rosuvastatin calcium (trade name: Crestor[®]; to be co-marketed by AstraZeneca K.K. and Shionogi & Co., Ltd. in Japan) discovered by Shionogi & Co., Ltd., developed & filed by AstraZeneca K.K., after planning for post marketing surveillance has been fully coordinated. Based on this point, AstraZeneca K.K. and Shionogi & Co., Ltd. intend to devise and implement a more effective PMS plan.

Crestor[®] has been approved in 68 countries, and launched in more than 50 countries including Europe, the USA and Canada. Globally Crestor[®] has been administered to 4 million patients, and generated more than 14.5 million prescriptions.

The risk-benefit balance has been proven positive from its overseas post-marketing safety data, and the accumulated data so far do not indicate that Crestor[®]'s safety profile is any different from that of other marketed statins.

Nonetheless, its clinical experiences in Japanese remain limited. Therefore, we believe our top priority upon its launch must be to demonstrate its safety in Japanese. Therefore, AstraZeneca K.K. and Shionogi Co., Ltd. plan to start promoting this product widely to general clinical practices only after its safety has been fully verified in Japanese.

We are confident that this plan will serve two objects in the best way, i.e. to provide sufficient comforts to patients and medical professionals in using this product as a reliable hyperlipidemia treatment which needs to be used for a long term as well as to develop Crestor[®] in the market and eventually grow it to be a big product.

Both AstraZeneca K.K. and Shionogi Co., Ltd. share the view of what will be the best for Crestor[®] from its long-term perspective, and will implement our shared commitment of developing Crestor[®] as a medicine that brings its true value to the hyperlipidemia patients.