



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sonic Healthcare Announces Exclusive Partnership with Verinata Health to Introduce Non-Invasive Prenatal Test in Australia for Down Syndrome and Other Chromosomal Abnormalities**

**SYDNEY, Australia** – 22nd February 2013 –Sonic Healthcare Limited (ASX: SHL) and Verinata Health, Inc., today announced an exclusive agreement to introduce Verinata’s verifi<sup>®</sup> prenatal test in Australia, giving Australian women access to the most comprehensive non-invasive prenatal test (NIPT) for high-risk pregnancies. The verifi<sup>®</sup> test, uses a single maternal blood specimen, as early as at 10 weeks of pregnancy, to detect fetal chromosomal abnormalities.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sonic Healthcare will serve as the exclusive Verinata Health commercial partner in the joint sales and marketing of the verifi<sup>®</sup> test in Australia.

“Building on our growing success in the United States, we are pleased that Sonic Healthcare has chosen the verifi<sup>®</sup> prenatal test as their NIPT offering in Australia,” said Vance Vanier, M.D., of Verinata Health, an Illumina company. “Collaborating with Sonic Healthcare provides a great opportunity to offer expectant mothers greater access to high-quality, comprehensive non-invasive prenatal solutions.”

Sonic Healthcare’s CEO, Dr Colin Goldschmidt said that the addition of the Verinata verifi<sup>®</sup> test to Sonic’s already very advanced platform of maternal and prenatal tests is an exciting development, signalling Sonic’s introduction of cell-free DNA testing in Australia.

“We are continually looking to expand our services with high quality tests which add value in the clinical setting,” said Dr. Goldschmidt “The Verinata verifi<sup>®</sup> test fills a critical new space in our spectrum of prenatal healthcare in Australia. Our high-risk pregnant population will now have available a new non-invasive test for prenatal detection of Down syndrome, Edwards syndrome, Patau syndrome and sex chromosome aneuploidies.”

**About the verifi<sup>®</sup> prenatal test**

The verifi<sup>®</sup> prenatal test is a blood test that analyses fetal genetic material (or DNA) naturally found in a pregnant woman’s blood to detect the most common fetal chromosome abnormalities. The verifi<sup>®</sup> test can be offered to pregnant women of at least 10 weeks’ gestation and at high risk of carrying a fetus with a genetic abnormality. The verifi<sup>®</sup> test detects Down syndrome (trisomy 21 or T21), Edwards syndrome (trisomy 18 or T18) and Patau syndrome (trisomy 13 or T13), as well as the most common fetal sex chromosome aneuploidies including Turner syndrome (Monosomy X), Triple X (XXX), Klinefelter syndrome (XXY) and Jacobs syndrome (XYY).

**About Sonic Healthcare**

Sonic Healthcare ([www.sonichealthcare.com](http://www.sonichealthcare.com)) is an international medical diagnostics company, offering extensive laboratory medicine/pathology and radiology services to the medical community. With 26,000 employees around the world, Sonic Healthcare is recognised for quality and service excellence, innovative technology, commitment to staff and continuing financial strength. Sonic Healthcare is represented in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Ireland and the USA. The global head office of Sonic Healthcare is in Sydney, Australia.

**About Illumina**

Illumina ([www.illumina.com](http://www.illumina.com)) is a leading developer, manufacturer, and marketer of life science tools and integrated systems for the analysis of genetic variation and function. We provide innovative sequencing and array-based solutions for genotyping, copy number variation analysis, methylation studies, gene expression profiling, and low-multiplex analysis of DNA, RNA, and protein. We also provide tools and services that are fueling advances in consumer genomics and diagnostics. Our technology and products accelerate genetic analysis research and its application, paving the way for molecular medicine and ultimately transforming healthcare.

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