



For Immediate Release

Contact:  
James Heins  
(203) 588-8069  
[james.heins@pharma.com](mailto:james.heins@pharma.com)

## **PURDUE PHARMA L.P. SUSPENDS MARKETING OF PALLADONE™ CAPSULES**

### **Company Plans Product Reformulation**

**July 13, 2005** - Purdue Pharma L.P. announced the immediate, voluntary suspension of the marketing and sale of Palladone™ (hydromorphone HCl extended-release) Capsules. This action comes as a result of recent meetings between Purdue and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in which the Agency expressed concern that patients could be at significant risk of overdose if they fail to follow the warnings contained in the product's Medication Guide and Prescribing Information against the consumption of alcohol while taking Palladone Capsules. Based on this concern, the FDA requested that the company voluntarily suspend marketing of the product. Purdue has implemented a plan to reformulate Palladone Capsules to reduce the risk of an alcohol interaction with the product.

The FDA has agreed to entertain a proposal for use of Palladone Capsules in certain institutional settings, such as hospitals and in-patient hospices, and the company is reviewing whether such a limited distribution would be feasible.

Palladone was approved by the FDA in September 2004 for the management of persistent, moderate to severe pain in patients requiring continuous, around-the-clock analgesia with a high potency opioid for an extended period of time (weeks to months) or longer. Purdue developed professional prescribing information and a patient Medication Guide with strong warnings, including a boxed warning, which clearly state the risks of consuming alcohol when taking Palladone Capsules.

Purdue has made a complete and timely disclosure of all safety information to the FDA. The company discovered an alcohol interaction issue based on laboratory tests performed and submitted to FDA as part of its NDA submission. Subsequent to the approval, the company conducted tests in healthy human volunteers to further assess the interaction of alcohol with Palladone Capsules and disclosed those test results to the FDA in November 2004, before launching the product.

The product was launched by Purdue in February 2005 and marketed to a limited number of medical practitioners. During this period, the company monitored and collected data on medication use, abuse and drug diversion, and reported these data to the FDA. Purdue is not aware that the concomitant use of alcohol and Palladone has caused injury to any of the approximately 11,500 patients for whom the medicine has been prescribed.

**Purdue Pharma L.P. Suspends Marketing Of Palladone™ Capsules**  
**Page 2**

Palladone was launched by Purdue with clear and strong warnings about alcohol interaction. Purdue believed these warnings, and modifications to our Risk Management Program, appropriately addressed this risk. Yesterday, the FDA advised Purdue that it has concluded that the risk of alcohol interaction cannot be adequately managed with warnings.

“We acted responsibly and worked closely with the FDA in launching Palladone on a limited basis with a rigorous risk management program, and in the discussions that led to the decision to suspend marketing of the product,” said Michael Friedman, President and CEO of Purdue. “We will continue to work collaboratively with the Agency to resolve all open issues and to reintroduce the reformulated product as soon as appropriate.”

The professional prescribing information for Palladone Capsules contains the following **boxed warning**:

**FOR USE IN OPIOID-TOLERANT PATIENTS ONLY**

**WARNING:**

Palladone™ (hydromorphone HCl extended-release) Capsules are indicated for the management of persistent, moderate to severe pain in patients requiring continuous, around-the-clock analgesia with a high potency opioid for an extended period of time (weeks to months) or longer. Palladone™ Capsules should only be used in patients who are already receiving opioid therapy, who have demonstrated opioid tolerance, and who require a minimum total daily dose of opiate medication equivalent to 12 mg of oral hydromorphone. Patients considered opioid tolerant are those who are taking at least 60 mg oral morphine/day, or at least 30 mg of oral oxycodone/day, or at least 8 mg oral hydromorphone/day, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid, for a week or longer. Palladone™ Capsules should be administered once every 24 hours.

Appropriate patients for treatment with Palladone Capsules include patients who require high doses of potent opioids on an around-the-clock basis to improve pain control and patients who have difficulty attaining adequate analgesia with immediate-release opioid formulations.

Palladone Capsules are contraindicated for use on an as needed basis (i.e., prn).

Palladone™ Capsules are NOT intended to be used as the first opioid product prescribed for a patient, or in patients who require opioid analgesia for a short period of time.

Palladone™ Capsules are for use in OPIOID-TOLERANT patients ONLY. Use in non-opioid-tolerant patients may lead to FATAL RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION. Overestimating the Palladone dose when converting patients from another opioid medication can result in fatal overdose with the first dose. Due to the mean apparent 18-hour elimination half-life of Palladone, patients who receive an overdose will require an extended period of monitoring and treatment that may go beyond 18 hours. Even in the face of improvement, continued medical monitoring is required because of the possibility of extended effects.

Palladone™ Capsules contain the potent Schedule II opioid agonist, hydromorphone. Schedule II opioid agonists (which include hydromorphone, fentanyl, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, and oxymorphone), have the highest risk of fatal overdoses due to respiratory depression, as well as the highest potential for abuse. Palladone can be abused in a manner similar to other opioid agonists, legal or illicit. These risks should be considered when administering, prescribing, or dispensing Palladone in situations where the healthcare professional is concerned about increased risk of misuse, abuse, or diversion.

Persons at increased risk for opioid abuse include those with a personal or family history of substance abuse (including drug or alcohol abuse or addiction) or mental illness (e.g., major depression). Patients should be assessed for their

clinical risks for opioid abuse or addiction prior to being prescribed opioids. All patients receiving opioids should be routinely monitored for signs of misuse, abuse and addiction. Patients at increased risk of opioid abuse may still be appropriately treated with modified-release opioid formulations; however these patients will require intensive monitoring for signs of misuse, abuse, or addiction.

**Palladone Capsules are to be swallowed WHOLE and are not to be broken, chewed, opened, dissolved or crushed. Consuming alcohol while taking Palladone Capsules or taking broken, chewed, dissolved, or crushed Palladone™ Capsules or its contents can lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially fatal dose of hydromorphone.** Overestimating the Palladone dose when converting the patient from another opioid medication can result in fatal overdose with the first dose. With the long half-life of Palladone (18 hours), patients who receive the wrong dose will require an extended period of monitoring and treatment that may go beyond 18 hours. Even in the face of improvement, continued medical monitoring is required because of the possibility of extended effects.

Full prescribing information for Palladone Capsules is available at <http://www.purduepharma.com/PI/Prescription/Palladone.pdf>.

#### **About Purdue Pharma L.P.**

Purdue Pharma L.P. and its associated U.S. companies are privately held pharmaceutical companies known for pioneering research on persistent pain. Headquartered in Stamford, CT, Purdue is engaged in the research, development, production, and distribution of both prescription and over-the-counter medicines and hospital products. Additional information about Purdue can be found at [www.purduepharma.com](http://www.purduepharma.com).

###