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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBBIN TASLER, INDIVIDUALLY AND  
AS SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST OF THE  
ESTATE OF LINDA BLAYLOCK,  
DECEASED

Plaintiff,

v.

MERCK SHARP & DOHME CORP.,  
AMYLIN PHARMACEUTICALS, LLC  
F/K/A AMYLIN PHARMACEUTICALS,  
INC., AND ELI LILLY AND COMPANY,  
and DOES 1-100

Defendants.

Cause No. **'13CV0897 MMANLS**

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

- 1. STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY –  
FAILURE TO WARN**
- 2. STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY –  
DESIGN DEFECT**
- 3. NEGLIGENCE**
- 4. BREACH OF IMPLIED  
WARRANTY**
- 5. BREACH OF EXPRESS  
WARRANTY**
- 6. NEGLIGENT  
MISREPRESENTATION**
- 7. FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

COMES NOW Plaintiff and complains and alleges against Defendants, Does 1 through 100, and each of them as follows:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

1. Plaintiff, ROBBIN TASLER, Individually and as Successor-in-Interest of the Estate of LINDA BLAYLOCK, deceased (“Plaintiff”), by and through her attorneys, TorHoerman Law LLC, brings this action for personal injuries and wrongful death suffered, upon information and belief, as a proximate result of LINDA BLAYLOCK (“Decedent”) being prescribed and ingesting the defective and unreasonably dangerous prescription drugs Januvia (sitagliptin phosphate); Byetta (exenatide); Bydureon (extended-release exenatide); and Janumet (combination of sitagliptin and metformin), (collectively the “Drugs”), prescription medications used to help lower blood sugar levels in adults with diabetes mellitus type 2, which at all times relevant hereto, was manufactured, designed, tested, packaged, labeled, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold by Defendants Merck & Co., Inc. and Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. (collectively, the “Merck Defendants”); Amylin Pharmaceuticals, LLC f/k/a Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Eli Lilly and Company (collectively, the “Amylin Lilly Defendants”); and Does 1 through 100 (collectively, the “Doe Defendants”). The Merck Defendants, Amylin Lilly Defendants, and the Doe Defendants collectively are the “Defendants”.

2. The true names or capacities whether individual, corporate or otherwise, of the Doe Defendants 1 through 100, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who therefore, sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff believes and alleges that each of the Defendants designated herein by fictitious names is in some manner legally responsible for the events and happenings herein referred to and caused damages proximately and foreseeably to Plaintiff and Decedent as alleged herein.

3. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants, inclusive of the Doe Defendants, was the agent, servant, partner, aider and abettor, co-conspirator, and joint venturer of each of the remaining Defendants herein and were at all times operating and

1 acting within the purpose and scope of said agency, service, employment, partnership,  
2 conspiracy, and joint venture and rendered substantial assistance and encouragement to the  
3 other Defendants, knowing that their conduct constituted a breach of duty.

4 4. There exists, and at all times herein mentioned, there existed, a unity of interest in  
5 ownership between certain Defendants and other certain Defendants such that any  
6 individuality and separateness between the certain Defendants has ceased and these  
7 Defendants are the alter ego of the other certain Defendant, and exerted control over those  
8 Defendants. Adherence to the fiction of the separate existence of these certain Defendants as  
9 any entity distinct from other certain Defendants will permit an abuse of the corporate  
10 privilege and would sanction fraud and would promote injustice.

11 5. The injuries and damages to Plaintiff and Decedent were caused by the wrongful  
12 acts, omissions, and fraudulent representations of Defendants, many of which occurred  
13 within the State of California.

14 6. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were each engaged in the business of,  
15 or were successors in interest to, entities engaged in the business of research, designing,  
16 formulating, compounding, testing, manufacturing, producing, processing, assembling,  
17 inspecting, distributing, marketing, labeling, promoting, packaging and/or advertising for  
18 sale or selling the Drugs.

19 7. At all times herein mentioned Defendants were each authorized to do or  
20 otherwise engaged in business within the State of California and did in fact supply the  
21 aforementioned products within the State of California and elsewhere.

22 8. At all times herein mentioned, the officers and directors of Defendants  
23 authorized and directed the production and promotion of the Drugs when they knew, or with  
24 the exercise of reasonable care should have known, of the hazards and dangerous  
25 propensities of the Drugs, and thereby actively participated in the tortious conduct which  
26 resulted in the physical injuries described herein.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. Jurisdiction is proper in this court pursuant to 28 USC §1332 for the reason that there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiffs and Defendants and the matter in controversy greatly exceeds the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), exclusive of interest and costs.

10. This Court has jurisdiction over the non-resident Defendants because they have done business in the State of California have committed a tort in whole or in part in the State of California, and have continuing contacts with the State of California.

11. In addition, venue of this case is proper in the Southern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because all Defendants are residents of this state.

**PLAINTIFF**

12. Plaintiff Robbin Tasler is a natural person currently residing in Casper, Wyoming. Plaintiff is the daughter and Successor-in-Interest of Linda Blaylock, deceased (the “Decedent”), who was a resident of Rawlins, Wyoming at the time Decedent ingested the Drug, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and ultimately died of said cancer. As Plaintiff herein, Robbin Tasler is bringing Plaintiff’s individual claims, including Plaintiff’s claim for the wrongful death of the Decedent, and the claims of the estate.

13. Upon information and belief, Decedent was prescribed and used the Drug beginning in or around 2008 and continued said use through at approximately March 2011. In or around May 2010, Decedent suffered severe physical, economic and emotional injuries as a result of said Drug, including but not limited to Decedent’s being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Plaintiff and Decedent were unaware that Decedent’s injuries were caused by the Drug until within two years of the filing of this complaint.

**DEFENDANTS**

14. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. (“MSDC”) is a New Jersey corporation, which has its principal place of business at 2000 Galloping Hill Rd., Kenilworth, NJ 07033. Merck may be served at CT Corporation System, 818 W. Seventh St., Los Angeles, CA 90017. MSDC

1 has conducted business and derived substantial revenue from within the State of California.

2 15. Amylin Pharmaceuticals, LLC f/k/a Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (“Amylin,  
3 LLC”) is a Delaware limited liability company, which has its principal place of business is at  
4 9360 Towne Centre Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121-3030. Amylin, LLC may be  
5 served at it’s physical address: 9360 Towne Centre Drive, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92121-  
6 3030, or by and through its registered agent: CT Corporation System, 818 W. Seventh St.,  
7 Los Angeles, CA 90017.

8 16. Eli Lilly and Company (“Eli Lilly”) is an Indiana corporation with its principal  
9 place of business located at Lilly Corporate Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46285. Eli Lilly  
10 may be served by and through its registered agent: National Registered Agents, Inc., 2875  
11 Michelle Dr., Ste. 100, Irvine, CA 92606.

12 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

13 17. This is an action for injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff and Decedent  
14 as a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent and wrongful conduct in  
15 connection with the design, development, manufacture, testing, packaging, promoting,  
16 marketing, distribution, labeling, and/or sale of the Drugs.

17 18. Defendants, directly or through their agents, apparent agents, servants or  
18 employees, upon information and belief, designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised,  
19 distributed, promoted, labeled, tested and sold the Drugs as prescriptions that, along with  
20 diet and exercise, are designed to help lower blood sugar levels in adults with type 2  
21 diabetes.

22 19. According to the American Diabetes Association, “Type 2 diabetes is the most  
23 common form of diabetes. Millions of Americans have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.  
24 [...] In type 2 diabetes, either the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the  
25 insulin. Insulin is necessary for the body to be able to use glucose for energy. When you eat  
26 food, the body breaks down all of the sugars and starches into glucose, which is the basic fuel  
27 for the cells in the body. Insulin takes the sugar from the blood into the cells. When glucose  
28

1 builds up in the blood instead of going into cells, it can lead to diabetes complications.”<sup>1</sup>

2 20. Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a chronic disease, characterized by insulin resistance  
3 and deficient insulin secretion leading to high blood sugar levels or ‘hyperglycemia’, which is  
4 the hallmark of the condition.

5 21. Diabetes remains the most frequent cause of blindness, amputations and  
6 dialysis worldwide.<sup>2</sup> With the current estimate of more than 350 million patients worldwide<sup>3</sup>  
7 it is considered to be one of the major health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

8 22. The Drugs are supposed to help prevent these diabetic complications.

9 23. The two most recently approved classes of therapeutic agents for the treatment  
10 of type 2 diabetes, glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor (GLP-1R) agonists (such as  
11 Byetta or Victoza) and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors (such as Januvia or  
12 Tradjenta), exert their actions through potentiation of incretin receptor signaling. Incretins are  
13 gut-derived hormones, principally GLP-1 and glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide  
14 (GIP), that are secreted at low basal levels in the fasting state.

15 24. Januvia was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) on or  
16 about October 16, 2006 “as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in  
17 patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus as monotherapy and in combination with metformin or  
18 a PPAR $\gamma$  agonist (e.g., thiazolidinediones) when diet and exercise plus the single agent do not  
19 provide adequate glycemic control.”<sup>4</sup>

20 25. Following FDA approval, Januvia was launched by Defendants in North America  
21 in 2006.

22  
23  
24  
25  
26 <sup>1</sup> <http://www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/type-2/?loc=DropDownDB-type2>

27 <sup>2</sup> ID

<sup>3</sup> IDF Diabetes atlas, <http://www.idf.org/diabetesatlas/5e/diabetes>.

28 <sup>4</sup> [http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/Drugatfda\\_docs/appletter/2006/021995s000ltr.pdf](http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/Drugatfda_docs/appletter/2006/021995s000ltr.pdf)

1           26. Januvia is the first in a new class of Drug that inhibit the proteolytic activity of  
2           dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4), thereby potentiating the action of endogenous  
3           glucoregulatory peptides, known as incretins.<sup>5</sup>

4           27. Byetta was approved by the FDA in April of 2005 and was marketed to the  
5           medical community and general public shortly thereafter. Janumet is pharmacologically  
6           identical to Januvia with the addition of metformin.

7           28. Byetta and Victoza are members of the new class of drugs known as glucagon-  
8           like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists.

9           29. In February 2010, concerns were published regarding the GLP-1 drugs, including  
10          Byetta, and the DPP-4 inhibitors, including Januvia, and their potential linkage with  
11          pancreatic cancer.

12          30. Writing in DIABETES CARE, Butler *et al.* published *GLP-1–Based Therapy for*  
13          *Diabetes: What You Do Not Know Can Hurt You*<sup>6</sup> wherein they wrote, “History has taught  
14          us that enthusiasm for new classes of Drug, heavily promoted by the pharmaceutical  
15          companies that market them, can obscure the caution that should be exercised when the  
16          long-term consequences are unknown. Of perhaps greatest concern in the case of the GLP-1–  
17          based Drug, including GLP-1 agonists and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors, is  
18          preliminary evidence to suggest the potential risks of asymptomatic chronic pancreatitis and,  
19          with time, pancreatic cancer.”

20          31. In addition, these researchers wrote, “However, in the context of a new class of  
21          medical therapy, the proverb ‘What you do not know cannot hurt you’ clearly does not  
22          apply. We feel that enough preliminary evidence has accumulated to suggest that there is a  
23          plausible risk that long-term recipients of GLP-1–based therapy may develop asymptomatic  
24          chronic pancreatitis (Fig. 1), and worse, subsequently a minority of individuals treated by  
25

26          <sup>5</sup> Drucker D, Easley Continuing, Kirkpatrick P. Sitagliptin. Nature Reviews Drug Discovery.  
Feb. 2007. 6:109-10.

27          <sup>6</sup> Butler PC, Dry D, Elashoff D. GLP-1–Based Therapy for Diabetes: What You Do Not Know  
28          Can Hurt You Diabetes Care February 2010 33:453-455.

1 this class of Drug may develop pancreatic cancer.”

2 32. In February 2011, the journal Gastroenterology published on-line the work of  
3 Elashoff *et al.*<sup>7</sup> titled, *Pancreatitis, pancreatic, and thyroid cancer with glucagon-like*  
4 *peptide-1-based therapies*.

5 33. These researchers used the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (AERS) with  
6 the primary goal of their analysis being to assess the association between treatment with the  
7 Drugs and an adverse event report of pancreatitis, where the drugs were listed as the primary  
8 suspect associated with a pancreatitis report in the database. A secondary goal was to  
9 examine the FDA AERS database for reported pancreatic or thyroid cancer associated with  
10 use of the Drugs, with various other anti-diabetic drugs used as controls. Metformin was not  
11 used as a control drug because it has been reported to decrease the risk of pancreatic cancer.

12 34. These researchers reported that pancreatitis, inflammation of the pancreas, was  
13 >10-fold more frequently reported as an adverse event for patients administered Byetta and  
14 >6-fold more frequently reported in patients prescribed Januvia. Both these associations  
15 were statistically significant.

16 35. Because pancreatitis is a known risk factor for pancreatic cancer,<sup>8</sup> Elashoff *et al.*  
17 evaluated the reported rates of pancreatic cancer with the Drugs compared to control events  
18 relative to Avandia (rosiglitazone).

19 36. The reported event rate for pancreatic cancer was 2.9-fold greater in patients  
20 treated with Byetta compared to other therapies. The reported event rate for pancreatic  
21 cancer was 2.7-fold greater with Januvia (and other DDP-4 inhibitors) than other therapies.

22 37. Because pancreatitis acts as a risk factor for subsequent pancreatic cancer through  
23 the mechanisms of chronic inflammation and increased cell turnover,<sup>9</sup> it is not unforeseen

24 <sup>7</sup> Elashoff M, Matveyenko AV, Gier B, Elashoff R & Butler PC Pancreatitis, pancreatic, and  
25 thyroid cancer with glucagon-like peptide-1-based therapies. Gastroenterology (2011) 141:150-  
156.

26 <sup>8</sup> Rebours V, Boutron-Ruault MC, Schnee M, et al. The natural history of hereditary  
27 pancreatitis: a national series. Gut 2009;58: 97-103.

28 <sup>9</sup> Bhanot UK, Moller P. Mechanisms of parenchymal injury and signaling pathways in ectatic  
ducts of chronic pancreatitis: implications for pancreatic carcinogenesis. Lab Invest  
*Footnote continued on next page*



1 that there is a progressive increased risk of pancreatic cancer with prolonged exposure to the  
2 Drugs.

3 38. These researchers noted that the potential to increase the risk of cancer might be  
4 expected to occur by “permitting declaration of tumors previously held in check by an intact  
5 immune system” as has been published by others within the world’s medical literature.

6 39. On May 13, 2011, the Arzneimittelkommission der deutschen Ärzteschaft (Drug  
7 Commission of the German Medical Association - AkdÄ) published *Pancreatic cancers*  
8 *associated with exenatide (Byetta ®)* on its website.<sup>10</sup> Byetta is a diabetes drug that acts like  
9 Januvia.

10 40. In the German adverse event database, reporting of pancreatic cancer was also  
11 unusually high in association with Byetta (11 cases in 4 years, with yearly 15,000-25,000  
12 treated patients).<sup>11</sup>

13 41. The period between the start of treatment with Byetta and a diagnosis of  
14 pancreatic cancer was on average 12.2 months (within a range of 2-33 months).

15 42. The manufacturers of the Drugs have suggested that the most likely reason for the  
16 apparent association between the use of these Drugs and acute pancreatitis is the increased  
17 risk of pancreatitis in patients with type 2 diabetes.<sup>12</sup>

18 43. However, recent animal studies showing pancreatitis as a consequence of GLP-1  
19 mimetic therapy challenge that assumption and lead to the conclusion that asymptomatic  
20 chronic pancreatitis is an adverse effect of GLP-1-based treatment.<sup>13,14</sup>

21 *Footnote continued from previous page*  
22 2009;89:489– 497.

23 <sup>10</sup> <http://www.akdae.de/Arzneimittelsicherheit/Bekanntgaben/Archiv/2011/20110513.html>

24 <sup>11</sup> Arzneimittelkommission der deutschen Ärzteschaft. Aus der UAW-Datenbank“: Pankreaskarzinome im Zusammenhang mit Exenatid (Byetta®). Dtsch Arztebl, (2011) 108: A-1080; (as cited by Vangoitsenhoven R, Mathieu C, Van Der Schueren B. GLP1 and cancer: friend or foe? Endocrine Related Cancer. 2012 Jun 12. [Epub ahead of print])

25 <sup>12</sup> Monami M, Lamanna C, Marchionni N, Mannucci E. Rosiglitazone and risk of cancer: a meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials. Diabetes Care 2008;31:1455–1460.

26 <sup>13</sup> Matveyenko AV, Dry S, Cox HI, et al. Beneficial endocrine but adverse exocrine effects of sitagliptin in the HIP rat model of type 2 diabetes, interactions with metformin. Diabetes 2009;58: 1604–1615.

27 <sup>14</sup> Nachnani JS, Bulchandani DG, Nookala A, et al. Biochemical and histological effects of  
28 *Footnote continued on next page*

1 44. GLP-1 receptors are abundantly expressed in the pancreas, and the Drugs'  
2 therapy has been shown to lead to increased pancreatic ductal replication, acinar to ductal  
3 metaplasia or cellular change, and, less commonly, acute pancreatitis in a rat model of type 2  
4 diabetes.<sup>15</sup>

5 45. Increased ductal turnover and acinar to ductal metaplasia are both well-  
6 established characteristics of chronic pancreatitis in humans.<sup>16</sup>

7 46. It has also been suggested that immunomodulatory effects of DPP-4 inhibition  
8 might increase risk for all cancers.<sup>17,18</sup>

9 47. Butler *et al.*<sup>19</sup> also reported that human and rodent pancreases contain numerous  
10 GLP-1 receptors in areas in which cancer is thought to originate, and mice that are  
11 genetically predisposed to pancreatic cancer develop the disease more quickly than usual in  
12 response to Byetta.

13 48. In April 2012, Public Citizen, a non-profit consumer-advocacy organization  
14 based in Washington DC, sent a petition to the FDA to withdraw another drug in the GLP-1  
15 class, Victoza (liraglutide) from the market.

16 49. Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of the health and research group at Public Citizen, said  
17 at that time, "We don't just go after Drug casually...(W)e only go after Drug when there is  
18 clear evidence of unique dangers or risks, and when there is no evidence of a unique clinical

19 *Footnote continued from previous page*

20 exendin-4 (exenatide) on the rat pancreas. *Diabetologia* 2009;58:1604-1615.

21 <sup>15</sup> Matveyenko AV, Dry S, Cox HI, et al. Beneficial endocrine but adverse exocrine effects of  
sitagliptin in the HIP rat model of type 2 diabetes, interactions with metformin. *Diabetes*  
2009;58: 1604-1615.

22 <sup>16</sup> Bhanot UK, Moller P. Mechanisms of parenchymal injury and signaling pathways in ectatic  
ducts of chronic pancreatitis: implications for pancreatic carcinogenesis. *Lab Invest*  
2009;89:489- 497.

23 <sup>17</sup> Havre PA, Abe M, Urasaki Y, et al. The role of CD26/dipeptidyl peptidase IV in cancer.  
24 *Front Biosci* 2008;13:1634-1645.

25 <sup>18</sup> Matteucci E, Giampietro O. Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (CD26): knowing the function before  
inhibiting the enzyme. *Curr Med Chem* 2009;16:2943-2951.

26 <sup>19</sup> Gier B, Matveyenko AV, Kirakossian D, et al. Chronic GLP-1 Receptor Activation by  
27 Exendin-4 Induces Expansion of Pancreatic Duct Glands in Rats and Accelerates Formation of  
Dysplastic Lesions and Chronic Pancreatitis in the KrasG12D Mouse Model. *Diabetes* May  
28 2012 vol. 61 no. 5 1250-1262

1 advantage.”

2 50. Dr. Wolfe said at the time that his concern extends to other diabetes drugs that  
3 alter the GLP-1 pathway, which would include Januvia and Byetta.

4 51. As a result of the defective nature of the Drugs, persons who were prescribed and  
5 ingested the Drugs for even a brief period of time, including Decedent herein, were at  
6 increased risk for developing life-threatening pancreatic cancer. Once that cancer spreads, a  
7 patient stands just a 1.8% chance of surviving for longer than five years.

8 52. Due to the flawed formulation of the Drugs, ingestion of any of the Drugs  
9 increases the risk of pancreatic cancer in those diabetic patients to whom it is prescribed.

10 53. Defendants concealed their knowledge that the Drugs, can cause life threatening  
11 pancreatic cancer from Decedent, other consumers, the general public, and the medical  
12 community. Indeed, the manufacturers of Byetta and Januvia do not even mention  
13 ‘pancreatic cancer’ in their drugs’ respective product inserts.

14 54. Specifically, the Defendants did not adequately inform consumers and the  
15 prescribing medical community about the risks of pancreatic cancer associated with usage of  
16 the Drugs, nor did Defendants warn or otherwise advise physicians to institute monitoring  
17 procedures looking for the first signs of changes within the pancreas.

18 55. The current warnings for the Drugs are simply inadequate. The Defendants have  
19 failed and continue to fail in their duties to warn and protect the consuming public, including  
20 the Plaintiff and Decedent herein.

21 56. Even if the warnings were sufficient, which Plaintiff strongly denies, the Drugs  
22 still lack any benefit sufficient to tolerate the extreme risk posed by the ingestion of these  
23 drugs. Other medications to treat diabetes are available. The Drugs are quite simply too  
24 dangerous and defective as formulated. The Defendants should withdraw the Drugs from the  
25 market.

26 57. Defendants willfully, wantonly, and with malice withheld the knowledge of  
27 increased risk of pancreatic cancer in users of the Drugs to prevent any chances of their  
28

1 product's registration being delayed or rejected by FDA.

2 58. As the manufacturers and distributors of the Drugs, Defendants knew or should  
3 have known that the Drugs' usage was associated with pancreatic cancer.

4 59. With the knowledge of the true relationship between use of the Drugs and  
5 pancreatic cancer, rather than taking steps to pull the drugs off the market or provide strong  
6 warnings, Defendants promoted and continue to promote the Drugs as a safe and effective  
7 treatment for adults with type 2 diabetes.

8 60. The Drugs are some of the top selling drugs in the country.

9 61. In 2010, the worldwide sales of Byetta reached \$0.710 billion and visiongain  
10 predicts sales to reach \$1.00 billion by 2015 and \$1.28 billion by 2021.<sup>20</sup>

11 62. Januvia is one of the top selling drugs in the country, and further, Januvia is one  
12 of Merck's best sellers with \$919 million in sales the first quarter of 2012 alone.<sup>21</sup>

13 63. While Defendants have enjoyed great financial success from their blockbuster  
14 drugs, they continue to place American citizens at risk of developing deadly pancreatic  
15 cancer.

16 64. Consumers, including Decedent, who have used the Drugs for treatment of their  
17 type 2 diabetes had several alternative safer products available to treat their condition and  
18 have not been adequately warned about the significant risks and lack of benefits associated  
19 with the Drugs' therapy.

20 65. Defendants, through their affirmative misrepresentations and omissions, actively  
21 concealed from Decedent and Decedent's physicians the true and significant risks associated  
22 with the use of the Drugs.

23 66. As a result of Defendants' actions, Decedent and Decedent's physicians were  
24 unaware, and could not have reasonably known or have learned through reasonable diligence  
25 that Decedent would be exposed to the risks identified in this Complaint. The increased  
26

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27 <sup>20</sup> [www.pipelinereview.com/store/toc/sample\\_pages\\_vg0151.pdf](http://www.pipelinereview.com/store/toc/sample_pages_vg0151.pdf)

28 <sup>21</sup> Merck 2012 Januvia Product Insert

1 risks and subsequent medical damages associated with Decedent's use of the Drugs were the  
2 direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct.

3 67. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants have directly marketed and  
4 distributed the Drugs to the medical community.

5 68. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants have directly marketed the Drugs to  
6 the consuming public throughout the United States, including the Decedent, herein.

7 69. Defendants departed from and failed to meet requirements of laws, regulations  
8 and class and product specific requirements including failing to undertake adequate  
9 post approval marketing studies on safety of the Drugs as dictated by good pharmaceutical  
10 science standards.

11 70. Defendants both over-promoted the Drugs and under-warned about their risks,  
12 including:

- 13 a. in print advertising;  
14 b. on their websites and blogs;  
15 c. advertised to users that use of the Drugs was "safe" whereas it was not  
16 and Defendants knew or should have know it was not; and  
17 d. promoted the Drugs to doctors, clinics and users as safer than (or as safe  
18 as) other diabetes drugs.

19 71. Defendants did not perform adequate safety testing on the Drugs as required by  
20 good pharmaceutical science practice.

21 72. Defendants failed to provide proper and full information as to the safety of the  
22 Drugs.

23 73. Defendants failed to ensure that full and correct safety labeling and warnings  
24 were used in pharmacy sheets that accompanied the Drugs to the purchaser.

25 74. Defendants have never sought to enlarge their warnings to include a warning  
26 about pancreatic cancer risks associated with the use of the Drugs.

27 75. Instead, Defendants marketed (and continue to market) the Drugs as having a low  
28

1 risk of side effects and continue to minimize the Drugs' deadly side effects.

2 76. Manufacturers such as the Defendants, herein, are required to have systems in  
3 place to collect and analyze any complaints they receive from doctors and hospitals about  
4 their products.

5 77. Defendants did not timely apprise the F.D.A., the public, nor treating physicians  
6 of the defect(s) in Defendants' Drugs, despite Defendants' knowledge that injuries had  
7 occurred and had been reported to Defendants due to the above-described defects.

8 78. At all times mentioned herein, Defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable  
9 care should have known, that the Drugs were of such a nature that they were not properly  
10 designed, manufactured, tested, inspected, packaged, labeled, distributed, marketed,  
11 examined, sold, supplied, prepared, and/or provided with proper warnings, was not suitable  
12 for the purpose it was intended and was unreasonably likely to injure the product's users.

13 79. Decedent and Decedent's prescribing health care providers were unaware of the  
14 true degree and incidence of pancreatic cancer associated with the use of the Drugs and  
15 would have used and prescribed other methods for diabetes control if they had been so  
16 informed.

17 80. Decedent suffered from severe and personal injuries, which were permanent and  
18 lasting in nature, including death, physical pain, and mental anguish, including diminished  
19 enjoyment of life, as well as the need for medical treatment, monitoring and/or medications.

20 81. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid conduct of Defendants and each  
21 of them as set forth hereinafter, Decedent suffered injuries, including but not limited to  
22 pancreatic cancer, which resulted in his death and damages to Decedent and Plaintiff in a  
23 sum in excess of the jurisdictional limits of the Court.

24 82. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid conduct of the Defendants, and  
25 each of them, Decedent was compelled to incur obligations for physicians, surgeons, nurses,  
26 hospital care, medicine, hospices, x-rays, medical supplies, and other medical treatment, the  
27 true and exact amount thereof being unknown to Plaintiff at this time, and Plaintiff prays  
28

1 leave to amend this complaint accordingly when the true and exact cost thereof is  
2 ascertained.

3 83. As a further direct and proximate result of the said conduct of the Defendants,  
4 and each of them, Decedent suffered a loss of income, wages, profits and commissions, a  
5 diminishment of earning potential, and other pecuniary losses, the full nature and extent of  
6 which are not yet known to Plaintiff; and leave is requested to amend this complaint to  
7 conform to proof at the time of trial.

8 84. By reasons of the premises, Plaintiff and Decedent have been caused great pain  
9 and suffering.

10 **STATEMENT OF DECEDENT'S INJURIES**

11 85. In or about 2008 Decedent was prescribed and began taking the Drugs upon  
12 the direction of Decedent's physician for long-term maintenance of Type II diabetes, and  
13 Decedent continued to take the Drug until about March 2011.

14 86. As a direct result of the ingestion of the Drugs, the Decedent was diagnosed  
15 with pancreatic cancer in or about May 2010. Had Decedent and/or Decedent's physician  
16 been properly warned by Defendants regarding the risk of pancreatic cancer from usage of  
17 this prescription medication, Decedent's physician would have not prescribed the Drug and  
18 Decedent would never had ingested these prescription medication.

19 87. As a direct result of being prescribed the Drugs for this period of time,  
20 Decedent was permanently and severely injured, having suffered serious consequences from  
21 Decedent's usage of the Drugs, including but not limited to, the development of pancreatic  
22 cancer, which led to his untimely death on April 15, 2011.

23 88. Decedent, as a direct and proximate result of his use of the Drugs, suffered severe  
24 mental and physical pain and suffering prior to his death, along with economic loss.

25 89. As a proximate result of Defendants' acts and omissions, Decedent suffered the  
26 injuries described hereinabove due to his ingestion of the Drugs. Plaintiff accordingly seeks  
27 damages associated with these injuries.  
28

1           90. Decedent would not have used the Drugs had Defendants properly disclosed the  
2 risks associated with their use.

3                                   **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4                                   **STRICT LIABILITY-FAILURE TO WARN**

5                                   (Against All Defendants)

6           91. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set  
7 forth herein.

8           92. Defendants are liable under the theory of strict products liability. Defendants were  
9 at all times relevant to this suit, and are now, engaged in the business of designing,  
10 manufacturing, testing, marketing, and placing into the stream of commerce pharmaceuticals  
11 for sale to, and use by, members of the public, including the Drugs at issue in this lawsuit. The  
12 Drugs manufactured by Defendants reached Decedent without substantial changes and were  
13 ingested as directed. The Drugs were defective and unreasonably dangerous when they  
14 entered into the stream of commerce and when used by Decedent.

15           93. The Decedent was administered the Drugs for their intended purposes.

16           94. The Decedent could not have discovered any defect in the Drugs through the  
17 exercise of care.

18           95. Defendants, as manufacturers of pharmaceutical Drugs, are held to the level of  
19 knowledge of an expert in the field, and further, Defendants knew or should have known that  
20 warnings and other clinically relevant information and data which they distributed regarding  
21 the risks of injuries and death associated with the use of the Drugs were incomplete and  
22 inadequate.

23           96. Decedent did not have the same knowledge as Defendants and no adequate warning  
24 or other clinically relevant information and data was communicated to Decedent or to  
25 Decedent's treating physicians. The warnings that were given by the Defendants were not  
26 accurate, clear, and/or were ambiguous or incomplete.

27           97. Defendants had a continuing duty to provide consumers, including Decedent, and  
28



1 Decedent's physicians with warnings and other clinically relevant information and data  
2 regarding the risks and dangers associated with the Drugs, as it became or could have become  
3 available to Defendants.

4 98. Defendants marketed, promoted, distributed and sold unreasonably dangerous and  
5 defective prescription Drugs to health care providers empowered to prescribe and dispense the  
6 Drugs to consumers, including Decedent, without adequate warnings and other clinically  
7 relevant information and data. Through both omission and affirmative misstatements,  
8 Defendants misled the medical community about the risk and benefit balance of the Drugs,  
9 which resulted in injury to Decedent and ultimately the death of Decedent.

10 99. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that the Drugs caused  
11 unreasonable and dangerous side effects, they continued to promote and market the Drugs  
12 without stating that there existed safer and more or equally effective alternative Drugs products  
13 and/or providing adequate clinically relevant information and data.

14 100. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers, Decedent specifically,  
15 would foreseeably and needlessly suffer injury or death as a result of Defendants' failures.

16 101. Defendants failed to provide timely and adequate warnings to physicians,  
17 pharmacies, and consumers, including Decedent and to Decedent's intermediary physicians, in  
18 at least the following ways:

19 e. Defendants failed to include adequate warnings and/or provide adequate  
20 clinically relevant information and data that would alert Decedent and Decedent's physicians  
21 to the dangerous risks of the Drugs including, among other things, their tendency to increase  
22 the risk of, and/or cause, the development of pancreatic cancer;

23 f. Defendants failed to provide adequate post-marketing warnings and  
24 instructions after the Defendants knew or should have known of the significant risks of, among  
25 other things, pancreatic cancer; and

26 g. Defendants continued to aggressively promote and sell the Drugs even after  
27 they knew or should have known of the unreasonable risks of developing pancreatic cancer  
28

1 from ingestion of the Drugs.

2 102. Defendants had an obligation to provide Decedent and Decedent's physicians  
3 with adequate clinically relevant information and data and warnings regarding the adverse  
4 health risks associated with exposure to the Drugs, and/or that there existed safer and more or  
5 equally effective alternative Drugs products.

6 103. By failing to provide Decedent and Decedent's physicians with adequate  
7 clinically relevant information and data and warnings regarding the adverse health risks  
8 associated with exposure to the Drugs, and/or that there existed safer and more or equally  
9 effective alternative Drugs products, Defendants breached their duty of reasonable care and  
10 safety.

11 104. Defendants' actions described above were performed willfully, intentionally, and  
12 with reckless disregard of the life and safety of the Decedent and the public.

13 105. Defendants' actions described above violated the federal and state Food, Drugs  
14 and Cosmetic Acts and rendered the Drugs misbranded.

15 106. As a direct and proximate result of the actions and inactions of the Defendants as  
16 set forth above, Decedent was exposed to the Drugs and suffered the injuries and damages set  
17 forth hereinabove.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY - DESIGN DEFECT**

20 (Against All Defendants)

21 107. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set  
22 forth herein.

23 108. Defendants are the manufacturers, designers, distributors, sellers and suppliers of  
24 the Drugs, who sold the Drugs in the course of business.

25 109. The Drugs manufactured, designed, sold, marketed, distributed, supplied and/or  
26 placed in the stream of commerce by Defendants was expected to and did reach the consumer  
27 without any alterations or changes.  
28

1           110. The Drugs administered to Plaintiff was defective in design or formulation in the  
2 following respects:

3           h. When it left the hands of the Defendants, this Drugs was unreasonably  
4 dangerous to the extent beyond that which could reasonably be contemplated by Plaintiff or  
5 Plaintiff's physicians;

6           i. Any benefit of this Drugs was outweighed by the serious and undisclosed  
7 risks of its use when prescribed and used as the Defendants intended;

8           j. The dosages and/or formulation of the Drugs sold by the Defendants was  
9 unreasonably dangerous;

10          k. There are no patients for whom the benefits of the Drugs outweighed the  
11 risks;

12          l. The subject product was not made in accordance with the Defendants'  
13 specifications or performance standards;

14          m. There are no patients for whom the Drugs is a safer and more efficacious  
15 Drugs than other Drugs products in its class; and/or

16          n. There were safer alternatives that did not carry the same risks and dangers  
17 that Defendants' the Drugs had.

18           111. The Drugs administered to Plaintiff was defective at the time it was distributed  
19 by the Defendants or left their control.

20           112. The foreseeable risks associated with the design or formulation of the Drugs  
21 include, but are not limited to, the fact that the design or formulation of The Drugs is more  
22 dangerous than a reasonably prudent consumer would expect when used in an intended or  
23 reasonably foreseeable manner, and/or did not have the claimed benefits.

24           113. The defective and unreasonably dangerous design and marketing of The Drugs  
25 was a direct, proximate and producing cause of Plaintiff's injuries and damages. Under strict  
26 products liability theories set forth in Restatement (Second) of Torts, Defendants are liable to  
27 Plaintiff for all damages claimed in this case.  
28

114. As a direct, legal, proximate, and producing result of the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of The Drugs, Plaintiff suffered personal injuries, economic and non-economic damages, including pain and suffering.

115. Defendants' actions and omissions as identified in this Complaint show that Defendants acted maliciously and/or intentionally disregarded Plaintiff's rights so as to warrant the imposition of punitive damages.

### **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **NEGLIGENCE**

(Against All Defendants)

116. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

117. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the manufacture, sale and/or distribution of the Drugs into the stream of commerce, including a duty to ensure that the products did not cause users to suffer from unreasonable, dangerous side effects.

118. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary care in the manufacture, sale, testing, quality assurance, quality control, and/or distribution of the Drugs into interstate commerce in that Defendants knew or should have known that the Drugs created a high risk of unreasonable, dangerous side effects, including causing and increasing the risk of developing pancreatic cancer.

119. Defendants were negligent in the design, manufacture, testing, advertising, warning, marketing and sale of the Drugs.

120. Despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known that the Drugs caused unreasonable, dangerous side effects, Defendants continued to market the Drugs to consumers including Decedent.

121. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers such as Decedent would foreseeably suffer injury as a result of Defendants' failure to exercise ordinary care as described above.

122. Defendants willfully and deliberately failed to avoid those consequences, and in doing so, Defendants acted with a conscious disregard of the safety of Decedent as alleged previously.

123. As a proximate and legal result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff and Decedent were caused to suffer the herein described injuries and damages.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**

(Against All Defendants)

124. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

125. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants manufactured, compounded, packaged, distributed, recommended, merchandised, advertised, promoted, supplied and sold the Drugs, and prior to the time they was prescribed to Decedent, Defendants impliedly warranted to Decedent, and Decedent's physicians and healthcare providers, that the Drugs was of merchantable quality and safe for the use for which they were intended.

126. Decedent and Decedent's physicians and healthcare providers relied on the skill and judgment of the Defendants in using and prescribing the Drugs.

127. The products were unsafe for their intended use, and they were not of merchantable quality, as warranted by Defendants, in that the Drugs had very dangerous propensities when put to their intended use and would cause severe injury (or death) to the user. The Drugs was unaccompanied by adequate warnings of their dangerous propensities that were either known or reasonably scientifically knowable at the time of distribution.

128. As a proximate and legal result of the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of the Drugs manufactured and supplied by Defendants, Decedent was caused to suffer the herein described injuries and damages.

129. After Plaintiff was made aware or otherwise came to believe that the injuries discussed herein were a result of the Drugs, notice was duly given to Defendants of the breach

1 of said warranty.

2 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

4 (Against All Defendants)

5 130. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set  
6 forth herein.

7 131. The aforementioned manufacturing, compounding, packaging, designing,  
8 distributing, testing, constructing, fabricating, analyzing, recommending, merchandizing,  
9 advertising, promoting, supplying and selling of the Drugs was expressly warranted to be safe  
10 for use by Decedent, and other members of the general public.

11 132. At the time of the making of the express warranties, Defendants had knowledge  
12 of the purpose for which the Drugs was to be used and warranted the same to be in all respects,  
13 fit, safe, and effective and proper for such purpose. The Drugs was unaccompanied by  
14 adequate warnings of their dangerous propensities that were either known or knowable at the  
15 time of distribution.

16 133. Decedent and Decedent's physicians reasonably relied upon the skill and  
17 judgment of Defendants, and upon said express warranty, in using the Drugs. The warranty and  
18 representations were untrue in that the products were unsafe and, therefore, unsuited for the  
19 use for which they was intended. The Drugs could and did thereby cause Decedent to suffer  
20 the herein described injuries and damages.

21 134. As soon as the true nature of the products and the fact that the warranty and  
22 representations were false were ascertained, Defendants were notified of the breach of said  
23 warranty.

24 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

26 (Against All Defendants)

27 135. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set  
28

1       forth herein.

2               136. Defendants owed a duty in all of their several undertakings, including the  
3       communication of information concerning the Drugs, to exercise reasonable care to ensure that  
4       they did not, in those undertakings, create unreasonable risks of personal injury to others.

5               137. Defendants disseminated information to physicians concerning the properties  
6       and effects of the Drugs, with the intent and expectation that physicians would rely on that  
7       information in their decisions regarding the prescribing of Drugs therapy for their patients.

8               138. Alternatively or in addition, when Defendants disseminated information to  
9       physicians concerning the properties and effects of the Drugs, they should have realized, in the  
10      exercise of due care to avoid causing personal injury to others, that physicians would  
11      reasonably rely on that information in their decisions concerning the prescription of Drugs  
12      therapy for their patients.

13              139. By uniformly honored custom and practice, the label for a prescription Drugs  
14      product, whether name brand or generic, as it is distributed to pharmacies for dispensing to  
15      patients, per the prescriptions of their physicians, accompanies or is placed on or in the  
16      package from which the Drugs is to be dispensed.

17              140. A Drugs company will generally distribute to physicians the labels for a name  
18      brand prescription Drugs product along with samples of the product, when it is being  
19      introduced to the market, and disseminate the content of the labels (i.e., the product labeling) to  
20      physicians through publication of the Drugs' monograph in the PDR, and otherwise  
21      communicate information regarding the Drugs through advertising, distribution of promotional  
22      materials, sales presentations by company sales representatives, group sales presentations, and  
23      sponsored publications and seminar speakers.

24              141. Defendants disseminated false information, as referenced above, to physicians  
25      and the medical community and to their patients with knowledge that the information was false  
26      or in conscious disregard of its truth or falsity.

27              142. Defendants disseminated the false information, as referenced above, to  
28

1 physicians, the medical community and their patients with the intention to deceive physicians  
2 and their patients and to induce the physicians to prescribe the Drugs.

3 143. Alternatively or in addition, Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care to  
4 ensure that the information disseminated to physicians concerning the properties and effects of  
5 the Drugs was accurate and not misleading, Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care to  
6 insure that accurate and not misleading information was disseminated to physicians concerning  
7 the properties and effects of the Drugs by failing to publish or disseminate current and accurate  
8 information.

9 144. Defendants expected or should have expected that patients taking the Drugs,  
10 pursuant to prescriptions written or issued in reliance on false information, would be placed in  
11 unnecessary, avoidable, and unreasonable danger due to unwarranted exposure to the Drugs.

12 145. As a proximate and foreseeable result of this dissemination to physicians, by  
13 Defendants consciously or negligently disseminating false information, the Decedent suffered  
14 grievous bodily injury, and ultimately death, and consequent economic and other loss, as  
15 described above, when Decedent's physicians, in reasonable reliance upon the negligently  
16 inaccurate, misleading and otherwise false information disseminated by these defendants, and  
17 reasonably but unjustifiably believing the information to be true, prescribed for the Decedent  
18 the Drugs.

19 146. As a result of the foregoing negligent misrepresentations by Defendants, and  
20 each of them, the Decedent was caused to suffer the herein described injuries and damages.

21 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

23 (Against All Defendants)

24 147. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set  
25 forth herein.

26 148. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants had the duty and obligation  
27 to disclose to Decedent and to Decedent's physicians, the true facts concerning the Drugs, that  
28



1 is, that the Drugs was dangerous and defective, and likely to cause serious health consequences  
2 to users, including the injuries as described in this Complaint.

3 149. Defendants concealed important facts from Decedent and from Decedent's  
4 physicians and healthcare providers which facts include, but are not limited to, the fact that  
5 Defendants:

6 o. Failed to disclose any connection between use of the Drugs and the  
7 development of pancreatic cancer;

8 p. Did not inform prescribers and users of studies related to use of the Drugs  
9 and the development of pancreatic cancer, and

10 q. Concealed from prescribers and users that numerous adverse events have  
11 been reported linking use of the Drugs to pancreatic cancer.

12 150. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants made affirmative  
13 representations to Decedent and Decedent's prescribing physicians prior to the day the Drugs  
14 was first prescribed to Decedent that the Drugs was safe as set forth above while concealing  
15 the material facts set forth herein.

16 151. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants had the duty and obligation  
17 to disclose to Decedent and to Decedent's physicians and healthcare providers the true facts  
18 concerning the Drugs, which facts include, but are not limited to, the fact that the Drugs was  
19 dangerous and likely to cause serious health consequences to users, including pancreatic  
20 cancer and death.

21 152. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendants intentionally, willfully, and  
22 maliciously concealed or suppressed the facts set forth above from Decedent's physicians, and  
23 therefore from Decedent, with the intent to defraud as alleged herein.

24 153. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, neither Decedent nor Decedent's  
25 physicians or healthcare providers were aware of the concealed facts set forth herein. Had they  
26 been aware of those facts, they would not have acted as they did, that is, that the Drugs would  
27 not have been prescribed as part of Decedent's treatment and Decedent would not have been  
28

1 injured as a result.

2 154. Had Decedent been informed of the deaths and serious injury adverse reports  
3 associated with the Drugs usage, Decedent would have immediately discontinued the Drugs or  
4 never taken the Drugs in the first instance.

5 155. As a proximate result of the concealment or suppression of the facts set forth  
6 above, Decedent and Decedent's physicians and healthcare providers reasonably relied on  
7 Defendants' deception and, Decedent was prescribed the Drugs and subsequently sustained  
8 injuries and damages as set forth in this Complaint. Defendants' concealment was a  
9 substantial factor in causing the injuries described herein.

10 156. As a result of the foregoing fraudulent and deceitful conduct by Defendants, and  
11 each of them, Plaintiff, for the sake of example and by way of punishing said defendants, seeks  
12 punitive damages according to proof.

13 157. As a result of the foregoing fraudulent and deceitful conduct by Defendants, and  
14 each of them, Decedent was caused to suffer the herein described injuries and damages.

15 **PUNITIVE DAMAGES ALLEGATIONS**

16 164. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as if fully set  
17 forth herein.

18 165. Although Defendants knew or recklessly disregarded the fact that the Drugs  
19 causes debilitating and potentially lethal side effects, Defendants continued to market the  
20 Drugs to consumers, including Decedent, without disclosing these side effects when there were  
21 safer alternative methods for treating type 2 diabetes.

22 166. Defendants knew of the Drugs' defective nature, as set forth herein, but  
23 continued to design, manufacture, market, and sell them so as to maximize sales and profits at  
24 the expense of the health and safety of the public, including Decedent, in conscious and/or  
25 negligent disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by the Drugs.

26 167. Defendants intentionally concealed or recklessly failed to disclose to the public,  
27 including Decedent, the potentially life-threatening side effects of the Drugs to ensure their  
28

continued and increased sales. Defendants failed to provide warnings that would have dissuaded physicians from prescribing the Drugs and consumers from purchasing and consuming the Drugs, thus depriving physicians and consumers from weighing the true risks against the benefits of prescribing and/or purchasing and consuming the Drugs.

168. The aforementioned conduct of Defendants was willful and wanton and was committed with knowing, conscious, and deliberate disregard for the rights and safety of consumers such as Decedent, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

### **PRAYER FOR DAMAGES**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for relief on the entire Complaint as follows:

#### **AS TO THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR STRICT PRODUCTS**

##### **LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN:**

1. General damages according to proof at the time of trial;
2. Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to proof at the time of trial;
3. Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time of trial;
4. For medical monitoring according to proof;
5. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the state of California;
6. Punitive and exemplary damages;
7. Costs of suit incurred herein; and
8. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

#### **AS TO THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR STRICT PRODUCTS**

##### **LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT:**

1. General damages according to proof at the time of trial;
2. Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to proof at the time of trial;

1           3.     Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time of  
2 trial;

3           4.     For medical monitoring according to proof;

4           5.     For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the state  
5 of California;

6           6.     Costs of suit incurred herein; and

7           7.     For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

8           **AS TO THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENCE:**

9           1.     General damages according to proof at the time of trial;

10          2.     Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to proof  
11 at the time of trial;

12          3.     Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time of  
13 trial;

14          4.     For medical monitoring according to proof;

15          5.     For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the state  
16 of California;

17          6.     Costs of suit incurred herein; and

18          7.     For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

19           **AS TO THE FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR BREACH OF IMPLIED**  
20 **WARRANTY:**

21          1.     General damages according to proof at the time of trial;

22          2.     Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to proof  
23 at the time of trial;

24          3.     Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time of  
25 trial;

26          4.     For medical monitoring according to proof;

27          5.     For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the state  
28 of California;

          6.     Costs of suit incurred herein; and

1           7.       For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

2           **AS TO THE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR BREACH OF EXPRESS**

3           **WARRANTY:**

4           1.       General damages according to proof at the time of trial;

5           2.       Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to  
6 proof at the time of trial;

7           3.       Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time  
8 of trial;

9           4.       For medical monitoring according to proof;

10          5.       For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the  
11 state of California;

12          6.       Costs of suit incurred herein; and

13          7.       For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

14          **AS TO THE SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT**

15          **MISREPRESENTATION:**

16          1.       General damages according to proof at the time of trial;

17          2.       Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to  
18 proof at the time of trial;

19          3.       Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time  
20 of trial;

21          4.       For medical monitoring according to proof;

22          5.       For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the  
23 state of California;

24          6.       Costs of suit incurred herein; and

25          7.       For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

26          **AS TO THE SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FOR FRAUDULENT**

27          **CONCEALMENT:**

28          1.       General damages according to proof at the time of trial;

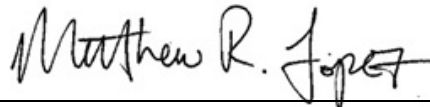
2. Medical and other special damages, past, present and future, according to proof at the time of trial;
3. Loss of earnings and loss of earnings capacity, according to proof at the time of trial;
4. For medical monitoring according to proof;
5. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as followed by the laws of the state of California;
6. Punitive and exemplary damages;
7. Costs of suit incurred herein; and
8. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: April 15, 2013

Respectfully submitted,



Ramon Rossi Lopez, Bar No. 86361  
Matthew Ramon Lopez, Bar No. 263134

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

ROBBIN TASLER, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS  
SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA BLAYLOCK,  
DECEASED

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Natrona County, WY  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Ramon Rossi Lopez, Matthew Ramon Lopez  
Lopez McHugh LLP, 100 Bayview Circle, Ste. 5600, Newport Beach,  
CA92660; (949) 737-1501

**DEFENDANTS**

MERCK SHARP & DOHME CORP., AMYLIN PHARMACEUTICALS,  
LLC F/K/A AMYLIN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., ELI LILLY AND  
COMPANY AND DOES 1-100

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Union County, NJ  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**'13CV0897 MMANLS**

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4            |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
28 U.S.C. 1332(a)

Brief description of cause:  
Personal Injury Product Liability Litigation

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

04/15/2013

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

*Matthew R. Lopez*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE