

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medical Device Company Sponsors Third Annual National Safe Handling Awareness Month Yearly Event Aims to Protect Healthcare Workers from Hazardous Drug Exposure

COLUMBUS, OH (April 11, 2011) – Carmel Pharma, Inc. – the Columbus, OH-based maker of the PhaSeal® System for the safe handling of hazardous drugs – is proud to once again be the Official Sponsor of the Third Annual National Safe Handling Awareness Month. Taking place each April, National Safe Handling Awareness Month is a campaign to further education surrounding the safe handling of hazardous drugs (such as chemotherapy) in the healthcare setting.

“Every day, nurses, pharmacists, cleaning personnel and other healthcare workers face exposure to hazardous drugs that can be very damaging to healthy cells,” said David Schneider, President of Carmel Pharma, Inc. “As a trusted leader in the ‘safe handling’ industry, we take great responsibility in providing education about these risks and ensuring that they are well-communicated and understood so healthcare institutions can protect their workers accordingly using the clinically-proven measures available to them.”

In recognition of this campaign, Carmel Pharma will support a complimentary continuing education (CE) webinar that will be presented on National Safe Handling Awareness Day, Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at both 1pm and 3pm EST. Interested participants may register for the event at www.statce.com/SHAD2011/. More than 1300 oncology nurses and pharmacists took advantage of this free CE offering in 2010, which was, and will again be, followed by a live “Ask the Experts” session featuring some of the industry’s most respected thought leaders.

The Importance of Safe Handling

In 2004, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released an alert stating that “working with or near hazardous drugs in healthcare settings may cause skin rashes, infertility, miscarriage, birth defects and possibly leukemia or other cancers.”¹ Further evidence to support the need to take action in this area may be found below:

- The World Health Organization predicts a 50 percent increase of cancer cases over the next 20 years; this, combined with more potent chemotherapy drugs – as well as an increase in the use of hazardous drugs to treat non-malignant illnesses – will continue to elevate risk of exposure.²
- Two separate studies investigating the toxicity in healthcare personnel who handle cytotoxic (hazardous) drugs revealed a 40-50 percent increased risk for miscarriage. A total of 7094 pregnancies of 2976 pharmacy and nursing staff were examined.^{3,4}
- A national survey conducted by the Environmental Working Group, the American Nurses Association, Health Care Without Harm and the Environmental Health Education Center at the University of Maryland School of Nursing showed that there are links between nurses’ occupational exposure to hazardous drugs and the health problems they develop such as cancer, asthma, miscarriages and children’s birth defects.⁵

About Safe Handling Awareness Month

Now in its third year, National Safe Handling Awareness Month (April) was petitioned to raise awareness of the occupational risks associated with handling hazardous drugs and educate healthcare providers on the U.S. guidelines and safety measures that may be taken to prevent hazardous drug exposure. As the highlight of National Safe Handling Awareness Month, National Safe Handling Awareness Day (April 20) brings together national and regional educational opportunities

collectively aimed at preserving the health and well-being of the oncology healthcare professionals who devote their lives to helping others. National Safe Handling Awareness Month and Day are officially endorsed by the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) and are officially sponsored by Carmel Pharma, the maker of the PhaSeal System – today’s only clinically proven closed-system drug transfer device (CSTD) for the safe handling of hazardous drugs. For additional details on National Safe Handling Awareness Month/Day, visit www.carmelpharmausa.com/aware4 or call 866-487-9250.

About Carmel Pharma (maker of the PhaSeal System)

Carmel Pharma AB, headquartered in Gothenberg, Sweden, is the manufacturer of the PhaSeal System for the safe handling of hazardous drugs. PhaSeal is more than a system for the safe handling of hazardous drugs. It’s the only clinically proven closed-system drug transfer device (CSTD) available today and is validated by more than 17 independent, peer-reviewed, published clinical studies. Distinguished by prominent thought leaders as the “Gold Standard” in safe handling, PhaSeal’s *airtight* Expansion Chamber and *leakproof* Double Membrane connections prevent exposure to hazardous drugs, including aerosols and vapors, and make it the only system that meets the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) definition of a true CSTD. Its streamlined design and universally-compatible components make the system easy to use from preparation and administration to waste disposal.

In the United States, PhaSeal is distributed by an U.S. affiliate office, Carmel Pharma, Inc., located in Columbus, OH. The PhaSeal System has been in use in the U.S. since 1999 and implemented in more than 2000 cancer facilities, infusion centers and private practices, including M.D. Anderson and Texas Children’s in Houston, TX; City of Hope in Duarte, CA; Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA; Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN; and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, just to name a few. For more information on Carmel Pharma or the PhaSeal System, please visit www.phaseal.com or email info@carmelpharmausa.com. To request additional product details, high-resolution imagery, story ideas and expert references, or to learn more about the topic of safe handling from today’s clinical thought leaders, please visit www.carmelpharmausa.com/media or contact Laura Scherer at 614-318-2635 or laura.scherer@carmelpharma.com.

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¹ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The NIOSH Publication No. 2004-165 page. Available at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-165/. Accessed July 24, 2009.

² World Health Organization. The WHO Cancer Home page. Available at: www.who.int/cancer/en/. Accessed July 24, 2009.

³ Valanis B, Vollmer W, Steele P. Occupational exposure to antineoplastic agents: self-reported miscarriages and stillbirths among nurses and pharmacists. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 1999; 41(8): 632-638.

⁴ Peelen S, Roeleveld N, Heederik D, Krombout H, de Kort W. Toxic effects on reproduction in hospital personnel. ISBN 90 5749 255 5.

⁵ Environmental Working Group. The Nurses’ Health page. Available at: www.ewg.org/sites/nurse_survey/analysis/main.php. Accessed July 24, 2009.