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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safe Handling Awareness Day CE Webinar Now Available On-Demand More than 1300 Participants Viewed Live Webinar Presentation on April 20

COLUMBUS, OH (April 23, 2010) – An archived version of the highly-attended Second Annual Safe Handling Awareness Day Continuing Education (CE) Webinar, originally presented on April 20, 2010, is now available on-demand. More than 1300 registered participants took advantage of the live airings of the webinar, which details new ways to approach implementing a program for the proper handling of hazardous drugs (such as chemotherapy) as well as potential areas for creating cost-savings in pharmacy.

Intended for nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy techs and healthcare risk managers, the webinar is supported by an unrestricted educational grant provided by Carmel Pharma, Inc. – the official sponsor of National Safe Handling Awareness Month (April) and Day (April 20) and the maker of the PhaSeal® closed-system drug transfer device (CSTD) for the safe handling of hazardous drugs.

To access the archived program – and to take advantage of additional CE programs for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses and healthcare risk managers – please visit www.carmelpharmausa.com/CE.

The Importance of Safe Handling

In 2004, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released an alert stating that “working with or near hazardous drugs in healthcare settings may cause skin rashes, infertility, miscarriage, birth defects and possibly leukemia or other cancers.”¹ Further evidence to support the need to take action in this area may be found below:

- The World Health Organization predicts a 50 percent increase of cancer cases over the next 20 years; this, combined with more potent chemotherapy drugs – as well as an increase in the use of hazardous drugs to treat non-malignant illnesses – will continue to elevate risk of exposure.²
- Two separate studies investigating the toxicity in healthcare personnel who handle cytotoxic (hazardous) drugs revealed a 40-50 percent increased risk for miscarriage. A total of 7094 pregnancies of 2976 pharmacy and nursing staff were examined.^{3,4}
- A national survey conducted by the Environmental Working Group, the American Nurses Association, Health Care Without Harm and the Environmental Health Education Center at the University of Maryland School of Nursing showed that there are links between nurses’ occupational exposure to hazardous drugs and the health problems they develop such as cancer, asthma, miscarriages and children’s birth defects.⁵

About Safe Handling Awareness Month

Now in its second year, National Safe Handling Awareness Month (April) was petitioned to raise awareness of the occupational risks associated with handling hazardous drugs and educate healthcare providers on the U.S. guidelines and safety measures that may be taken to prevent hazardous drug exposure. As the highlight of National Safe Handling Awareness Month, National Safe Handling Awareness Day (April 20) brings together national and regional educational opportunities collectively aimed at preserving the health and wellbeing of the oncology healthcare professionals who devote their lives to helping others. National Safe Handling Awareness Month and Day are officially endorsed by the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) and are officially sponsored by Carmel Pharma, the maker of the PhaSeal® System – today’s only clinically proven closed-system

drug transfer device (CSTD) for the safe handling of hazardous drugs. For additional details on National Safe Handling Awareness Month/Day, visit www.carmelpharmausa.com/aware5 or call 866-487-9250.

About Carmel Pharma (the maker of the PhaSeal System)

Carmel Pharma AB, headquartered in Gothenberg, Sweden, is the manufacturer of the PhaSeal System for the safe handling of hazardous drugs. In the United States, PhaSeal is distributed by an U.S. affiliate office, Carmel Pharma, Inc., located in Columbus, OH. The PhaSeal System has been in use in the U.S. since 1998 and implemented in more than 1,000 cancer facilities, infusion centers and private practices, including M.D. Anderson and Texas Children's in Houston, TX; City of Hope in Duarte, CA; Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA; SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford, IL; and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, just to name a few. For more information on Carmel Pharma or the PhaSeal System, please visit www.phaseal.com or email info@carmelpharmausa.com. To request additional product details, high-resolution imagery, story ideas and expert references, or to learn more about the topic of safe handling from today's clinical thought leaders, please visit www.carmelpharmausa.com/media or contact Emily Frydendal at 614-318-2635 or emily.frydendal@carmelpharma.com.

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¹ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The NIOSH Publication No. 2004-165 page. Available at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-165/. Accessed July 24, 2009.

² World Health Organization. The WHO Cancer Home page. Available at: www.who.int/cancer/en/. Accessed July 24, 2009.

³ Valanis B, Vollmer W, Steele P. Occupational exposure to antineoplastic agents: self-reported miscarriages and stillbirths among nurses and pharmacists. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 1999; 41(8): 632-638.

⁴ Peelen S, Roeleveld N, Heederik D, Krombout H, de Kort W. Toxic effects on reproduction in hospital personnel. ISBN 90 5749 255 5.

⁵ Environmental Working Group. The Nurses' Health page. Available at: www.ewg.org/sites/nurse_survey/analysis/main.php. Accessed July 24, 2009.