WHO recommends the use of Ronapreve™ (casirivimab and imdevimab) in COVID-19 patients

Basel, 24 September 2021

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued new conditional recommendations on the use of Ronapreve™ (casirivimab and imdevimab) in non-severe COVID-19 patients who are at highest risk of severe disease, and in patients with severe and critical infection who have seronegative status (meaning they have not mounted a natural antibody response of their own). The new guidance is an important development for patients and the global healthcare community as the need for multiple treatment options across different disease stages and severities remains enormous.

The efficacy and safety of Ronapreve has been studied across multiple phase III clinical trials in non-hospitalised and hospitalised COVID-19 patients, and in the preventive setting. It has been approved for use in Japan and conditionally in the United Kingdom, and is authorised for emergency or temporary pandemic use in additional territories such as the United States, India and Canada. Currently, Ronapreve is available to COVID-19 patients in more than 30 countries via bilateral purchase agreements across many geographies and economies, including upper middle income (UMICs) and lower middle-income countries (LMICs).

Given the impact that the pandemic continues to have, Roche teams are working around the clock with our partner Regeneron to make Ronapreve available as quickly and widely as possible. Early in the development process, we completed the usually very long-term technology transfers in record time to our biggest production facility, which is dedicated exclusively to producing treatments (investigational and authorised) for patients with COVID-19. Together with Regeneron, we have been able to increase the global supply of Ronapreve to at least 3.5 times the original capacity to enable access for more people.

To support rapid and broad access around the globe, we have utilised international differential pricing to address affordability challenges in low and middle income countries. In addition, we are in advanced discussions with partners of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Initiative on making a donation of Ronapreve for distribution in low-income countries (LICs) and LMICs to expedite access and to supplement our pricing solutions in these markets.

We stand together with society, governments, healthcare providers and all those working towards the common goal of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Roche
Roche is a global pioneer in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics focused on advancing science to improve people’s lives. The combined strengths of pharmaceuticals and diagnostics under one roof have made Roche
the leader in personalised healthcare – a strategy that aims to fit the right treatment to each patient in the best way possible.

Roche is the world’s largest biotech company, with truly differentiated medicines in oncology, immunology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology and diseases of the central nervous system. Roche is also the world leader in in vitro diagnostics and tissue-based cancer diagnostics, and a frontrunner in diabetes management.

Founded in 1896, Roche continues to search for better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases and make a sustainable contribution to society. The company also aims to improve patient access to medical innovations by working with all relevant stakeholders. More than thirty medicines developed by Roche are included in the World Health Organization Model Lists of Essential Medicines, among them life-saving antibiotics, antimalarials and cancer medicines. Moreover, for the twelfth consecutive year, Roche has been recognised as one of the most sustainable companies in the Pharmaceuticals Industry by the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI).

The Roche Group, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, is active in over 100 countries and in 2019 employed about 98,000 people worldwide. In 2019, Roche invested CHF 11.7 billion in R&D and posted sales of CHF 61.5 billion. Genentech, in the United States, is a wholly owned member of the Roche Group. Roche is the majority shareholder in Chugai Pharmaceutical, Japan. For more information, please visit www.roche.com.

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