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14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

15 MOLINA HEALTHCARE INC.,
16
Plaintiff,
17
vs.
18
19 JAZZ PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.;
JAZZ PHARMACEUTICALS IRELAND
LIMITED;
20 JAZZ PHARMACEUTICALS PUBLIC
LIMITED COMPANY;
21 HIKMA PHARMACEUTICALS PLC;
HIKMA PHARMACEUTICALS USA INC.;
22 HIKMA LABS, INC.;
EUROHEALTH (USA), INC.;
23 AMNEAL PHARMACEUTICALS LLC;
PAR PHARMACEUTICAL, INC.;
24 LUPIN LTD.;
LUPIN PHARMACEUTICALS INC.;
25 LUPIN INC.,
26
Defendants.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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1 1. Plaintiff Molina Healthcare Inc. (“Molina” or “Plaintiff”) brings this action against
2 Defendants Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Jazz Pharmaceuticals Ireland Limited, Jazz Pharmaceuticals
3 Public Limited Company, Hikma Pharmaceuticals plc, Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc., Hikma Labs,
4 Inc., Eurohealth (USA), Inc., Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC, Par Pharmaceutical, Inc., Lupin Ltd., Lupin
5 Pharmaceuticals Inc., and Lupin Inc., (collectively, “Defendants”) for violations of antitrust, consumer
6 protection, and common laws. Plaintiff’s claims concern Defendants’ scheme to restrain competition for
7 branded Xyrem and its AB rated generic bioequivalents in the United States. Defendants, the brand
8 manufacturer of Xyrem and several competitors, abused the patent laws for profit by allocating the
9 market for a drug that was invented nearly 150 years ago. Sodium oxybate, sold under the brand name
10 Xyrem (also known as γ -hydroxybutyric acid (GHB)) is a naturally occurring substance found in the
11 central nervous system. Xyrem is manufactured by Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc and its affiliates (“Jazz”).
12 Xyrem has historically been Jazz’s main source of revenue, making up 70% or more of its revenues since
13 2007. Jazz’s growth and profits have been entirely linked to its ability to increase prices on Xyrem and
14 keep the market to itself. To prevent generic competition and unlawfully maintain this monopoly, Jazz
15 first manipulated an FDA safety program meant to mitigate safety risks of certain drugs (“REMS”);
16 engaged in sham patent litigation; abused the REMS process to further frustrate generic competitors;
17 and finally agreed with other Defendants to delay generic entry in exchange for allocating the generic
18 market for AB-rated generic Xyrem. All the while, Jazz imposed a series of grotesque price hikes that
19 would have been impossible had generic entry been successful. This scheme caused Plaintiff to pay
20 inflated prices for Xyrem from July 17, 2017 through the present, until the anticompetitive effects of the
21 Defendants’ unlawful conduct cease.

22 **I. INTRODUCTION**

23 2. This litigation challenges a comprehensive anticompetitive scheme to suppress generic
24 competition for Xyrem, a leading treatment of narcolepsy. Defendants abused an FDA drug safety
25 program called “Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy,” engaged in sham patent litigation, and entered
26 into reverse payments to generic manufacturers to preserve their monopoly in Xyrem. Through this
27

1 scheme Defendants suppressed generic competition and raised the price of Xyrem 841% between 2007
2 and 2014. Third-party payors such as Plaintiff footed the bill for this manipulation.

3 3. Sodium oxybate, the active ingredient in Xyrem, is a central nervous system depressant
4 that has been widely available in the United States since the 1960s. Sodium oxybate is the chemically
5 derived version of γ -Hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), which occurs naturally in human bodies' central
6 nervous systems, as well as wine, beef, small citrus fruits, and almost all animals.¹

7 4. Narcolepsy is a disorder characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness (“EDS”) and
8 intermittent manifestations of REM sleep during wakefulness. In 1994, the Food and Drug
9 Administration’s (“FDA”) Orphan Products Development Division and a non-profit advocacy
10 organization approached a small Minnesota-based drug company, Orphan Medical, to suggest the
11 development of sodium oxybate for treatment of cataplexy, which is a common symptom of narcolepsy
12 manifested by sudden episodes of bilateral skeletal muscle weakness induced by an emotional trigger
13 such as laughter, anger, embarrassment, or surprise.

14 5. Orphan Medical began development of what would become Xyrem and, in 2002,
15 obtained FDA approval to market sodium oxybate for the treatment of cataplexy associated with
16 narcolepsy in adults. Orphan branded its product Xyrem. In 2005, Orphan Medical obtained FDA
17 approval to market Xyrem for EDS associated with narcolepsy in adults. Until 2021, Xyrem was the
18 only drug approved by the FDA to treat both EDS and cataplexy associated with narcolepsy. In 2020,
19 the FDA also approved Jazz’s follow-on sodium oxybate product, Xywav, for the treatment of those
20 conditions.

21 6. In 2005, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Inc. acquired Orphan Medical. “The acquisition was
22 unprofitable at first By 2009, Jazz was on the verge of bankruptcy. ... Jazz responded by replacing
23 its management team.”² Jazz then began a series of epic price hikes. In May of 2014, Bloomberg
24 published a ranking of drug price increases from 2007 to 2014. Xyrem ranked first with an overall
25

26 ¹ “Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), Critical Review Report,” World Health Organization Expert
Committee on Drug Dependence (2012);

27 https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/4.1GHBcritical_review.pdf

28 ² *In re Xyrem Antitrust Litig.*, Case No. 5:20-md-02966-LHK, ECF No. 138, at 2 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 13,
2021).

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