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Caprius announces assay development and license agreement with Novartis Pharma AG to market Certican.

Caprius, Inc., Fort Lee, NJ, announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, Opus Diagnostics, Inc., has entered into an agreement with Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland, for Opus to develop and market internationally an assay to monitor Certican (everolimus) blood levels.

Certican is a Novartis drug candidate currently in development in late Phase III clinical studies. Caprius says Certican is the proliferation signal inhibitor that acts synergistically with Novartis' Neoral to suppress T-cell proliferation and prolong allograft survival. Regulatory approval for Certican is being sought initially for the treatment of renal transplant patients.

Opus' test to measure Certican is expected to be used to monitor blood levels of the drug in selected patients, guiding physicians to optimize dosage and patient outcomes.

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---- Index References ----

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