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News Release

Treatment of COVID-19:

Bayer to donate one million tablets of chloroquine for use in Italy

Added by AIFA along with other drugs to the list of medicines for off-label use against COVID-19

Leverkusen, April 24, 2020 – Based on a protocol signed with the AIFA (Italian Medicines Agency), Bayer will donate approximately one million chloroquine tablets for COVID-19 treatment in Italy.

AIFA's Technical-Scientific Commission added chloroquine, along with other drugs, to the list of medicines for so-called off-label use outside of the established indications to treat patients with COVID-19 on March 13, 2020. In addition, chloroquine was officially included in the so-called Vademecum for the treatment of people affected by the COVID-19 disease, 2.0 version, released by the Italian Society of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (Simit) on March 13, 2020.

“In these difficult times, Bayer is committed to helping patients around the world. This includes unprecedented collaboration with all our stakeholders including other pharmaceutical companies,” said Dr. Franco Pamparana, Head of the Medical Department of Bayer Italy.

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Bayer is supporting a number of governments to treat patients suffering from SARS-CoV-2 infection and to help ease the pressure on overwhelmed health systems. The company is exclusively donating chloroquine to health authorities to allow for coordinated and supervised emergency use of Chloroquine outside of the established indications, as prescription medicines should only be used under the guidance of a physician. It is important to note that there is no clinically proven evidence for a positive benefit-risk ratio of chloroquine as a possible COVID-19 treatment option yet available.

Bayer is the manufacturer of chloroquine, a malaria drug which the Chinese health authorities have also included in their treatment recommendations for COVID-19, outside of the EU.

Bayer is supporting the worldwide fight against the corona pandemic with its products, technical equipment, know-how and the engagement of its employees. You can find a current overview here: <https://www.bayer.com/en/coronavirus-covid-19-update.aspx> .

A digital press kit is available at:

<https://www.media.bayer.com/baynews/baynews.nsf/id/presskit-corona>

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Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition. Its products and services are designed to benefit people by supporting efforts to overcome the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population. At the same time, the Group aims to increase its earning power and create value through innovation and growth. Bayer is committed to the principles of sustainable development, and the Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world. In fiscal 2019, the Group employed around 104,000 people and had sales of 43.5 billion euros. Capital expenditures amounted to 2.9 billion euros, R&D expenses to 5.3 billion euros. For more information, go to www.bayer.com.

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df (2020-0112E)

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