

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

JERALD ADAMS,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY;

ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS,

LP; MCKESSON CORPORATION,

Defendants

Case No.:

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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COMES NOW Plaintiff and alleges against Defendants Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP, and McKesson Corporation as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This is an action for damages relating to the Defendants' design, manufacture, sale, marketing, advertising, promotion, labeling, packaging, and distribution of their drug Saxagliptin. Defendants sell their Saxagliptin drug under the brand names Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR. Saxagliptin, in any of its forms or products, including Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR, shall herein be referred to as "Saxagliptin."

2. Saxagliptin is prescribed to help lower blood sugar levels in persons with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

3. The use of Saxagliptin can cause heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure, and other serious health conditions.

4. Plaintiff ingested Saxagliptin, and as a result of use of the drug suffered injuries.

## **II. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

5. Plaintiff, Jerald Adams (“Plaintiff”), by and through Plaintiff’s attorneys, Sanders Phillips Grossman, LLC, brings this action for personal injuries suffered as a result of being prescribed and ingesting the defective and unreasonably dangerous prescription drug(s) Onglyza and/or Kombiglyze XR.

6. Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR are prescribed to help lower blood sugar levels in persons with type 2 diabetes mellitus, and at all times relevant hereto, were manufactured, designed, tested, packaged, labeled, marketed, advertised, promoted, distributed, and sold by Defendants Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP, and McKesson Corporation (collectively “Defendants”). On information and belief, Plaintiff ingested Saxagliptin resulting in injuries.

## **III. PARTIES**

7. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff, was an individual, citizen and resident of the state of Illinois.

8. Plaintiff ingested Saxagliptin from approximately April 2015 to December 2015, resulting in injuries.

9. Defendant Bristol-Myers Squibb Company (“BMS”) is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 345 Park Ave., New York, NY 10154. At all relevant times, BMS has conducted business and derived substantial revenue from its manufacturing, advertising, distributing, selling and marketing of Saxagliptin within the state of Illinois.

10. Defendant AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP (“AZ”) is a Delaware limited partnership with its principal place of business at 1800 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19850. At all relevant times, AZ has conducted business and derived substantial revenue from its manufacturing, advertising, distributing, selling and marketing of Saxagliptin within the state of Illinois.

11. Defendant McKesson Corporation (“McKesson”) is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at One Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104. At all relevant times, McKesson has conducted business and derived substantial revenue from its

manufacturing, advertising, distributing, selling and marketing of Saxagliptin within the state of Illinois.

12. Hereinafter the aforementioned Defendants may collectively be referred to as “Defendants.”

13. At all relevant times, each Defendant acted in all aspects as the agent and alter ego of each other.

14. At all relevant times, Defendants acted in concert with one another to fraudulently convey false and misleading information concerning the safety and efficacy of Saxagliptin and to conceal the risks of serious adverse events, including heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure and other adverse effects associated with Saxagliptin from the public, Plaintiff, physicians, and other healthcare providers. These concerted efforts resulted in significant harm to those treated with Saxagliptin, including Plaintiff. But for the actions of Defendants, individually, jointly, and in concert with one another, Plaintiff would not have ingested Saxagliptin.

15. At all times alleged herein, Defendants were engaged in the business of, or were successors-in-interest to entities engaged in the business of, researching, designing, formulating, compounding, testing, manufacturing, producing, processing, assembling, inspecting, distributing, marketing, labeling, promoting, packaging, and/or advertising for sale or selling Saxagliptin.

16. At all times alleged herein, Defendants were authorized to conduct or engage in business within the state of Illinois and supplied Saxagliptin within the state of Illinois. Defendants received financial benefit and profits as a result of designing, manufacturing, marketing, advertising, selling and distributing Saxagliptin within the state of Illinois.

17. The combined acts and/or omissions of each Defendant resulted in indivisible injuries to Plaintiff. Each of the above-named Defendants is a joint tortfeasor and/or co-conspirator and is jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff for the negligent acts and omissions alleged herein. Each of the above-named Defendants directed, authorized or ratified the conduct of each and every other Defendant.

18. The amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional limits of this court.

#### **IV. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19. Jurisdiction is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 as complete diversity of citizenship exists between Plaintiff and Defendants and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.

20. This Court has jurisdiction over the non-resident Defendants because they have conducted business in the state of Illinois. Defendants have committed a tort in whole or in part in the state of Illinois and have regular and continuing contacts with Illinois.

21. In addition, venue of this case is proper in the state of Illinois pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in the state of Illinois.

#### **V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

22. Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a chronic disease, characterized by insulin resistance and deficient insulin secretion leading to high blood sugar levels and/or hyperglycemia. Type 2 diabetics have an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, which is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the patient population. Therefore, it is critical that drugs developed to allegedly help prevent type 2 diabetes do not increase the risk of cardiovascular adverse events in users. With full knowledge of the susceptibility of type 2 diabetics to cardiovascular related adverse events, Defendants developed their drugs Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR to market and sell them to type 2 diabetics to allegedly lower adverse complications associated with type 2 diabetes.

23. Saxagliptin works by inhibiting the proteolytic activity of DPP4, thereby potentiating the action of Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), an anti-hyperglycemic hormone, known as an incretin. This induces glucose-dependent stimulation of insulin secretion while suppressing glucagon secretion, which may help Saxagliptin users lower their H<sub>A1c</sub>.

24. DPP4 inhibitors, including Saxagliptin, inhibit natural enzymes from cleaving, or stopping, the endogenous GLP-1, which enables the stimulation of insulin to continue longer than what naturally occurs after meals in the postprandial state. Endogenous GLP-1's half-life is

approximately two minutes without Saxagliptin exposure, but survives for at least three hours during Saxagliptin exposure. Therefore, Saxagliptin manipulates the natural biological incretin effect by enabling the process to continue for an exponentially greater period of time than what the human body has adapted as a sufficient and safe period of time. At no time during the development of its Saxagliptin drugs did Defendants perform adequate studies to determine if their drug, and its drastic alterations of the natural incretin hormone cycle, may cause increased risks of cardiovascular related adverse events. Such studies are essential when developing, and then marketing, diabetic drugs to individuals already at an increased cardiovascular risk.

25. In December 2008, with knowledge of the increased cardiovascular risk type 2 diabetics suffer from, the FDA issued important guidance regarding this topic to companies developing anti-diabetic drugs, including Defendants. The FDA's memorandum, entitled *Final Guidance for Industry, Diabetes Mellitus: Evaluating Cardiovascular Risk in New Antidiabetic Therapies to Treat Type 2 Diabetes*, stated applicants of new anti-diabetic medications for the treatment of type 2 diabetes should demonstrate their products are not associated with an unacceptable increase in cardiovascular risk.<sup>1</sup> Despite this guidance being issued during the development of Defendants' drugs, Defendants failed to perform adequate clinical trials to determine if their drugs created such an increased risk. Instead of adequately assessing the potential, and now established, significant risk of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events, prior to marketing and selling Saxagliptin nationwide to millions of type 2 diabetics, Defendants ignored patient safety and sold Saxagliptin before studying the risks. Defendants marketed and sold Saxagliptin for nearly five years before completing an adequately powered and designed study of the risks of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events.

26. On July 31, 2009, Defendants began marketing Onglyza. On November 5, 2010, Defendants began marketing Kombiglyze XR. Defendants marketed both drugs as treatments for type 2 diabetes and agents to help reduce adverse complications associated with the disease.

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<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

At no time did Defendants perform adequate studies or adequately warn that Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR increased the risk of cardiovascular related adverse events.

27. After Defendants began selling and making substantial profits off their drugs, Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR, Defendants finally conducted what the FDA guidance recommended back in December 2008– a Cardiovascular Outcome Trial (“CVOT”) for Saxagliptin.

28. The CVOT for Saxagliptin entitled, “Saxagliptin Assessment of Vascular Outcomes Recorded in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus — Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction 53” (SAVOR-TIMI 53 or more simply, “SAVOR”), found Saxagliptin users had a statistically significant increased risk of being hospitalized due to heart failure.

29. After receiving and reviewing the disturbing findings from the SAVOR trial, the FDA requested the raw clinical trial data, free from manipulation by Defendants, and performed its own analysis of the SAVOR data. Following the FDA’s detailed analysis and review of the SAVOR safety signal for hospitalization for heart failure, the FDA’s Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee convened and voted 14 to 1 for the FDA to order Defendants to add a heart failure warning to its Saxagliptin drugs. The single member who voted against adding the warning stated a warning was insufficient and the drug should instead be withdrawn from the US market.<sup>2</sup> Despite the SAVOR findings and despite the FDA Advisory Committee voting to add a warning (or remove the drugs from the market), Defendants failed and continue to fail to warn. Once again, Defendants place sales over patient safety.

30. In addition to Defendants refusing and failing to warn of the risks of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure and death, Defendants’ Saxagliptin drugs lack any benefit sufficient to tolerate the risks posed by its use because other anti-diabetes drugs are available that do not carry the increased cardiac risks of Saxagliptin.

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<sup>2</sup> Diabetes in Control (April 17, 2015) “FDA Panel Recommends New CV Safety Warnings on Onglyza and Nesina DPP-4s,” available from: <http://www.diabetesincontrol.com/articles/diabetes-news/17836-fda-panel-recommends-new-cv-safety-warnings-on-onglyza-and-nesina-dpp-4s->

31. Defendants, with knowledge of the true relationship between use of Saxagliptin and heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events, promoted and continue to promote Saxagliptin as a safe and effective treatment for type 2 diabetes mellitus.

32. Defendants over-promoted Saxagliptin and under-warned about Saxagliptin's risks through various avenues including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. in print marketing, advertising, and promotional materials;
- b. on Defendant-owned, controlled, or supported websites and blogs;
- c. in materials and advertisements to Plaintiff and consumers stating the use of Saxagliptin is safe; and
- d. in promoting Saxagliptin to doctors, clinics, and users as being safer than (or as safe as) other drugs for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus.

33. At no time did Defendants perform adequate safety testing on Saxagliptin prior to marketing their drugs to the American public and failed to do so until performing the SAVOR trial.

34. Despite the findings of the SAVOR trial, Defendants still have not undertaken efforts to change the labels and reference materials for Saxagliptin to include a reference or warning regarding heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events.

## **VI. PLAINTIFF'S USE OF SAXAGLIPTIN**

35. On information and belief, Plaintiff was prescribed and ingested Saxagliptin at various times.

36. On information and belief, Plaintiff used Saxagliptin manufactured, packaged, marketed, sold and/or distributed by Defendants. The Saxagliptin reached Plaintiff without substantial change in the drug's condition.

37. On information and belief, while using Saxagliptin, and as a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff developed serious and/or permanent adverse effects including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and cardiovascular injury.

38. As a result of said injuries, Plaintiff suffered significant bodily and mental injuries, pain and suffering, mental anguish, disfigurement, embarrassment, inconvenience, loss of earnings and earning capacity, and have and will incur past and future medical expenses.

39. At all relevant times, Defendants had knowledge that there was a significant increased risk of adverse events associated with Saxagliptin including heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events, and despite this knowledge Defendants continued to manufacture, market, distribute, sell, and profit from sales of Saxagliptin.

40. Despite such knowledge, Defendants knowingly, purposely, and deliberately failed to adequately warn Plaintiff, patients, consumers, medical providers, and the public of the increased risk of serious injury associated with using Saxagliptin, including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events.

41. On information and belief, Plaintiff's prescribing physicians would not have prescribed Saxagliptin to Plaintiff, would have changed the way in which they treated Plaintiff's relevant conditions, changed the way they warned Plaintiff about the signs and symptoms of serious adverse effects of Saxagliptin, and discussed with Plaintiff the true risks of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events, and other serious adverse events had Defendants provided said physicians with an appropriate and adequate warning regarding the risks associated with the use of Saxagliptin.

42. On information and belief, Plaintiff's prescribing health care providers were unaware of the true degree, incidence, and risk of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events associated with the use of Saxagliptin, and, if they had been informed, would have used and prescribed alternative therapies to Plaintiff.

43. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered injuries, including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and a cardiovascular injury, which resulted in damages to Plaintiff in a sum in excess of the jurisdictional limits of the Court.

44. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff incurred obligations and expenses for medical care, testing and treatment. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered loss of income, wages, profits and commissions, diminishment of earning potential, and other pecuniary losses.

45. Defendants' conduct was committed with knowing, reckless, conscious, wanton, willful and deliberate disregard for the value of human life and the rights and safety of consumers, including Plaintiff, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive and exemplary damages so as to punish and deter similar conduct in the future.

## **VII. DELAYED DISCOVERY**

46. Defendants, through their affirmative misrepresentations and omissions, actively concealed from the Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians and healthcare providers the true and significant risks associated with Saxagliptin.

47. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians and healthcare providers were unaware, and could not have reasonably known or have learned through reasonable diligence, that Plaintiff had been exposed to the risks identified in this Complaint, and that those risks were the result of Defendants' acts, omissions, and misrepresentations.

48. No limitations period ought to accrue until such time as Plaintiff knew or reasonably should have known of some causal connection between the use of Saxagliptin and the harm suffered as a result. As such, Plaintiff hereby invokes the discovery rule based on the fact that this Complaint is filed well within the statutory period after Plaintiff knew or should have known the facts alleged herein.

49. Additionally, the accrual and running of any applicable statute of limitations has been tolled by reason of Defendants' fraudulent concealment.

50. Additionally, each Defendant is equitably estopped from asserting any limitations defense by virtue of its fraudulent concealment and other misconduct as described in this Complaint.

## **VIII. CAUSES OF ACTION**

**COUNT I**  
**DESIGN DEFECT**

Plaintiff incorporates by reference the factual allegations of this Complaint as though set forth in full in this cause of action and further alleges:

51. At all relevant and material times, the Defendants designed, manufactured, packaged, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold Saxagliptin, placing the products into the stream of commerce.

52. At all relevant and material times, Saxagliptin was designed, manufactured, packaged, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold by Defendants in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition.

53. Saxagliptin was expected to reach, and did reach, users and consumers, including Plaintiff, without any alterations or changes in their defective and unreasonably dangerous condition.

54. Saxagliptin was used by Plaintiff in the foreseeable manner normally intended, recommended, promoted, and marketed by Defendants.

55. Saxagliptin was defective and unreasonably dangerous when each product entered the stream of commerce in one or more of the following particulars:

- a. Saxagliptin contained manufacturing and design defects in that each product caused and/or increased the risk of experiencing an adverse event, including, but not limited to heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure, and other serious health conditions.
- b. Saxagliptin was not safe because the health risks associated with each product outweighed the benefits.
- c. Saxagliptin was marketed and promoted for use when they carried an unreasonable and unnecessary risk of serious injury.
- d. Saxagliptin was insufficiently and/or inadequately tested by Defendants.
- e. Saxagliptin was not safe due, in part, to inadequate and defective instructions and inadequate and defective warnings provided by Defendants.

- f. Saxagliptin was unreasonably dangerous in that, as designed, the risks of serious injury posed by using the products exceeded any benefits the products were designed to or might in fact bestow.
- g. Saxagliptin was defective in design in that the products neither bore, nor were packaged with, nor were accompanied by, warnings adequate to alert users, including Plaintiff, of the increased risks associated with using the products, including, but not limited to, the risk of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure, and other serious health conditions
- h. Saxagliptin was not accompanied by adequate warnings and instructions for use that included adequate information to fully apprise users, consumers, and the medical, pharmaceutical and scientific communities of the potential risks and serious side effects associated with using the products.
- i. Saxagliptin was unsafe for normal or reasonably anticipated use. Said products were defective and unreasonably dangerous in design, construction, and/or composition.
- j. Saxagliptin was defective and unreasonably dangerous, because the products did not conform to representations made by the manufacturer of the product.
- k. Saxagliptin was defective and unreasonably dangerous due to inadequate warnings, inadequate clinical trials, testing and study, and inadequate reporting regarding the results of the clinical trials, testing and study.

56. Saxagliptin, as manufactured and supplied by the Defendants, was defective due to inadequate warnings and instructions because after Defendants knew or should have known of the risk of injuries from use, Defendants failed to provide adequate warnings to the medical community and the consumers to whom the drugs were directly marketed and advertised; and, further, Defendants continued to affirmatively promote Saxagliptin as safe and effective.

57. A reasonable person who had actual knowledge of the increased risks associated with using Saxagliptin would have concluded that Saxagliptin should not have been marketed to or used by Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians.

58. Despite the fact Defendants knew or should have known of the defective nature of Saxagliptin, Defendants continued to design, manufacture, and sell Saxagliptin so as to maximize sales and profits at the expense of the public health and safety. Defendant thus acted with conscious and deliberate disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by Saxagliptin.

59. Plaintiff was prescribed and ingested Saxagliptin manufactured, packaged, marketed, sold and/or distributed by Defendants at various times.

60. The Saxagliptin reached Plaintiff without substantial change in the drug's condition.

61. While using Saxagliptin, and as a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff developed serious and/or permanent adverse effects including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and cardiovascular injury.

62. As a result of said injuries, Plaintiff suffered significant bodily and mental injuries, pain and suffering, mental anguish, disfigurement, embarrassment, inconvenience, loss of earnings and earning capacity, and have and will incur past and future medical expenses.

63. Plaintiff and the non-defendant health care providers involved could not, through the exercise of reasonable care, have discovered the risk of serious injury associated with and/or caused by Saxagliptin.

64. Plaintiff was not aware of the aforementioned defects at any time prior to the injuries caused by Saxagliptin.

65. Had adequate information regarding the safety of the products been provided to Plaintiff, Plaintiff would not have used Saxagliptin.

66. Plaintiff's prescribing physicians would not have prescribed Saxagliptin to Plaintiff, would have changed the way in which they treated Plaintiff's relevant conditions, changed the way they warned Plaintiff about the signs and symptoms of serious adverse effects of Saxagliptin, and discussed with Plaintiff the true risks of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events, and other serious adverse events had Defendants provided said physicians with an appropriate and adequate information regarding the risks associated with the use of Saxagliptin.

67. Plaintiff's prescribing health care providers were unaware of the true degree, incidence, and risk of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events associated with the use of Saxagliptin, and, if they had been informed, would have used and prescribed alternative therapies to Plaintiff.

68. Defendants acted with conscious and/or deliberate disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by use of their products.

69. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants negligence, willful, wanton, and intentional acts, omissions, misrepresentations and otherwise culpable acts, Plaintiff suffered the injuries and damages alleged herein.

70. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered injuries, including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and a cardiovascular injury, which resulted in damages to Plaintiff in a sum in excess of the jurisdictional limits of the Court.

71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff incurred obligations and expenses for medical care, testing and treatment. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered loss of income, wages, profits and commissions, diminishment of earning potential, and other pecuniary losses.

72. 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.

## **COUNT II**

### **NEGLIGENCE**

Plaintiff incorporates by reference the factual allegations of this Complaint as though set forth in full in this cause of action and further alleges:

73. Defendants negligently manufactured, designed, labeled, packaged, distributed, marketed, advertised, and sold Saxagliptin.

74. At all relevant and material times, Defendants had a duty to Plaintiff to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture, advertising, marketing, labeling, packaging,

distribution, post-market safety monitoring, reporting of adverse events, and sale of Saxagliptin, including a duty to ensure that the products did not cause users such as Plaintiff to suffer from unreasonable, dangerous side effects when used alone or in foreseeable combination with other drugs.

75. Defendants breached their duty of care to Plaintiff and were negligent in their actions, misrepresentations, and omissions in numerous ways including the following:

- a. Failing to perform adequate testing concerning the safety of Saxagliptin, which would have shown Saxagliptin created a high risk of unreasonable, dangerous side effects, including causing and increasing the risk of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure, and other serious health conditions and other adverse effects, which would have permitted adequate and appropriate warnings to have been given by Defendants to prescribing physicians and the consuming public, including Plaintiff;
- b. Failing to design Saxagliptin so as to properly minimize effects on receptors that were known to be associated with certain serious adverse effects;
- c. Failing to conduct adequate pre-clinical and clinical testing to determine the safety of Saxagliptin;
- d. Failing to report to the FDA, the medical community, and the general public the Saxagliptin data which indicated risks associated with using the product;
- e. Failing to conduct post-market monitoring and surveillance of Saxagliptin and analysis of adverse event reports;
- f. Designing, manufacturing, marketing, advertising, distributing, and selling Saxagliptin to consumers, including Plaintiff, without an adequate warning of risks associated with using the products and without proper and

- adequate instructions to avoid the harm which could foreseeably occur as a result of using the products;
- g. Failing to exercise due care when advertising, promoting, and selling Saxagliptin;
  - h. Failing to use due care in the preparation, design and development of Saxagliptin to prevent, avoid, or minimize the risk of injury to individuals when the products were used;
  - i. Failing to completely, accurately and in a timely fashion, disclose the results of the pre-marketing testing and post-marketing surveillance and testing to Plaintiff, consumers, the medical community, and the FDA;
  - j. Failing to accompany Saxagliptin with proper warnings regarding all possible risks associated with using the products;
  - k. Failing to use due care in the manufacture, inspection, and labeling of Saxagliptin to prevent risk of injuries to individuals who used the products;
  - l. Failing to provide adequate and accurate training and information to the sales representatives who sold the products;
  - m. Failing to educate healthcare providers and the public about the safest use of the products;
  - n. Failing to give healthcare providers adequate information to weigh the risks of serious injury associated with the products;
  - o. Failing to test and inspect Saxagliptin in a reasonable manner in order to ascertain whether or not it was safe and proper for the purpose for which it was designed, manufactured, and sold;
  - p. Failing to warn Plaintiff of the danger of adverse medical conditions from the use of Saxagliptin; and
  - q. Failing to label Saxagliptin to adequately warn Plaintiff of the serious adverse side effects with the use of Saxagliptin.

76. Defendants advertised, marketed, sold and distributed Saxagliptin despite the fact that Defendants knew or should have known of the increased risks associated with using the products, including but not limited to heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure, and other serious health conditions and other adverse effects of which Plaintiff and Plaintiff's healthcare providers would not have been aware.

77. Defendants, individually and collectively, had a duty to warn the FDA, their customers, the medical community, and the public about the increased risk of injury, but failed to do so.

78. Defendants are guilty of negligence *per se* in that the Defendants violated the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. §301, *et seq.*, and the Sherman Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law, as well as other applicable laws, statutes, and regulations.

- a. The Defendants' acts and omissions, including but not limited to Defendants' off-label marketing, constitute an adulteration and/or misbranding as defined by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. §301, *et seq.* Persons, such as Plaintiff, were the parties intended to be protected by such legislation and whose injuries said regulations were designed to prevent. Defendants' conduct was a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.
- b. The Defendants' also failed to report adverse events as required by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. §301, *et seq.* Persons, such as Plaintiff, were the parties intended to be protected by such legislation and whose injuries said regulations were designed to prevent. Defendants' conduct was a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.

79. Despite the fact Defendants knew or should have known that Saxagliptin increased the risk of serious injury including but not limited to heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, death from heart failure, and other serious health conditions, Defendants continued to manufacture, market, advertise, sell and distribute Saxagliptin to consumers, including Plaintiff.

80. Defendants negligently and recklessly represented to Plaintiff, physicians, and other persons and professionals Defendants knew would justifiably rely on the representations, that Saxagliptin was safe to use and that the utility of the products outweighed any risk in use for their intended purposes.

81. Defendants negligently and recklessly failed to disclose to Plaintiff and others important safety and efficacy information about Saxagliptin, thereby suppressing material facts while under a duty to disclose such information.

82. Defendants' representations about the safety and adverse side effects of Saxagliptin were negligently and recklessly made in that Saxagliptin in fact caused injury, was unsafe, and the benefits of its use were far outweighed by the risk associated with use thereof.

83. Defendants knew or should have known that their representations and omissions were false. Defendants made such false, negligent and reckless representations and omissions with the intent or purpose that Plaintiff and any non-defendant physicians would rely upon such representations, leading to the use of Saxagliptin as described.

84. Defendants omitted, suppressed and/or concealed material facts concerning the dangers and risk of injuries associated with the use of Saxagliptin, including serious injury. Furthermore, Defendants' purpose was willfully blind to, ignored, downplayed, avoided, and/or otherwise understated the serious nature of the risks associated with the use of Saxagliptin.

85. At the time Defendants made these misrepresentations and/or omissions, they knew or should have known that Saxagliptin was unreasonably dangerous and not what Defendants had represented to Plaintiff, as well as the medical community, the FDA, and the consuming public.

86. Defendants' misrepresentations and/or omissions were undertaken with an intent that doctors and patients, including Plaintiff, rely upon them.

87. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's healthcare providers did not know that these representations were false and justifiably relied on and were induced by Defendants' misrepresentations, omissions, and/or active concealment of the dangers of Saxagliptin to employ these products.

88. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendants' negligent, willful, wanton, and intentional acts, omissions, misrepresentations and otherwise culpable acts, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages.

89. While using Saxagliptin, and as a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff developed serious and/or permanent adverse effects including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and cardiovascular injury.

90. As a result of said injuries, Plaintiff suffered significant bodily and mental injuries, pain and suffering, mental anguish, disfigurement, embarrassment, inconvenience, loss of earnings and earning capacity, and have and will incur past and future medical expenses.

91. Had Plaintiff been aware of the increased risk of side effects associated with Saxagliptin and the relative efficacy of Saxagliptin compared with other readily available products, Plaintiff would not have used these products.

92. Plaintiff's prescribing physicians would not have prescribed Saxagliptin to Plaintiff, would have changed the way in which they treated Plaintiff's relevant conditions, changed the way they warned Plaintiff about the signs and symptoms of serious adverse effects of Saxagliptin, and discussed with Plaintiff the true risks of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events, and other serious adverse events had Defendants provided said physicians with an appropriate and adequate information regarding the risks associated with the use of Saxagliptin.

93. Plaintiff's prescribing health care providers were unaware of the true degree, incidence, and risk of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events associated with the use of Saxagliptin, and, if they had been informed, would have used and prescribed alternative therapies to Plaintiff.

94. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered injuries, including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and a cardiovascular injury, which resulted in damages to Plaintiff in a sum in excess of the jurisdictional limits of the Court.

95. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff incurred obligations and expenses for medical care, testing and treatment. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff suffered loss of income, wages, profits and commissions, diminishment of earning potential, and other pecuniary losses.

96. 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.

### **COUNT III**

#### **FAILURE TO WARN**

Plaintiff incorporates by reference the factual allegations of this Complaint as though set forth in full in this cause of action and further alleges:

97. Saxagliptin was unreasonably dangerous, even when used in a foreseeable manner as designed and intended by Defendants.

98. At all relevant and material times, the Defendants designed, manufactured, packaged, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold Saxagliptin, placing the products into the stream of commerce for sale to, and use by, members of the public, including the Saxagliptin used by Plaintiff.

99. At all relevant and material times, Saxagliptin was designed, manufactured, packaged, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold by Defendants in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition.

100. The Saxagliptin manufactured by Defendants reached Plaintiff without substantial change and was ingested as directed. The Saxagliptin was defective and unreasonably dangerous when it entered into the stream of commerce and when used by Plaintiff.

101. The Plaintiff was administered the Saxagliptin for its intended purpose.

102. Plaintiff used Saxagliptin in the foreseeable manner normally intended, recommended, promoted, and marketed by Defendants.

103. Defendants failed to warn and/or adequately warn Plaintiff, consumers, physicians, and healthcare professionals of the increased health risks associated with using Saxagliptin.

104. Plaintiff did not have the same knowledge as Defendants and no adequate warning was communicated to them.

105. The Plaintiff could not have discovered any defect in the Saxagliptin through the exercise of reasonable care.

106. Defendants, as manufacturers of Saxagliptin, are held to the level of knowledge of an expert in the field, and further, Defendants knew or should have known those warnings and other clinically relevant information and data, which they distributed regarding the risks of injuries and death associated with the use of Saxagliptin, was incomplete and inadequate.

107. Plaintiff did not have the same knowledge as Defendants and no adequate warning or other clinically relevant information and data was communicated to Plaintiff or to Plaintiff's treating physicians. The warnings given by Defendants were inaccurate, unclear, ambiguous, and/or incomplete.

108. Defendants had a continuing duty to provide consumers, including Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's physicians with warnings and other clinically relevant information and data regarding the risks and dangers associated with Saxagliptin, as it became or could have become available to Defendants.

109. Defendants marketed, promoted, distributed, and sold unreasonably dangerous and defective prescription Saxagliptin to health care providers empowered to prescribe and dispense to consumers, including Plaintiff, without adequate warnings and other clinically relevant information and data. Through both omissions and affirmative misstatements, Defendants misled the medical community about the risk/benefit balance of Saxagliptin, which resulted in injury to Plaintiff.

110. Defendants knew or should have known that Saxagliptin caused unreasonable and dangerous side effects and they continued to promote and market Saxagliptin without stating

safer and more or equally effective alternative drug products existed and/or providing adequate clinically relevant information and data.

111. Defendants knew or should have known that consumers, including Plaintiff, would foreseeably and needlessly suffer injury or death as a result of Defendants' conduct.

112. Defendants failed to provide timely and adequate warnings to physicians, pharmacies, and consumers, including Plaintiff and to Plaintiff's intermediary physicians, in at least the following ways:

- a. Defendants failed to include adequate warnings and/or provide adequate clinically relevant information and data that would alert Plaintiff's physicians to the dangerous risks of Saxagliptin including, among other things, their tendency to increase the risk of, and/or cause, heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events;
- b. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians that Saxagliptin had not been adequately tested to determine the full extent of the safety risks associated with use of the product;
- c. Defendants failed to provide adequate post-marketing warnings and instructions after Defendants knew or should have known of the significant risks of heart failure, congestive heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events associated with use of Saxagliptin; and
- d. Defendants continued to aggressively promote and sell Saxagliptin even after they knew or should have known of the unreasonable risks of developing heart failure, cardiac failure, and death related to those events from ingestion of Saxagliptin.

113. Defendants and each of them had a duty to warn the FDA, the medical community, Plaintiff, and Plaintiff's physicians about the increased risks of injury, but failed to do so.

114. Defendants had a duty and obligation to provide Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians with adequate clinically relevant information and data and warnings regarding the

adverse health risks associated with exposure to Saxagliptin, and/or that there existed safer and more or equally effective alternative drug products, but failed to do so.

115. By failing to provide Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians with adequate clinically relevant information and data and warnings regarding the adverse health risks associated with exposure to Saxagliptin, and/or that there existed safer and more or equally effective alternative drug products, Defendants breached their duty of reasonable care and safety.

116. Defendants' actions described above were performed willfully, intentionally, and with reckless disregard of the life and safety of the Plaintiff and the public.

117. As a direct and proximate result of the actions and inactions of Defendants as set forth above, Plaintiff sustained injuries and damages.

118. Plaintiff was prescribed and ingested Saxagliptin manufactured, packaged, marketed, sold and/or distributed by Defendants at various times, which reached Plaintiff without substantial change in the drug's condition.

119. While using Saxagliptin, and as a direct and proximate result thereof, Plaintiff developed serious and/or permanent adverse effects including, but not limited to, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and cardiovascular injury.

120. As a result of said injuries, Plaintiff suffered significant bodily and mental injuries, pain and suffering, mental anguish, disfigurement, embarrassment, inconvenience, loss of earnings and earning capacity, and have and will incur past and future medical expenses. Plaintiff incurred obligations and expenses for medical care, testing and treatment.

121. 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.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every paragraph of this Complaint as though set forth here in full and further prays:

122. So far as the law and this Court allows, Plaintiff demands judgment against each Defendant on each count as follows:

- a. All available compensatory damages for the described losses with respect to each cause of action;
- b. Past and future medical expenses, as well as the cost associated with past and future life care;
- c. Past and future lost wages and loss of earning capacity;
- d. Past and future emotional distress;
- e. Consequential damages;
- f. All available noneconomic damages, including without limitation pain, suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life;
- g. All wrongful death damages permitted by law, where applicable;
- h. Disgorgement of profits obtained through unjust enrichment;
- i. Restitution;
- j. Punitive damages with respect to each cause of action;
- k. Reasonable attorneys' fees where recoverable;
- l. Costs of this action;
- m. Pre-judgment and all other interest recoverable; and
- n. Such other additional and further relief as Plaintiff may be entitled to in law or in equity.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

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

Dated: January 9, 2018

By: /s/ Randi Kassan, Esq.  
Randi Kassan  
**SANDERS PHILLIPS GROSSMAN, LLC**  
100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500  
Garden City, NY 11530  
Tel: (516) 741-5600  
Fax: (516) 741-0128  
[rkassan@thesandersfirm.com](mailto:rkassan@thesandersfirm.com)

*Counsel for Plaintiff*

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
Jerald Adams
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Tazewell County, IL
(c) Attorneys Sanders Phillips Grossman, LLC
100 Garden City Plaza, Suite 500, Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 741-5600

DEFENDANTS
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP; McKesson Corporation
County of Residence of First Listed Defendant New York, NY
NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.
Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question
4 Diversity

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES
Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
PTF DEF
DEF

IV. NATURE OF SUIT
CONTRACT
REAL PROPERTY
TORTS
CIVIL RIGHTS
PRISONER PETITIONS
FORFEITURE/PENALTY
LABOR
IMMIGRATION
BANKRUPTCY
SOCIAL SECURITY
FEDERAL TAX SUITS
OTHER STATUTES

V. ORIGIN
1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District
6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing
28 U.S.C. § 1332
Brief description of cause:
Pharmaceutical Product Liability Litigation

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:
CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.
DEMAND \$
JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY
JUDGE
DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 01/09/2018
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Randi Kassar

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

## Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.  
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.  
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.  
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.  
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.  
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.  
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.  
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.  
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.  
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.  
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.  
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.  
**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.  
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.  
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.



Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ .

I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_ , who is  
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00 \_\_\_\_\_ .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:



Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: