

Abbott Receives Approval in Australia for FreeStyle® Libre—the Revolutionary Glucose Monitoring System for People with Diabetes

- FREESTYLE LIBRE SYSTEM ELIMINATES ROUTINE FINGER PRICKS FOR GLUCOSE MEASUREMENTS^[1] AND REQUIRES NO FINGER PRICKS FOR CALIBRATION

- INNOVATIVE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DIABETES IMPROVE THEIR DIABETES MANAGEMENT

ABBOTT PARK, Ill., Feb. 16, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Today, Abbott (NYSE:ABT) announced that it has received approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia for its FreeStyle® Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System, a revolutionary new glucose sensing technology for insulin-using Australians with diabetes^{2,3}. The system eliminates the need for routine finger pricks¹, reading glucose levels through a sensor that can be worn on the back of the upper arm for up to 14 days. In addition, no finger prick calibration is needed — a key differentiator from current continuous glucose monitoring systems.

Abbott's FreeStyle Libre System consists of a small, round sensor — approximately the size of two stacked Australian 20-cent coins — worn on the back of the upper arm; the system measures glucose every minute in interstitial fluid through a small (5mm long, 0.4mm wide) filament that is inserted just under the skin and held in place with a small adhesive pad. A handheld reader is scanned over the sensor to get a glucose result painlessly in less than one second, without the need to draw blood routinely¹. Each scan displays a real-time glucose result, a historical trend and the direction the glucose is heading. The reader holds up to 90 days of data, providing a historical snapshot of glucose levels over time. The FreeStyle Libre System software enables the data to be presented in a user-friendly, visual chart driving a more productive discussion with health care professionals around treatment and any necessary modification to it.

"We know through our research that pain, inconvenience and indiscretion of finger pricking were the key reasons people with diabetes aren't managing their diabetes as well as they should," said Jared Watkin, senior vice president, Diabetes Care, Abbott. "Addressing these concerns has guided the development of FreeStyle Libre — a transformational product designed to not only remove the pain of routine finger pricking¹ but also seamlessly integrate into daily lives — empowering people with diabetes to make better-informed treatment decisions and live their best lives through better health."

According to the International Diabetes Federation, there are 415 million people around the globe living with diabetes, and that number is projected to increase to 642 million by the year 2040—215 million of which will be in the Western Pacific region⁴. The FreeStyle Libre System eliminates the challenges of routine finger pricking¹ for insulin-using adults with diabetes aged 18 years and older, enabling them to maintain a better understanding of their glucose levels^{2,3}.

"People with diabetes find finger pricking to be painful and inconvenient and in turn, they often test glucose levels less frequently, which can then lead to suboptimal diabetes management," said Prof. Stephen Twigg, head of the Dept of Endocrinology RPA Hospital and Kellion Professor of Endocrinology at the University of Sydney. "The FreeStyle Libre System will significantly advance the field of glucose monitoring, by offering not only a convenient and painless way to acquire more frequent glucose readings, but also in enabling detailed actionable glucose profiles, to help both healthcare professionals and their patients to better manage diabetes and people to live healthier lives."

The FreeStyle Libre System is currently available in several countries in Europe, and will be available in Australia in the coming months. In the meantime, Australians can register their interest in receiving updates on FreeStyle Libre System by visiting www.FreeStyleLibre.com.au.

About Abbott:

At Abbott, we're committed to helping you live your best possible life through the power of health. For more than 125 years, we've brought new products and technologies to the world—in nutrition, diagnostics, medical devices and branded generic pharmaceuticals—that create more possibilities for more people at all stages of life. Today, 74,000 of us are working to help people live not just longer, but better, in the more than 150 countries we serve.

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¹ A finger prick test using a blood glucose meter is required during times of rapidly changing glucose levels when interstitial fluid glucose levels may not accurately reflect blood glucose levels or if hypoglycaemia or impending hypoglycaemia is reported by the system or when symptoms do not match the system readings.

² The device FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System Sensor is only intended to be used by patients (aged 18 years and older) with insulin dependent diabetes mellitus

³ Health professionals and consumers should be aware about the limitations of available scientific evidence for use of FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring System in any other groups of patients who require diabetes management

⁴ 7th Edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas, <http://www.diabetesatlas.org/>



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