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## **Home Diagnostics, Inc. Receives FDA Approval for SIDEKICK™**

### ***The World's Smallest Diabetes Testing System***

**Fort Lauderdale, FL —October 11, 2005** — Home Diagnostics, Inc., a leading U.S. manufacturer and marketer of blood glucose monitoring systems, today announced that it has received FDA approval for the *Sidekick*™, the world's smallest blood glucose monitor built on top of a vial of 50 test strips. *Sidekick* is available at most major pharmacies across the nation.

"Its small size makes it easy to carry discreetly and may encourage people who have diabetes to test their blood glucose levels more often, thereby better managing their glycemic control," says Martha Mitchell Funnell, Director for Administration at the University of Michigan Diabetes Research and Training Center.

The *Sidekick* is easy to use. Unlike other meters, which call for users to calibrate each vial of strips to work with the meter, it is unnecessary to code the *Sidekick*.

The *Sidekick* also requires a small blood sample (one microliter), gives results in less than ten seconds, and offers the option of either forearm or fingertip testing. After the final test, the *Sidekick* can simply be discarded.

American Diabetes Association guidelines recommend people who have diabetes test their blood glucose levels regularly to understand how various foods, medications and activities affect those levels<sup>i</sup>. Results of the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT) from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases showed that keeping blood glucose levels as close to normal as possible slows the onset and progression of eye, kidney and nerve diseases caused by diabetes<sup>ii</sup>.

## **Cost Savings**

“*The Sidekick*<sup>™</sup> affords active people living with diabetes portability, convenience and value while taking costs out of the healthcare system,” said J. Richard Damron Jr., president and chief executive officer of Home Diagnostics, Inc. While covered by Medicare and most Medicaid and private insurance companies, the *Sidekick* is less expensive than the cost of purchasing a meter and strips separately. As a result, cash payers can save as much as 40 percent on their test strip purchases alone, adding up to savings of up to hundreds of dollars per year, while promoting increased compliance with the testing regimen.

## **About Blood Glucose Monitoring**

According to the American Diabetes Association, there are 18.2 million people in the United States who have diabetes<sup>iii</sup>. In a study of more than 3,000 people, those who began self-monitoring their blood glucose took their medication more regularly and had lower, healthier long-term blood glucose levels than those who did not use monitors<sup>iv</sup>.

## **About Home Diagnostics, Inc.**

Based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Home Diagnostics, Inc. is a leading manufacturer and marketer of diabetes testing supplies. With a portfolio of blood glucose monitors that spans the spectrum from standard to advanced systems, Home Diagnostics, Inc. offers products that can help every person with diabetes better monitor and manage their disease. Products include the Sidekick<sup>™</sup> Testing System, TrueTrack Smart System<sup>™</sup>, TrackEASE Smart System<sup>™</sup>, and Prestige Smart System<sup>®</sup> blood glucose monitor. For more information log on to [www.homediagnostics.com](http://www.homediagnostics.com).

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<sup>i</sup> American Diabetes Association, “Test of Glycemia in Diabetes- Position Statement,” *Diabetes Care*, Jan 2004.

<sup>ii</sup> National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, “Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT)” *NIH Publication No. 02-3874*, October 2001.

<sup>iii</sup> American Diabetes Association, “About Diabetes,” <http://www.diabetes.org/about-diabetes.jsp>, accessed September 2005.

<sup>iv</sup> Soumerai S, Mah C, Zhang F, et al.: “[Effects of health maintenance organization coverage of self-monitoring devices on diabetes self-care and glycemic control](#),” *Arch Intern Med*, 164:645–652, 2004.