

Media Release

Hyphens Pharma obtains exclusive rights to commercialise Metoject® subcutaneous autoinjector pen in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam

- **Metoject® subcutaneous autoinjector pen administers methotrexate, a well-established first-line treatment for rheumatoid arthritis**
- **Metoject® is also indicated for treatment of plaque psoriasis**
- **Metoject® has already been commercialised in over 15 countries in Europe, the United States, and Japan**

Singapore, 11 March 2025 – Hyphens Pharma International Limited (“**Hyphens Pharma**”, “**凯帆药剂国际有限公司**”, or the “**Company**”, and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”), Singapore’s leading specialty pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare group, is pleased to announce that its subsidiary, Hyphens Pharma Pte. Ltd., has entered into a marketing and distribution agreement with medac Gesellschaft für klinische Spezialpräparate m.b.H. (“**medac**”) for the exclusive rights to register and commercialise Metoject® subcutaneous autoinjector pen in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (the “**Agreement**”).

Metoject® administers methotrexate, a well-established first-line treatment for rheumatoid arthritis under both the European and American guidelines¹. Additionally, Metoject® is indicated for the treatment of plaque psoriasis. While the oral administration of methotrexate has been reported to show significant interindividual variability in bioavailability², a once-weekly administration via subcutaneous injection ensures high bioavailability. Furthermore, studies have demonstrated that methotrexate subcutaneous injection has a lower intensity of certain gastrointestinal side effects compared to the oral drug³.

¹ Smolen JS, et al. Ann Rheum Dis. 2023 Jan;82(1):3-18 & Arnold MJ. Am Fam Physician. 2022;106(3):340-342

² Lebbe C, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 1994; 53(7) 475-477

³ Rutkowska-Sak L, et al. Reumatologia 2009; 47 (4) 207-211 & Cipriani P, et al. Clin Ther 2014; 36(3) 427-435

The autoinjector pen's design ensures simple two-step self-injection with an enhanced safety feature of a built-in needle cover to prevent any accidental skin pricks. It is available in multiple strengths (including 7.5mg, 10mg and 15mg), allowing medical professionals to provide tailored treatment based on individual patient needs. In 2020, there were an estimated 525,000 rheumatoid arthritis patients in Southeast Asia⁴. Metoject® pen has already been commercialised in over 15 countries in Europe, the United States, and Japan.



Metoject® subcutaneous autoinjector pen

⁴ GBD 2021 Rheumatoid Arthritis Collaborators. Lancet Rheumatol. 2023 Sep 25;5(10):e594-e610

Mr Frank Lucaßen, Chief Executive Officer of medac commented: *“We were looking for a partner in Southeast Asia with strong regulatory and sales and marketing capabilities, and Hyphens Pharma clearly stood out as a leading specialty pharma company focused on the commercialisation of innovative pharmaceutical products in the ASEAN region. We look forward to working closely with them to commercialise Metoject® in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam and further expand its market reach in Southeast Asia.”*

Mr Lim See Wah (林世华), Chairman and CEO of Hyphens Pharma remarked: *“We are delighted to work with Medac to bring Metoject® to Southeast Asia as it provides an effective, safe and convenient treatment benefitting rheumatoid arthritis and plaque psoriasis patients in the region. Metoject® is a welcome addition to our Specialty Pharma portfolio expanding pharmaceutical treatment options for rheumatologists and dermatologists in ASEAN.”*

The Agreement will not have a material effect on the net tangible assets or earnings per share of the Group for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.

End.

About Hyphens Pharma International Limited

Hyphens Pharma International Limited and its subsidiaries (the "Group") is Singapore's leading specialty pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare group, leveraging on its diverse footprint in ASEAN countries. The Group has a direct presence in Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and is supplemented by a marketing and distribution network covering 14 other markets – Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong S.A.R., Macau S.A.R., Myanmar, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

Singapore is the Group's regional headquarters, where its strategic planning, finance, regulatory affairs, research and development, legal, business development and logistics operations are based. The Group's core business comprises the following segments: Specialty Pharma Principals, Proprietary Brands, and Medical Hypermart & Digital. Besides marketing and selling a range of specialty pharmaceutical products in selected ASEAN countries through exclusive distributorship or licensing and supply agreements with brand principals mainly from Europe and the United States, the Group also develops, markets and sells its own proprietary range of dermatological products and health supplement products. In addition, the Group operates a medical hypermart for healthcare professionals, healthcare institutions and retail pharmacies, to supply pharmaceutical products and medical supplies and an online pharmacy for doctors to prescribe and have medications delivered to their patients' homes.

Further information on the Hyphens Group can be found online at www.hyphensgroup.com.

About medac Gesellschaft für klinische Spezialpräparate m.b.H.

medac Gesellschaft für klinische Spezialpräparate m.b.H. and its subsidiaries (the “medac group”) produces and distributes medical products in four key areas: rheumatology, urology, hematology and oncology. At medac group, we believe that health is humanity’s most valuable resource. Since 1970, our mission has been to improve patients’ quality of life worldwide by making the best medical treatments available. As a globally operating pharmaceutical company headquartered in Germany, we provide high-quality medical treatments for patients worldwide in more than 90 countries. With more than 2,000 employees we are committed to improving human health.

Our products are manufactured in Germany and other European countries to the highest standards, utilizing our own logistics center and production sites, and subsequently distributed worldwide. We are constantly working to improve authorized medicines and to develop innovative therapies in the fields of rheumatology, urology, hematology, and oncology. Part of our mission is to provide safe, high-quality and innovative original products, as well as generics and biosimilars. In this way, we make vital treatments accessible to those affected.

Further information on medac can be found online at www.medac-group.com.

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