Subject: [HEALTHGAP] UNITAID Response to Bristol Myers Squibb Interrupted Production of HIV Medicines for Infants

Geneva 7 June 2010 — UNITAID is deeply concerned that the provision of a key paediatric AIDS medicine produced by Bristol Myers Squibb will be interrupted in June 2010 until at least April 2011. The medicine, didanosine 25mg and 50 mg, is supplied by UNITAID through the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) to between 4000-7 000 infants in 40 countries. Interruption of treatment would seriously jeopardise these young children’s survival.

UNITAID urges Bristol Myers Squibb to take all the necessary measures to ensure continued supply of quality, lifesaving didanosine 25mg and 50 mg for the duration of its transition to other manufacturers so as to avoid interruption of treatment for the children whose life depends on it. UNITAID will continue to monitor the situation closely.

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