

Novartis to sell its blood transfusion diagnostics unit to Grifols, 12/13

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December 2013—Novartis announced a definitive agreement to sell its blood transfusion diagnostics unit to Grifols for \$1.675 billion. The transaction is expected to be completed in the first half of 2014.

“The sale of the Novartis blood transfusion diagnostics unit enables us to focus more sharply on our strategic businesses while providing Grifols with a platform for global expansion,” Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez said in a statement.

Acquired in 2006 as part of Chiron, the blood transfusion diagnostics unit has been part of Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics. The unit is dedicated to increasing transfusion safety worldwide with nucleic acid testing, blood testing products, and immunoassay reagents that detect infectious disease. Headquartered in California, its net sales in 2012 were approximately \$565 million. Not included in the sale is the Novartis companion diagnostics unit, which is integrated into the pharmaceuticals business, nor Novartis’ Genoptix business.

Grifols, headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, is a producer of plasma-derived therapies.

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