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WYOMING CITIZENS TO RECEIVE TAXOL SETTLEMENT

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Attorney General Patrick J. Crank today announced that settlement checks returning \$23,979 to 41 Wyoming consumers who submitted claims for purchases of the anti-cancer drug Taxol or its generic form paclitaxel will be mailed after June 1, 2004. A letter from Attorney General Crank explaining the payments will accompany the checks.

The settlement was recovered in an antitrust case in federal District Court for the District of Columbia in which Attorney General Crank joined the attorneys general of the other 49 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories as counsel for a class of individual consumers who paid for Taxol and its generic equivalent paclitaxel. The lawsuit asserted that, because of invalid patents claimed by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company for its anti-cancer drug Taxol, lower cost generic substitutes were delayed in arriving on the market, resulting in higher prices to those who paid for the drug. In November 2003, the Court approved a settlement negotiated by the attorneys general on behalf of consumers in all states and territories.

As a result of that settlement, individuals who paid all or part of the cost for treatments with Taxol or paclitaxel, during the period from January 1, 1999, through February 28, 2003, and who submitted valid claims during the court-established claims period ending February 29, 2004, will receive reimbursement of at least \$525. Consumers who paid the entire cost for two or more treatments will be paid \$438 for each such treatment. Nationally, 12,723 consumers will recover a total of \$7,242,114.

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