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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JASMINE SMITH, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

GLAXOSMITHKLINE, PLC and
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER
HEALTHCARE,

Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff Jasmine Smith (“Plaintiff”) brings this action on behalf of herself and all others
2 similarly situated against GlaxoSmithKline, PLC and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare
3 (collectively, “Defendants”) for the manufacture, marketing, and sale of Abreva cold sore treatment
4 cream as identified below. Plaintiff makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of
5 her counsel and based upon information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining
6 to herself, which is based on personal knowledge.

7 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

8 1. This is a Class Action against Defendants GlaxoSmithKline, PLC and
9 GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (collectively, “GSK” or “Defendants”) for the manufacture,
10 marketing, and sale of Abreva cold sore treatment cream (hereinafter the “Product”). Defendants
11 represent that Abreva can heal a cold sore in 2 ½ days, but it does not. Defendants further represent
12 that “[n]othing heals a cold sore faster,” despite readily available alternatives that do purport to heal
13 cold sores faster. Worse, Defendants exceed the scope of its approval by the Food and Drug
14 Administration (“FDA”), by making these and other unsupported representations concerning the
15 ability of Abreva to provide symptomatic and anti-viral benefits. Thus, Defendants’ advertising is
16 false and misleading, and the Product is ineffective as advertised and unsuitable for its intended
17 purpose.

18 2. Plaintiff brings her claims against Defendants individually and on behalf of a class of
19 all others similarly situated purchasers of the Product for (1) violation of California’s Unfair
20 Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*; (2) violation of the Consumers Legal
21 Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*; (3) violation of the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty
22 Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1792, *et seq.*; (4) violation of California’s False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. &
23 Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*; (5) Breach of Express Warranty; (6) Breach of Implied Warranty of
24 Merchantability; (7) Fraudulent Misrepresentation; (8) Negligent Misrepresentation; (9) Fraud by
25 Omission; and (10) Unjust Enrichment.

26 **PARTIES**

27 3. Plaintiff Jasmine Smith is, and at all times relevant to this action has been, a resident
28 of Oakland, California. In or around February 2021, Plaintiff Smith purchased Abreva from a brick-

1 and-mortar CVS Pharmacy. In doing so, Plaintiff Smith relied upon Defendants' advertising,
2 packaging, labeling, and other promotional materials, including Defendants' website and
3 commercials as prepared and approved by Defendants and their agents and disseminated through
4 advertising media containing the unlawful claims alleged herein. The specific representations, of
5 which, are outlined in detail below. Specifically, Plaintiff Smith understood and appreciated from
6 Defendants' packaging, website, and commercials that Abreva would heal her cold sores in 2 ½ days,
7 that nothing would heal her cold sore faster, and that Abreva would provide symptomatic relief,
8 thereby reducing the pain, itching, burning, and tingling associated with cold sores. Plaintiff Smith
9 also understood that Abreva would provide anti-viral benefits that would block the emergence of
10 cold sores and prevent the development of new cold sores by maintaining healthy skin cells. These
11 were Plaintiff Smith's primary reasons for purchasing Abreva. Plaintiff Smith understood
12 Defendant's claims to be representations and warranties that Abreva could provide her desired
13 results. And Plaintiff Smith relied on these representations and warranties in purchasing Abreva.
14 However, Plaintiff Smith received none of the benefits of her bargain. Her cold sore did not heal
15 during the 2 ½ days as advertised nor did it heal within the time period set out in Abreva's disclaimers
16 or other clarifying language, which Plaintiff does not recall seeing prior to purchase. Nonetheless,
17 Plaintiff Smith remains very much interested in purchasing Abreva in the future as she believes
18 Defendants are reputable companies that otherwise manufacture and produce over-the-counter
19 products that are high in quality. As a direct result of Defendants' material misrepresentations and
20 omissions, Plaintiff Smith suffered, and continues to suffer, economic injuries.

21 4. Defendant GlaxoSmithKline, PLC is a Pennsylvania corporation headquartered in
22 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. GlaxoSmithKline, PLC is the parent company of Defendant
23 GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, which manufactures, markets, and distributes Abreva
24 throughout the United States.

25 5. Defendant GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare is a division of Defendant
26 GlaxoSmithKline, PLC, headquartered in Warren, New Jersey. The Consumer Healthcare division
27 comprises several major brands of over-the-counter drugs, including Abreva Cold Sore Cream.
28 Defendant manufactures, markets, and distributes Abreva throughout the United States. Defendant

1 sells the Product on its website directly to consumers and through third-party retailers such as CVS,
2 Walgreens, Target, and Amazon.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
5 1332(d) because there are more than 100 class members and the aggregate amount in controversy
6 exceeds \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest, fees, and costs, and at least one Class member is a
7 citizen of a state different from Defendants.

8 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants conduct
9 substantial business within California such that Defendants have significant, continuous, and
10 pervasive contacts with the State of California.

11 8. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants do
12 substantial business in this District and a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims
13 took place within this District as Plaintiff saw and heard Defendant's advertisements and resides in
14 this District.

15 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

16 **I. Overview Of Cold Sores And Over-The-Counter Treatments**

17 9. Cold sores, also known as fever blisters, are caused by the herpes simplex virus
18 (HSV). Herpes infection is extremely common—it is estimated that between 50% and 80% of adults
19 in the United States are carriers of either HSV-1 (oral herpes) or HSV-2 (genital herpes). Once
20 infected, the virus remains in the body permanently, periodically causing painful and unsightly
21 blisters (cold sores) to form, usually on the lips.

22 10. According to the Mayo Clinic, cold sores typically last around two to four weeks
23 before healing on their own.¹ Outbreaks can be triggered by a variety of factors such as stress,
24 fatigue, colds and fevers, or exposure to cold weather or sunlight. While common, cold sores are

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28 ¹ "Cold Sore," Mayo Clinic, (June 17, 2020), <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cold-sore/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20371023> (last accessed November 30, 2021).

1 often “embarrassing and tough to hide[.]”² Those with a cold sore outbreak may experience anxiety,
2 stigma, shaming, and social isolation.³

3 11. Although there is no known cure for HSV, several prescriptions and over the counter
4 (“OTC”) treatments exist, intended to relieve discomfort, shorten healing time, or reduce
5 transmission of the virus. Collectively, US adults living with HSV develop over 100 million
6 outbreaks annually, most of which are treated with OTC medications.

7 12. Abreva is one of those OTC medications and is the leading OTC cold medication.
8 Abreva is topical cream containing 10% of the active ingredient docosanol, intended to make cold
9 sores heal faster. This ingredient is currently the only ingredient approved by the FDA to shorten
10 healing time that is available without a prescription.

11 13. Abreva was originally developed by Avanir Pharmaceuticals, which held clinical
12 trials of the active ingredient, docosanol, and received FDA approval for a limited set of claims in
13 2000. That year, Defendants licensed exclusive rights from Avanir and began selling Abreva
14 throughout the United States.

15 14. Avanir’s approval of the ingredient, however, was not immediate due to concerns
16 with the underlying studies that Avanir used to support its New Drug Application. The authors of
17 the underlying studies reported that docosanol shortened the time to lesion healing and cessation of
18 pain in comparison with the control group. However, these studies were originally rejected by the
19 FDA in 1999 after first determining that the underlying studies “ha[ve] not revealed convincing
20 evidence for a consistent effect,” and then citing the need for additional trials.⁴

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23 ² Ian Roth, “Mayo Clinic Minute: 3 things you didn’t know about cold sores,” Mayo Clinic (Mar.
24 21, 2018), <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-minute-3-things-you-didnt-know-about-cold-sores/#:~:text=Cold%20sores%20on%20the%20lips,you%20have%20a%20cold%20sore> (last
25 accessed November 30, 2021).

26 ³ See e.g., Hollie Richardson, “Cold sores: why we get them, how to treat them, and how to break
27 the stigma,” *Stylist* (May 2021), <https://www.stylist.co.uk/beauty/skincare/cold-sores-treatments-symptoms-facts/522295> (last accessed November 30, 2021).

28 ⁴ S.L. Spruance, “N-docosanol (Abreva) for herpes labialis: problems and questions.” *J. Am Acad. Dermatol.* 2002 3 ([letter]): 457-458. [https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622\(02\)70066-2/pdf](https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(02)70066-2/pdf).

1 15. In rejecting Avanir’s New Drug Application, Robert J. DeLap, M.D., Ph.D., Director
2 of the Office of Drug Evaluation for the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research stated in a
3 letter to Avanir that “[t]he effectiveness of [docosanol] 10% in the treatment of recurrent oral-
4 *facial herpes simplex has not been adequately established.*” (emphasis added). Dr. DeLap
5 determined that there was no “significant[] differe[nce]” between the docosanol and the placebo.

6 16. Dr. DeLap’s conclusions were further bolstered by Medical Reviewer, Martin M.
7 Okun’s, M.D., Ph.D, evaluation of Avanir’s studies. Dr. Okun determined that “*there may have*
8 *been significant technical flaws in the execution of [Avanir’s] study.*” (emphasis added). Dr. Okun
9 further found that Avanir’s “*concept of complete healing . . . differs from a layperson’s concept of*
10 *complete healing, which would be return of lesional skin to normal both in signs and symptoms.*”
11 (emphasis added).

12 17. Avanir appealed this decision and ultimately won approval for a limited set of claims.
13 Specifically, Dr. DeLap warned Avanir that “[y]ou are cautioned not to promote the product as an
14 *antiviral or as providing symptomatic relief of cold sores. Promotion of symptomatic benefit*
15 *should be limited to the information provided in labeling, that the product shortens healing time*
16 *and duration of symptoms.*” (emphasis added).

17 18. However, as discussed below, Defendants have since overstepped the FDA’s
18 approval. That is, the FDA did not approve any of the claims that Plaintiff alleges are false or
19 misleading.

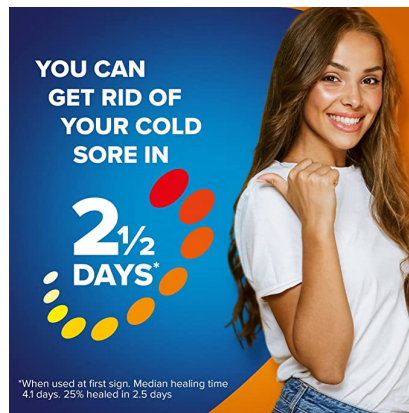
20 **II. Defendants’ False And Deceptive Advertising**

21 19. Despite these warnings, Defendants, through their aggressive long-term, decades
22 long, deceptive marketing campaign, including advertisements, Abreva Products’ packaging and
23 labeling, its website as well as commercials and bulletins, amongst other mediums, has consistently
24 conveyed to consumers throughout the United States that Abreva reduces healing time to 2 ½ days,
25 prevents the virus causing cold sores from developing, and provides symptomatic relief.

26 20. On the whole, Defendants’ campaign created a context for consumers who purchased
27 the Product in store or online. That is, Defendants exploited the overlap between labeling and
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1 marketing and led consumers to believe that Abreva heals cold sores in 2 ½ days, that it prevents the
2 virus causing cold sores from developing, and that it provides symptomatic relief.

3 21. As set out in the photograph below, Defendants prominently claims in large text that
4 “YOU CAN GET RID OF YOUR COLD SORES IN 2 ½ DAYS.” Then at the extreme bottom edge
5 of the photograph, and not in close proximity to the challenged claims, Defendants set out a
6 disclaimer. But those, like Plaintiff, viewing this photograph online—which is where it appears—
7 are not likely to see this inconspicuous disclaimer. A reasonable consumer viewing this photograph
8 would be led to believe that their cold sore would heal in 2 ½ days if they purchased Abreva.



16 22. Defendants repeat these statements in the photograph below, claiming that Abreva
17 “CAN GET RID OF COLD SORES IN JUST 2.5 DAYS.” Then at the extreme bottom edge of the
18 photograph, and not in close proximity to the challenged claims, Defendants set out a disclaimer in
19 a color font similar in color to the background on which it appears. But those viewing this photograph
20 online—which is where it appears—are not likely to see this inconspicuous disclaimer. Instead,
21 reasonable consumers would understand that Abreva heals cold sore in 2 ½ days.



1 23. Defendants repeat these and other statements in the below bulletin. In large font at
2 the top of the bulletin, Defendants ask **“WHY ABREVA?”** Defendants then lists several purported
3 reasons for purchasing in slightly smaller, but readable, font. These include “Can get rid of your
4 cold sore in 2.5 days, when used at the first sign,” “Starts to work immediately,” “Helps protect
5 healthy skin cells,” and “Shortens symptom durations.” Then at the extreme bottom of the bulletin
6 in a font color similar to the background, Defendants set out a disclaimer. But those, like Plaintiff,
7 viewing this photograph online—which is where it appears—are not likely to see this inconspicuous
8 disclaimer. Instead, reasonable consumers are led to believe that Abreva heals cold sores in 2 ½ days
9 and provides symptomatic relief and anti-viral protection.



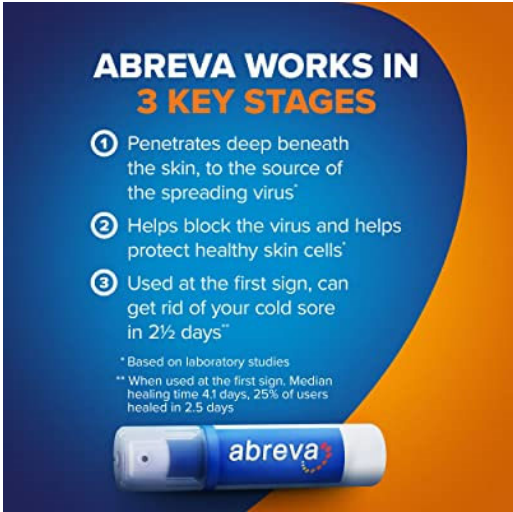
18 24. Defendants then repeat these and other statements in the below bulletin. In large font
19 at the top of the bulletin, Defendants state that **“ABREVA WORKS IN 3 KEY STAGES.”**
20 Defendants then list those stages in slightly smaller, but readable, font. Defendants claim that Abreva
21 “Penetrates deep beneath the skin, to the source of the spreading virus.” Defendants claim that
22 Abreva “Helps block the virus and helps protect healthy skin cells.” Defendants then claim that
23 “Used at the first sign, can get rid of your cold sore in 2 ½ days.” A reasonable consumer would be
24 justified in their belief that Abreva provides symptomatic relief and anti-viral protection and that it
25 heals cold sores in 2 ½ days.

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25. But Defendants’ statements concerning the duration of healing do not end there. Instead, Defendants claim directly on the home page of their website that “*Nothing heals a cold sore faster.*” (emphasis in original). Defendants include a so-called disclaimer at the extreme bottom left of the page, far out of sight of the viewer and in tiny font which reads, “[m]edian healing time 4.1 days. 25% of users healed within 2 ½ days.” But significantly, this disclaimer does not correspond with the challenged assertion. In other words, that Abreva supposedly shortens healing time has nothing to do with the other options available on the market. Defendants’ disclaimer is, therefore, inapposite and ineffective at remedying the deception, especially considering that there are other options available on the market that do purport to shorten healing time faster.⁵

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26. Defendants then repeat these and other statements in the below graphic. Defendants claim that Abreva is “**PROVEN TO HEAL COLD SORES & SHORTEN THE DURATION OF[.]**” Interestingly, Defendants set out “Pain,” “Itching,” “Burning,” and “Tingling” on their own, easily catching the reasonable consumer’s eye, leading them to believe that Abreva provides symptomatic relief. Noticeably, there is no disclaimer other than the “when used at the first sign” language at the extreme bottom left of the graphic.

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⁵ See, e.g. Luminance Red which purports to heal cold sores in as few as 2.2 days. https://luminancered.com/products/luminance-red-lip-treatment-device?network=g&gclid=Cj0KCQIAtJeNBhCVARIsANJUJ2HIfrpjEW33UoB5gHMdotvWTBXNaRzdaL3tODmX5zu7nWaQtmIgiJUaAs_1EALw_wcB (last accessed November 30, 2021).

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27. Defendants’ representations extend to commercials released by Defendants. In one video, for example, Defendants claim “Just because there isn’t a cure for cold sores, doesn’t mean you have to *suffer patiently* until it clears up on its own.” (emphasis added). Defendants’ statement taken in context would lead a reasonable consumer, like Plaintiff, to believe that Abreva will help ease suffering, by reducing the pain associated with the cold sore. These words next to a photograph of a woman holding her lip and wincing would further lead a reasonable consumer to believe that Abreva will reduce their pain.



28. In another video, Defendants repeat their claims regarding healing time, noting that “When used at the first sign, you could knock out your cold sore in 2.5 days.” Then at the extreme bottom edge of the video, and not in close proximity to the challenged claims, Defendants set out a disclaimer. But those viewing this video are not likely to see this inconspicuous disclaimer. Instead,

1 reasonable consumers are led to believe that Abreva can quickly heal areas affected by the cold sores
2 and that it “block[s]” the virus.



12 29. Interestingly, Defendants’ 2 ½ day healing claims are entirely missing from their
13 Canadian website, replaced instead with the words “Works Faster.”⁶

14 30. Yet, in the United States, Defendants up the ante, seeking to take advantage of the
15 stigma and embarrassment associated with cold sores. In one video, for example, Defendants portray
16 a young woman with a large cold sore on her upper lip. On her cheeks the words “UPSET” and
17 “ANXIOUS” are prominently written. The woman appears to be embarrassed and pained by her
18 cold sore.



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28 ⁶ <https://www.abreva.ca/>

1 31. The camera quickly pans to the same woman applying Abreva as the narrator states
2 that “one of the worst things about cold sores is how it can make you feel. But . . . Abreva can get
3 you back to being you in just 2.5 days.” Defendants then show the same woman refreshed with her
4 cold sore no longer present. In a faint font at the bottom of the screen, hardly noticeable in contrast
5 to the bolded words, Defendants set out their disclaimer. Defendants’ disclaimer is immaterial,
6 however, as the claims exceed the bounds of the FDA’s approval.



15 32. Defendants then write on their packaging that it is the “ONLY FDA Approved
16 Medicine to Shorten Healing Time.”



27 33. But these muted claims are amplified by the context of Defendants’ aggressive
28 decades long marketing and advertising campaign, which invoked claims that exceed the scope of

1 the FDA's approval. Placed in context, this packaging leads consumers, like Plaintiff, to believe that
2 not only does Abreva shorten healing time, but that they could reasonably expect their healing time
3 to be just 2 ½ days, and that during that time they would experience symptomatic and anti-vital
4 benefits.

5 34. Based on the current and former representations contained on Defendants' and third-
6 party websites, commercials, and Abreva's packaging, it is clear that Defendants intended to induce
7 a common belief in consumers that Abreva shortens the healing time to 2 ½ days, and provides
8 symptomatic and anti-viral benefits for all those who use the Product. In marketing Abreva in this
9 manner, Defendants exceeded the scope of the FDA's approval to claims that the FDA specifically
10 instructed Defendants not to make. Moreover, Defendants have misrepresented the FDA's approval
11 to further its over-the-counter market share of topical cold sore treatment.

12 **III. Scientific And Medical Studies Confirm That Abreva And Its Main Ingredient** 13 **Docosanol Are Not Effective**

14 35. As noted, Defendants' representations are prominently displayed in their aggressive
15 and deceptive long-term and multi-medium advertising of Abreva, leading reasonable consumers to
16 believe that if the Product is used in accordance with the instructions that their cold sores will heal
17 in as few as 2 ½ days.

18 36. However, these representations are false. As Defendants' own research shows,
19 Abreva cannot heal a cold sore in 2 ½ days. Any improvement in healing time is much less
20 significant than this, and for many users, the Product actually worsens symptoms without improving
21 healing time whatsoever. Significantly, Defendants' research has been refuted again and again. Said
22 simply, Abreva does not work as advertised by Defendants.

23 37. As a result of Defendants' false representations, consumers who reasonably rely on
24 these representations are charged an exorbitant price relative to other over-the-counter remedies.

25 **A. Avanir's Studies Confirm That Abreva Is Not Effective**

26 38. In July 2000, the FDA approved Abreva as an OTC treatment for recurrent oro-facial
27 herpes simplex episodes (cold sores). Approval was based on data from two clinical trials that Avanir
28 conducted from 1996 to 1997.

1 39. These trials designated “06” and “07,” compared a 10% docosanol cream to a
2 polyethylene glycol (“PEG”) placebo. Study 06 found a statistically significant shorter healing time
3 with docosanol than with the placebo, but study 07 did not. In Avanir’s earlier clinical trials using a
4 different placebo (stearic acid), docosanol failed to show any therapeutic advantage over the placebo.

5 40. Rather than invest in additional research, Avanir combined the data from studies 06
6 and 07 and analyzed them collectively as a single “06/07” study.

7 41. As part of the FDA approval process, the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
8 (CDER) conducted a medical review of the clinical trials. Several of the reviewers’ comments note
9 flaws in the study design which undermine the basis for Defendants’ claims about healing time.

10 42. First, the data on healing times depended on patients’ self-reporting of facts that a
11 layperson might not be able to judge as accurately as a medical professional:

12 The primary efficacy variable, time to healing, was measured by
13 subtracting the time and date at which study cream was first applied
14 (as determined by patient) from the time and date at which herpetic
15 lesion [fully healed] (as assessed by patient) ... There was no
16 assessment performed in this study to confirm that patients were able
to identify properly when episodes began, the stage of their episode
when treatment was started, and when episodes healed. Hence, it is
difficult to assess whether the reported results ... are reliable.

17 43. Second, the studies included “aborted episodes”—outbreaks in which the early
18 symptoms “resolve[] without ever progressing to the vesicular stage” (i.e. the formation of a blister).
19 These episodes were, by definition, much shorter than “classical episodes” (which progress through
20 several stages of blister formation and healing). Including both aborted and classical episodes in the
21 data skewed the average healing time, making it seem shorter than it really was.

22 44. Third, the studies separated early and late treatment results on the theory that early
23 treatment is essential for docosanol to be effective. But what appeared to be improved healing times
24 for the early treatments simply reflected the fact that a certain proportion of aborted episodes would
25 never have developed into “classical” lesions. When treatment started after a blister had already
26 formed, docosanol showed no statistically significant advantage over the placebo. In other words,
27 by the time that what most people think of as the “cold sore” had appeared, it was already too late.
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1 Thus, in order for the Product to have any beneficial effect, it must be applied at such an early stage
2 that it is impossible to determine what difference it made.

3 45. Because of this logical flaw in the early treatment hypothesis, as well as the gap
4 between medical and layperson's understandings of what constitutes the "first sign of a cold sore,"
5 the inconspicuous disclaimer that Defendants use with the 2.5 days claim is ineffective.

6 46. Defendants then licensed Abreva from Avanir, adopting their statements about the
7 clinical trial results, and has continued to base its misleading advertising claims on Avanir's flawed
8 studies.

9 B. Scientific And Medical Studies Refute Defendants' Claims

10 47. But Defendants' deception has not gone unnoticed by members of the medical and
11 scientific communities. One such researcher, Dr. S.L. Spruance, published an article in the *Journal*
12 *of the American Academy of Dermatology*.⁷ Dr. Spruance determined that there were several issues
13 with the study that Defendants have since used to support their claims. First, Dr. Spruance found
14 that "*the uses of a substance other than the drug vehicle as a control represents a major departure*
15 *from accepted practices and introduced doubt concerning the stated outcomes of the study.*"
16 (emphasis added). Threading the needle, Dr. Spruance wrote that "[t]he usual comparison in topical
17 drug studies, drug versus drug vehicle, ensures that any effect on the disease will occur equally in
18 the treatment groups and that any differences between the treatment groups can be attributed to the
19 test drug." This was not the case in the Abreva trials, introducing other explanations for the outcome
20 of the studies than that posited by Avanir.

21 48. Second, the studies, to their detriment, employed polyethylene glycol ("PEG") in the
22 control group. According to Dr. Spruance, "[t]here are at least 2 theoretical ways that the use of PEG
23 as a control could influence the relative rates of wound healing and create an appearance of efficacy,
24 erroneously in the n-docosanol treatment arm." Dr. Spruance noted that firstly "PEG is hygroscopic
25 (absorbs water) and may dehydrate the skin. The state of dehydration of the skin is well known to
26 influence the rate of wound healing," thereby skewing Avanir's results. Dr. Spruance then secondly

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28 ⁷ S.L. Spruance., "N-docosanol (Abreva) for herpes labialis: problems and questions." *J. Am Acad. Dermatol.* 2002 3: 457-458. [https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622\(02\)70066-2/pdf](https://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(02)70066-2/pdf).

1 stated that “because the protocol called for continuous use of the study medication until lesion
2 healing, it is possible that the n-docosanol aqueous cream vehicle had a greater ability than PEG to
3 dissolve or loosen the lesion crust, a healing end point, resulting in the appearance of accelerated
4 healing for the n-docosanol treatment arm.” The appearance of healing, but not actual healing.

5 49. Another researcher Paul Pham published his research on docosanol in the medical
6 journal, *Infection Diseases in Clinic Practice*.⁸ His study led him to conclude that “[t]opical
7 docosanol improved healing time by approximately 1 day if applied during the prodromal stage,”
8 meaning “the period after incubation and before the characteristic symptoms of infection occur.”⁹
9 This determination drastically undermines Defendants’ claims concerning the length of healing time.
10 If the usual healing time for an untreated cold sore is ten days, then one day does not lead to the 2 ½
11 total claim posited by Defendants. Instead, Abreva may require 9 days to heal the area affected by
12 the cold sore.

13 50. Another researcher, Eric M. Morrel published his research in the *Clinical Infectious*
14 *Diseases* journal hosted by Oxford University Press.¹⁰ He determined that “[t]he topical treatments
15 [including Abreva] demonstrated limited efficacy and required multiple applications over several
16 days[.]” This further undermines Defendants’ claims that Abreva can heal a cold sore in just 2 ½
17 days.

18 51. Perhaps the most comprehensive review of docosanol as a topical treatment for cold
19 sores was conducted by Kimberly D.P. Hammer, Jessica Dietz, Tze Shien Lo, and Erika M. Johnson
20 and published in the *European Medical Journal of Dermatology*.¹¹ Those researchers reviewing

21 ⁸ Paul Pham, “Docosanol (Abreva).” *Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice*: June 2001, Vol. 10,
22 Iss. 5, p.283,
https://journals.lww.com/infectdis/Fulltext/2001/06000/Docosanol__Abreva__.18.aspx.

23 ⁹ <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/5-stages-of-infection#incubation>

24 ¹⁰ Eric M. Morrel, et al. “Topical Iontophoretic Administration of Acyclovir for the Episodic
25 Treatment of Herpes Labialis: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Clinic-Initiated
26 Trial.” *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, vol. 43, no. 4, Oxford University Press, 2006, pp. 460–67,
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4463841>.

27 ¹¹ Kimberly D.P. Hammer, Jessica Dietz, Tze Shien Lo, Erika M. Johnson, “A Systematic Review
28 on the Efficacy of Topical Acyclovir, Penciclovir, and Docosanol for the Treatment of Herpes
Simplex Labialis,” *EMJ Dermatol*, Vol. 6, Iss. 1, p.118-123, [https://emj.emg-health.com/wp-
content/uploads/sites/2/2018/10/A-Systematic-Review-on-the-Efficacy-of-Topical-Acyclovir-
Penciclovir-and-Docosanol-for-the-Treatment-of-Herpes....pdf](https://emj.emg-health.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/10/A-Systematic-Review-on-the-Efficacy-of-Topical-Acyclovir-Penciclovir-and-Docosanol-for-the-Treatment-of-Herpes....pdf).

1 1,485 scientific and medical papers concerning the efficacy of docosanol determined that the
2 “efficacy compared to placebo is marginal at best.”

3 52. And in his research published in the *Archives of Dermatology*, Mark B. McKeough,
4 refuted Defendants’ anti-viral claims, concluding that “despite reports of n-docosanol antiviral
5 activity in vitro, we found that both n-docosanol and stearic acid were inactive as antiviral agents
6 against experimental cutaneous HSV lesions.”¹²

7 **IV. Consumers Experience With Abreva Further Demonstrates That It Is Ineffective**

8 53. The internet is replete with complaints from consumers who have expressed
9 dissatisfaction about the Product’s ineffectiveness on Abreva’s own website and numerous review
10 pages on major e-commerce sites.

11 54. For example, Abreva.com includes a reviews page with over a thousand reviews
12 dating back approximately nine years. In early 2021, for example, one user wrote on Abreva.com
13 the following: “On the commercial it says gone in 2 days. The website says 2.5 days. My cold sore
14 took longer than that to go away.”¹³

15 55. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I’ve been using this 3+
16 times a day for 11 days now and just when I thought it was finally gone, it has gotten worse. This
17 product isn’t helping like it claims it does.”

18 56. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “This product is very
19 expensive and does not work at all. You all should be ashamed.”

20 57. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “This product does
21 absolutely nothing for me. I think it prolongs my healing time by making the area overly dry and
22 crusty. I’ve tried the product several times and this will be my last.”

23 58. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “This product does not
24 work. I applied it right away as soon as I felt a tingle. I rubbed it in. I had no makeup on. I applied

25 _____
26 ¹² Mark B. McKeough. “Comparison of New Topical Treatments for Herpes Labialis.” *Archives of*
27 *Dermatology*, vol. 137, 2001, pp. 1153-1158,
28 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamadermatology/article-abstract/478500>.

¹³ For purposes of readability, this and each of the following user reviews have been revised for spelling and grammar.

1 it several times throughout the day. By the next day I had the largest cold sore I have ever had. I
2 keep on applying this product to no avail. Exorbitant price for no results.”

3 59. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I applied Abreva at the
4 first sign of a cold sore. Within 2 days it doubled in size. After reading other reviews with similar
5 results, I threw my tube away. Never again.”

6 60. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I rushed to the store to
7 get this cream as soon as I felt a cold sore coming. After going to sleep the same night I woke up
8 with my lip swollen and my cold sore has gotten bigger and worse. Whatever you do DO NOT BUY
9 THIS PRODUCT.”

10 61. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Total waste of money.
11 Had no effect at all. Took 10 days to heal.”

12 62. In 2019, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Hadn't had a cold sore in
13 several years, so when I felt ‘the tingle’ I went to pharmacy to get my usual OTC product. Saw some
14 outrageously priced alternatives (Abreva), as well as homeopathic treatments. Figured anything that
15 costs as much as Abreva must be a superior product and work as claimed. Meh. In day 6-7, still
16 have the aftereffects from the cold sore (plus scab on lip, which is a first), and not impressed. Had
17 blistering for 4 days, which eventually subsided, much longer than what I had experienced in past
18 (about 3 days total max). Abreva [...] didn't appear to shorten the duration of the cold sore I got.”

19 63. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Seems like it just grows.
20 Now spreading to my chin. Really frustrating.”

21 64. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Abreva has never helped
22 my cold sores, only worsened them.”

23 65. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I purchased this two
24 separate times and I thought I would get results. I haven't gotten any relief at all. My cold sores
25 actually got larger.”

26 66. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Didn't work at all. The
27 cold sore duration lasted its usual time frame of 7-10 days.”

28

1 67. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Time after time I have
2 purchased Abreva and it has not worked for me.”

3 68. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “This made my breakout,
4 the worst breakout I've ever had! It swelled up so bad and it was disgusting. Will never use again.”

5 69. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “As the product states,
6 once you see a cold sore coming on, apply Abreva and it lessens the time of the cold sore. Well, I
7 did so, and it got larger! This product is way to expensive, and for the price you would think it works!
8 I won't be buying this product again!”

9 70. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Applied as directed. No
10 improvement at all. Very disappointed. If only a product worked as it claims.”

11 71. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I have had possibly 6 cold
12 sores in my life, and last year when I had one I bought your Abreva product because your ads were
13 convincing about healing in several days. Well, it took 10 days for your product to ‘heal’ my cold
14 sore. Never again will I buy this product because it is so expensive for that tiny tube and it took 10
15 days to do its job, not the several days that you espouse. Goodbye Abreva.”

16 72. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I used it as soon as
17 symptoms occurred and it just made it worse. I thought maybe it was going to get really bad before
18 it got good, but no. I kept using it for four days and it just made it larger and made another one on
19 top of the original one. I wouldn't recommend this to anyone, it absolutely sucks.”

20 73. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I tried this medicine at
21 every possible stage and it never worked. At the very first sign I would cake it on and honestly I
22 think it made it worse. The cream softened the skin allowing the cold sore to cause more damage to
23 the tissue.”

24 74. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “This product didn't work
25 for me, nor for several people I know. I used it on two separate outbreaks two years apart and it
26 didn't work either time. The biggest problem is that it's over priced—absurdly expensive, as if it's
27 guaranteed effective. It really is not and I'm sure the company knows this. I'm sure there are millions
28

1 of people who have wasted their money on this product and if they all reviewed it, I guarantee it
2 wouldn't be on the market.”

3 75. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “The question of your
4 product being effective is iffy at best. It says to apply for ten days. If you put nothing on a cold sore,
5 it would be gone in ten days anyway.”

6 76. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “If I could give zero stars
7 I would! My cold sore was tiny and this stuff made it huge and oozing within hours! It's so swollen
8 and sore I can't believe it! I'm so upset and will never use this again. It should be taken off the
9 market!”

10 77. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Zero stars; it gave me a
11 headache and didn't do anything. I think it does more harm than good. I didn't see that cold sore got
12 healed quicker at all. I never have headaches, but this medication gave me horrible headache and
13 fatigue.”

14 78. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I wish I could give this
15 product no stars. I felt a slight tingling on the top of my lip which I assumed would be an outbreak;
16 I immediately went and purchased Abreva and applied it to the site. They say that if you apply it at
17 the first sign, that it will heal your cold sore in as little as 2.5 days. Well. Now my lips are very
18 swollen and what had appeared to be a small red bump is now a bunch of little clusters all over my
19 top lips. This went from a mild little cold sore to a huge outbreak all over my top lip! I work in
20 sales, and Abreva has literally ruined my life, because I now look grotesque. Please stay away from
21 this product!”

22 79. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “The product is
23 misleading. What was once 1 blister became 3 on the corners of my lips. I've been dealing with this
24 problem for most of my life and this has never happened before.”

25 80. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I got Abreva in the early
26 tingling stage and it didn't do anything for me. I thought if I kept applying it, it would help ease the
27 discomfort, but instead of it helping it's making it worse. I'm on tube number two and it's been a
28 waste of money.”

1 81. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “Abreva didn't work. I've
2 been using it a week now, and it's only made it bigger and not better. The blisters won't go away.
3 It's not even looking any better.”

4 82. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I used the product when
5 I started having the symptoms of a cold sore. It only made it worse. Taking much longer to heal
6 than it normally would. No, it is not worth the money!”

7 83. In 2018, another user wrote on Abreva.com the following: “I got Abreva when I first
8 began to get the symptoms of a cold sore. I applied it and followed the instructions THOROUGHLY.
9 However, when I woke up the next day my blister was HUGE. My whole lip was swollen, and it
10 began to spread even more. I started off with ONE small cold sore and ended up with half my bottom
11 lip filled with them! If I could post pictures I would because it was DISGUSTING. My cold sores
12 took so much longer than normal to heal, and the pain was intolerable. I will NEVER use this product
13 again; I'd rather let the cold sore pass itself.”

14 84. Similarly, over 400 users have posted reviews for Abreva on Drugs.com. There,
15 Abreva has an average rating of only 4.5 out of 10, with 48% of users giving a 1 out of 10 rating.
16 More than half (56%) of users reported a negative effect.

17 85. For example, on March 1, 2016, one user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “In the
18 beginning when I felt the symptoms of herpes on my lip I went to a pharmacy, which offered Abreva.
19 I was using as per instructions—five times per day. Seven days later my lip looked as bad as on the
20 third day. When I finished the first tube of Abreva, I went to another pharmacy and they again
21 offered the same Abreva. It's totally marketing and I am sure pharmacists are getting paid by selling
22 this particular lip cream. It does nothing! It's expensive regular moisturizing cream!”

23 86. On September 2, 2016, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Didn't really
24 speed healing. I'm on day 5 and it's scabbing; thinking it will be here until day 8-10. It didn't really
25 help speed up healing, and I used it before the blisters appeared, when my lips felt tight in one spot.”

26 87. On September 29, 2016, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “It's just a
27 placebo just meant to slightly reduce the discomfort associated with a herpes outbreak. Has no effect
28

1 whatsoever on the root cause, which is the virus itself, and therefore it does not shorten the course of
2 the outbreak as other more effective over-the-counter medicines do.”

3 88. On December 19, 2016, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “This was a
4 waste of my \$20. I felt the tingle and rushed to the store. I was using the medicine religiously. The
5 cold sore only got worse. The swelling and the pain were almost unbearable. This is about day 5
6 and I have a horrible looking scab on my lip. I don't want to go outside. It's so embarrassing.”

7 89. On February 16, 2017, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “I woke up
8 in the morning with redness at the site and a very slight bump that I could tell would soon form into
9 a blister. I immediately applied Abreva to the site as instructed and continued re-applying every 40
10 minutes or so. Within 3 hours the cold sore erupted into a full-blown multi-blister sore. I will throw
11 away whatever i have bought and will never use Abreva again. It literally made it 100 times worse.”

12 90. On April 2, 2017, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Right before bed
13 I felt the tingle and saw the tiny hint of a cold sore. Not new to this, and knowing I couldn't get
14 prescription meds until the next day, I sent my husband to the store to get Abreva. I applied it that
15 night and in the morning, and again mid-morning. I went to the doctor in the afternoon to get a
16 prescription medication. Before I got home from the pharmacy, I had a HUGE cold sore. I took the
17 meds and continued the Abreva. The cold sore continued to grow in size and is hideous. I'll never
18 use Abreva ever again.”

19 91. On April 20, 2017, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Made my
20 blisters worse and didn't relieve my pain. It's too expensive to not work. Will never buy again.”

21 92. On May 23, 2017, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Felt a little numb
22 on the top of my lip, so I ran to put some Abreva on it. I used it for about a day and a half as directed
23 (5x daily) with quite a healthy amount each time. I realized after the day and a half that anywhere I
24 put the Abreva, the cold sore had spread to and was now blistering. It did the exact opposite of what
25 it said it was supposed to do. Will never use again.”

26 93. On January 30, 2018, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “I've gotten
27 cold sores a few times in the past, but the one and only time I used Abreva to treat one, I found it did
28 absolutely nothing. It did not stop it from growing, it did not stop it from scabbing over and all in

1 all the cold sore still took over a week to go away as they generally do without treatment. Abreva
2 was a complete waste of money in my opinion as it made no difference in how a cold sore would
3 naturally progress and heal from my experience.”

4 94. On November 30, 2018, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Abreva
5 doesn't work, and I'm convinced that all these comments saying it does are fake. I've used it as
6 directed on two different occasions now, and the blister forms anyway and ends up huge. This is an
7 absolute waste of \$20 for a teeny little tube that does nothing at all. Never buying this again.”

8 95. On January 16, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “This medicine
9 does not work. I used it for the first time and I have never had a bigger cold sore. My lips are so
10 swollen, it is terrible. What a waste of money. False advertisement for sure.”

11 96. On April 19, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “I have been
12 getting severe cold sores since I was 6 years old. I was so excited the first time I bought this product,
13 even thought it was 5 times as expensive as Blistex and Carmex. I used it faithfully. By the next
14 morning my lip was extremely swollen. Three sores formed and I continued to use it 5-10 times per
15 day. No luck, they lasted 10 days with the same severity. I have now used this product for two years
16 hoping it will be different the next time. It never is. Unfortunately, I am not sure what tests were
17 performed to allow the FDA approval and claim that it heals faster. I will go back to just using
18 Carmex and planning for 10 days of pain and embarrassment.”

19 97. On June 21, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “I just joined the
20 pool of unfortunate souls who fell victim to this harmful product. It's overpriced, the applicator isn't
21 user friendly, and yes, it made the cold sore way worse than it's ever been before. I usually get these
22 sores right after having the flu. Sometimes, they're barely visible. This time, I had one tiny little
23 spot in the center of my lip. I applied the product generously to the entire area. The entire bottom
24 lip blew up within a few hours. There needs to be class action lawsuit and a recall of this horrible
25 product.”

26 98. On July 14, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Completely
27 escalated my symptoms. I cannot believe this is happening! Stay away from this product!”
28

1 99. On August 2, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “I used Abreva
2 at the first signs of cold sore, which I get infrequently. Two days later the site was clearing up and I
3 thought I was good, until several more fluid filled blisters erupted! That never happens to me. Very
4 disappointed!”

5 100. On August 24, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Don’t waste
6 your money! I applied the product Abreva correctly only for it to make more cold sores appear.”

7 101. On October 7, 2019, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “This is my
8 second time using Abreva. The first time was not good, but I thought it was due to not catching the
9 first sign of my cold sore. So now I had the first sign of a cold sore and decided to really see if this
10 product works. I used Abreva and the next day my lip had more bumps and was more swollen. Just
11 awful experience.”

12 102. On March 8, 2020, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “I started using
13 the very first day I felt that tingle and within 4 days I had another blister, and then just as the first
14 one was starting to clear up, along came a third. It’s been 7 days since I started using this product
15 and I now have 3 blisters that don’t look like they’re going anywhere soon. I’m so disappointed.”

16 103. On March 10, 2020, another user wrote on Drugs.com the following: “Every few
17 years I seem to forget why I quit buying Abreva. Normally my cold sores last 3-4 days and don't get
18 very big. But EVERY SINGLE TIME I give Abreva a try, 1 small bump turns into 5 or 6 huge
19 blisters so bad I can barely talk. Literally have only had that happen when using Abreva. I don't
20 know why I keep going back to it. It's horrible.”

21 104. Similarly, many users have posted negative reviews of Abreva on WebMD. For
22 example, on February 26, 2010, one user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “I had my cold sore
23 for about a day and saw the commercial for Abreva so I went to go buy it. I thought since it was
24 expensive it would work the best. WRONG! It made my cold sore more visible! Plus it took way
25 longer to heal. Not worth spending your money on it. The commercial lies! (What a shocker...) The
26 girl on the commercial already had the cold sore and it was ‘magically’ healed with Abreva. Ha!”

27 105. On March 17, 2011, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “Complete
28 waste of money! I started using this as soon as I felt the signs of a cold sore (redness, itching) and it

1 didn't help at all! While I didn't suffer the allergic reactions that many users seem to experience, this
2 did nothing to shorten the healing time. Some nerve to charge \$20 for something so ineffective!”

3 106. On February 19, 2012, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “The
4 pharmacist recommended using Abreva as soon as I noticed the first signs of a cold sore. I was told
5 that this medication is very good and works quickly. Seven days later it is no better and has not yet
6 healed. No beneficial results for an expensive drug. Don't waste your money.”

7 107. On September 21, 2012, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “if you
8 actually read the studies you realize that this product is generally not worth purchasing. The reason:
9 According to their own research, this product heals a cold sore ONLY six hours faster than NOT
10 using it. It is bunk.”

11 108. On December 18, 2012, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “I get
12 small lip cold sores 3-4 times per year. Abreva was suggested by the local pharmacist. I tried it at
13 the first sign of my next outbreak, but it had little or no affect. In fact, I applied it 5 times per
14 instructions, on a single spot, but the next morning I had 5 more spots around the original outbreak.
15 My outbreaks are usually small, but this time I had multiple outbreaks. Did the Abreva promote the
16 spreading? Who knows. I continued to use it. Healing still took 2 weeks. Waste of \$20 in my
17 opinion.”

18 109. On May 13, 2014, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “I asked my
19 husband to pick up some cold sore medicine because I felt a cold sore coming on and I did not want
20 it to become a full-blown blister. It was very important as I had customer interviews for three hours
21 each of two days the weekend coming up. Well, the CVS pharmacy person told him that Abreva
22 would be the product to buy. He purchased it and brought it home. Against my better judgement I
23 used the product as I had heard reviews and really didn't have time to go to the store. The next day
24 my cold sore was a full-blown blister and after using it throughout the day I developed two blisters
25 instead of one which has never happened. I am very disappointed in your product and will never
26 make a mistake of using it again. On top of wasting money on it, I had to be out in public looking
27 not my best because of the severity of the outbreak this product produced. I am still using it just to
28 keep my lip from drying out and bleeding. Disappointed and really upset about having a product

1 which the pharmacy industry is pushing off to customers as a good product, in fact they are telling
2 customers it is the best product for cold sores. I know this product is not the best and I can now
3 prove it.”

4 110. On August 11, 2016, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “It does not
5 work for me. The time frame for the cold sore to heal is the same, with or without the medication.
6 And the cost was \$34.00, for nothing, nothing!”

7 111. On November 16, 2016, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “I have
8 twice tried Abreva and neither time has it worked at all for me. Pretty expensive for a tiny tube. I
9 will definitely remember next time not to bother.”

10 112. On January 4, 2018, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “I get cold
11 sore once every two-three years always resulting to Abreva. My cold sore last from 12-14 days while
12 using this medication as directed. I would say this medication is absolutely not worth the high dollars
13 it costs as opposed to the other OTC medications used to treat cold sores.”

14 113. On March 26, 2019, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “It has taken
15 me three tries to realise that Abreva is an expensive waste of money for me. It makes no difference
16 to my symptoms even though I start using it as soon as I realise I am getting cold sores. Next time,
17 I will try something else.”

18 114. On January 28, 2020, another user wrote on WebMD.com the following: “It boggles
19 me how Abreva can get away with advertising their topical cream can cure a cold sore in 2.5 days if
20 applied at the first sign of it. I've been using Abreva for years in the hope that it may be reducing
21 the length of time I have a cold sore -- a costly endeavor considering the exorbitant price of Abreva.
22 I've never had it stop a cold sore and it's never prevented one from lasting less than 7 days. Honestly,
23 you'd think by how some genius would have come up with an effective treatment and run off with
24 millions of dollars.”

25 115. These examples are only a small selection of the reviews that have been posted on a
26 variety of online forums for many years, showing that thousands of purchasers have been dissatisfied
27 with Abreva.

28 ///

1 **V. Other Sources Of Defendants' Knowledge**

2 116. Online reputation management (commonly called “ORM” for short) is now a standard
3 business practice among most major companies and entails monitoring consumer forums, social
4 media, and other sources on the internet where consumers can review or comment on consumer
5 services. “Specifically, [online] reputation management involves the monitoring of the reputation
6 of an individual or a brand on the internet, addressing content which is potentially damaging to it,
7 and using customer feedback to try to solve problems before the damage to the individuals or brand’s
8 reputation.”¹⁴ Many companies offer ORM consulting services for businesses.

9 117. Like most companies, GSK presumably cares about its reputation and regularly
10 monitors online consumer reviews because they provide valuable data regarding quality control
11 issues, customer satisfaction, and marketing analytics. Reviews like those copied above would be
12 particularly attention-grabbing for GSK’s management because extreme reviews are sometimes the
13 result of extreme problems and – just like any other company – GSK is presumably sensitive to the
14 reputational impact of negative online reviews. Hence, GSK’s management knew or should have
15 known about the above-reference consumer complaints shortly after each complaint was posted
16 online.

17 118. Defendants also know that their portrayal of the 06/07 clinical trial results is
18 misleading because they were sued over the original marketing of the Product. In 2002, GSK was
19 sued for false advertising for claiming that Abreva “cuts healing time in half.” By the time that case
20 was settled in 2007, GSK had already stopped using that language, and the court found injunctive
21 relief unnecessary. For the next several years, GSK avoided concrete claims about how fast the
22 Product would work and limited its promotional language to what the FDA had specifically
23 approved.

24 119. However, GSK had clearly not learned its lesson, because in 2013 it began to advertise
25 that the Product can heal a cold sore in two and a half days—a statement that is at least as misleading
26 to a reasonable consumer as the original “in half” language. Not only is it based on the same incorrect
27

28 ¹⁴ Online Reputation, <https://websolutions-maine.com/online-reputation/>.

1 interpretation of the same flawed studies, but “heals in two and a half days” is even farther from the
2 truth. An untreated cold sore typically heals in about two to four weeks, so by citing the “two and a
3 half days” number, Defendants are in effect representing that the Product heals cold sores in just *one*
4 *quarter* of the time. But as demonstrated, this is inaccurate.

5 **VI. The Impact of Defendants’ Wrongful Conduct**

6 120. Despite clinical studies demonstrating the inefficacy of Abreva and its main
7 ingredient, docosanol, Defendants have conveyed and continue to convey one uniform message:
8 Abreva can shorten healing time to 2 ½ days and lead to symptomatic and anti-viral benefits.

9 121. As the manufacturer and distributor of Abreva, Defendants possess specialized
10 knowledge regarding Abreva’s contents and the effects of their ingredients, and Defendants are in a
11 superior position to know whether Abreva works as advertised.

12 122. Specifically, Defendants knew, but failed to disclose, or should have known, that
13 Abreva cannot provide the relief it is advertised as providing and that well-conducted, clinical studies
14 have found docosanol to be ineffective at remedying cold sores and providing symptomatic and anti-
15 viral benefits.

16 123. Plaintiff and class members have been and will continue to be deceived or misled by
17 Defendants’ false and deceptive representations.

18 124. Defendants’ representations and omissions were a material factor in influencing
19 Plaintiff’s and the class members’ decision to purchase Abreva. In fact, the only purpose for
20 purchasing Abreva is to obtain the represented benefits.

21 125. Defendants’ conduct has injured Plaintiff and class members because Abreva carries
22 a price premium, leading consumers to pay more for the Product than they otherwise would absent
23 the representations.

24 126. Plaintiff and each class member were harmed by purchasing Abreva because Abreva
25 is not capable of providing their advertised benefits. As a result, Plaintiff and each class member
26 lost money and property by way of purchasing Defendants’ ineffective topical treatment.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

1
2 127. Class Definition: Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself, and as a class
3 action on behalf of the following putative classes (the “Class”):

4 **Nationwide Class**

5 All individual residents of the United States who purchased the Product through the date of
6 class certification. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendants and all directors, officers,
7 employees, partners, principals, shareholders and agents of Defendants; (2) Any currently
8 sitting United States District Court Judge or Justice, and the current spouse and all other
9 persons within the third-degree of consanguinity to such judge/justice; and (3) Class Counsel.

10 **California Sub-Class**

11 All individual residents of the State of California who purchased the Product through the date
12 of class certification. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendants and all directors, officers,
13 employees, partners, principals, shareholders and agents of Defendants; (2) Any currently
14 sitting United States District Court Judge or Justice, and the current spouse and all other
15 persons within the third-degree of consanguinity to such judge/justice; and (3) Class Counsel.

16 128. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definitions if further investigation and
17 discovery indicates that the Class definitions should be narrowed, expanded, or otherwise modified,
18 including through the use of multi-state subclasses to account for material differences in state law, if
19 any.

20 129. Numerosity and Ascertainability: Plaintiff does not know the exact number of
21 members of the putative classes. Due to Plaintiff’ initial investigation, however, Plaintiff is informed
22 and believes that the total number of Class members is at least in the tens of thousands, and that
23 members of the Class are numerous and geographically dispersed throughout the United States and
24 California. Plaintiff believes that Class and California Subclass Members are so numerous that
25 joinder of all members is impracticable. While the exact number and identities of the Class members
26 are unknown at this time, such information can be ascertained through appropriate investigation and
27 discovery, including Defendants’ records, either manually or through computerized searches.

28 130. Typicality and Adequacy: Plaintiff’s claims are typical of those of the proposed Class,
and Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the proposed Class.
Plaintiff does not have any interests that are antagonistic to those of the proposed Class. Plaintiff
has retained counsel competent and experienced in the prosecution of this type of litigation.

1 131. Commonality: There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law
2 and facts involved in this case. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class
3 predominate over questions that may affect individual Class Members. These include:

- 4 (a) whether Defendants committed the conduct alleged herein;
- 5 (b) whether Defendants' conduct constitutes the violations of laws alleged herein;
- 6 (c) whether Defendants' labeling, sale and advertising set herein are unlawful, untrue,
7 or are misleading, or reasonably likely to deceive;
- 8 (d) whether Defendants' conduct violates public policy;
- 9 (e) whether Defendants engaged in unfair or unlawful business practices in marketing
10 and distributing the Product;
- 11 (f) whether Defendants knowingly concealed or misrepresented material facts for the
12 purpose of inducing consumers into spending money on the Product;
- 13 (g) whether Defendants' representations, concealments and non-disclosures
14 concerning the Product are likely to deceive the consumer;
- 15 (h) whether Defendants' representations, concealments and non-disclosures
16 concerning the Product violate the UCL and/or the common law;
- 17 (i) whether Defendants should be permanently enjoined from making the claims at
18 issue;
- 19 (j) whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of the unlawful
20 conduct alleged in this Complaint such that it would be inequitable for Defendants
21 to retain the benefits conferred upon Defendants by Plaintiff and the Class; and
- 22 (k) whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution and damages.

23 132. Predominance and Superiority: Common questions, some of which are set out above,
24 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. A class action is the
25 superior method for the fair and just adjudication of this controversy. The expense and burden of
26 individual suits makes it impossible and impracticable for members of the proposed Class to
27 prosecute their claims individually and multiplies the burden on the judicial system presented by the
28 complex legal and factual issues of this case. Individualized litigation also presents a potential for

1 inconsistent or contradictory judgments. In contrast, the class action device presents far fewer
2 management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and
3 comprehensive supervision by a single court on the issue of Defendants' liability. Class treatment
4 of the liability issues will ensure that all claims and claimants are before this Court for consistent
5 adjudication of the liability issues.

6 133. Manageability: The trial and litigation of Plaintiff' and the proposed Class' claims are
7 manageable. Defendants have acted and refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class,
8 making appropriate final injunctive relief and declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

9 134. Notice: If necessary, notice of this action may be affected to the proposed Class
10 through publication in a manner authorized in the California Rules of Court, Civil Code, and/or the
11 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Also, Class members may be notified of the pendency of this
12 action by mail and/or email, through the distribution records of Defendants, third party retailers, and
13 vendors.

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW,**
16 **CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200, *ET SEQ.***

17 135. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the preceding
18 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

19 136. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed
20 California Subclass against Defendants.

21 137. California Business and Professions Code § 17200 prohibits any "any unlawful,
22 unfair or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising."
23 For the reasons discussed above, Defendants have engaged in unlawful and unfair acts in violation
24 of California Business & Professions Code §17200.

25 138. As alleged herein, Plaintiff have standing to pursue this claim as Plaintiff have
26 suffered injury in fact and have lost money or property as a result of Defendants' actions.
27 Specifically, Plaintiff purchased the Product for their own personal use. In so doing, Plaintiff relied
28 upon the representations referenced above.

Unlawful

139. Defendants’ conduct is unlawful, in violation of the UCL, because it violates the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, the Song-Beverly Act, the California’s False Advertising Law, and the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act. Defendants’ conduct also amounts to fraud.

Unfair

140. Defendants’ conduct is unfair in violation of the UCL because it violates California public policy, legislative declared in the Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act, requiring a manufacturer to ensure that goods it places in the market are fit for their ordinary and intended purpose. Defendants violated the Song-Beverly Act because Abreva is unfit for its most central purpose: remedying cold sores. Defendants’ conduct is also unfair because it amounts to fraudulent conduct as described throughout and as described further below.

141. Defendants also acted in an unethical, unscrupulous, outrageous, oppressive, and substantially injurious manner. Defendants engaged in unfair business practices and acts in at least the following respects:

- a. Defendants promoted and sold Abreva with knowledge that it did not work as advertised;
- b. Defendants promoted and sold Abreva while exceeding the scope of the FDA approval;
- c. Defendants failed to disclose that Abreva was ineffective, and represented through advertising, its website, product packaging, and the general context it created that Abreva possesses particular qualities that were inconsistent with Defendants’ actual knowledge of the product.

142. The gravity of harm resulting from Defendants’ unfair conduct outweighs any potential utility. The practice of selling ineffective cold sore remedies—and continuing to sell Abreva without full and fair disclosure—harms the public at large and is part of a common and uniform course of conduct.

143. The harm from Defendants’ conduct was not reasonably avoidable by consumers. Abreva does not work and despite receiving a large volume of consumer complaints, Defendants did

1 not alter their course of conduct. Instead, Defendants continued to sell Abreva at consumers'
2 expense.

3 144. There were reasonably available alternatives that would have furthered Defendants'
4 business interests by satisfying and retaining its customers while maintaining profitability, such as:
5 (1) acknowledging that the over-the-counter remedy was not effective or not as effective as claimed;
6 (2) adequately disclosing this knowledge to prospective purchasers; (3) and offering refunds or a
7 suitable replacement to affected consumers.

8 **Fraud by Omission**

9 145. Defendants' conduct is fraudulent in violation of the UCL because it is likely to
10 deceive a reasonable consumer and:

- 11 a. Defendants knowingly and intentionally concealed from Plaintiff and Class
12 members that Abreva was not effective as they claimed;
- 13 b. Defendants volunteered information to Plaintiff and the Class through
14 advertising and other means that Abreva had qualities or characteristics that
15 they did not have without disclosing facts that would have materially qualified
16 those partial representations; and
- 17 c. Defendants promoted the abilities of Abreva but failed to correct its
18 misleading partial disclosures.

19 146. Defendants had ample means and opportunities to alert Plaintiff and Class members
20 of the inefficacious nature of Abreva, including on Defendants' webpages, in advertisements, and on
21 Abreva's external packaging. Defendants uniformly failed to disclose the true nature of Abreva.
22 Had Defendant done so, Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased Abreva at the prices
23 they did.

24 147. Defendants were under a duty to disclose the true nature of Abreva because of their
25 exclusive knowledge before selling Abreva, studies that have since been conducted on Abreva's
26 primary ingredient, docosanol, complaints made directly to Abreva, as well as online complaints and
27 online reputation management, as well as a prior lawsuit alleging similar conduct. All of this would
28 have put Defendants on notice of the issues complained of here.

1 b. Represented that Abreva is of a standard, quality, or grade when in fact it is
2 not; and

3 c. Advertised Abreva with intent not to sell it as advertised.

4 155. Through Avaniir's early testing, the FDA's comments related to the limited efficacy
5 of Abreva and docosanol, studies prepared by the scientific and medical community disproving
6 Defendants' claims, as well as numerous consumers who reported to Defendants directly that Abreva
7 did not work, including the filing and ultimate settlement of a lawsuit, Defendants knew that Abreva
8 was inefficacious.

9 156. Defendants were under a duty to disclose that Abreva did not work as advertised
10 because it had superior knowledge stemming from those categories described in the preceding
11 paragraph as well as because it made partial, materially misleading representations about Abreva's
12 ability to treat cold sores.

13 157. Defendants had ample means and opportunities to disclose to Plaintiffs and Class
14 members that Abreva was inefficacious, including through its advertisements, on external packaging,
15 and other such material distributed by Defendants. Despite its exclusive knowledge and
16 opportunities to disclose this knowledge, Defendant failed to disclose this knowledge to Plaintiff and
17 Class members prior to purchase.

18 158. Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions were material. Had Plaintiff and Class
19 members known that Abreva was ineffective as advertised, they would not have purchased Abreva,
20 or would not have purchased it at the price they did. Nonetheless Plaintiff Smith remains very much
21 interested in purchasing Abreva in the future as she believes Defendants are reputable companies
22 that otherwise manufacture and produce over-the-counter products that are high in quality.

23 159. In accordance with California Civil Code section 1782(a), Plaintiff's counsel sent via
24 certified mail, return receipt requested, a letter on behalf of the Class on August 9, 2021 to
25 Defendants' principal place of business, advising Defendants' of their violations and that it must
26 correct, replace, or otherwise rectify the goods alleged to be in violation. Defendants failed to correct
27 their business practices or provide the requested relief within 30 days. Accordingly, Plaintiff now
28 seeks monetary damages under the CLRA.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S FALSE ADVERTISING LAW,
CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500, ET SEQ.**

1
2
3
4 170. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the preceding
5 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

6 171. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed
7 California Subclass against Defendants.

8 172. Defendants' acts and practices, as described herein, have deceived and/or are likely
9 to continue to deceive class members and the public. As described above, and throughout this
10 Complaint, Defendants misrepresented Abreva qualities, characteristics, and abilities and concealed
11 knowledge that Abreva did not have those qualities, characteristics, and abilities.

12 173. By its actions, Defendants disseminated uniform advertising regarding Abreva into
13 California. The advertising was, by its very nature, unfair, deceptive, untrue, and misleading within
14 the meaning of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, et seq. Such advertisements were intended to and
15 likely did deceive the consuming public for the reasons detailed herein.

16 174. The above-described false, misleading, and deceptive advertising Defendants
17 disseminated continues to have a likelihood to deceive and in that Defendants failed to disclose the
18 true qualities, characteristics, and abilities of Abreva.

19 175. Defendants continued to misrepresent to consumers that Abreva is effective, when, in
20 fact, that was not the case as described throughout this Complaint.

21 176. In making and disseminating the statements alleged herein, Defendants knew, or
22 should have known, its advertisements were untrue and misleading in violation of California law.
23 Plaintiff and class members based their purchasing decisions on Defendants' omitted material facts.
24 The revenue attributable to Abreva through Defendants' false and misleading advertisements likely
25 amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars. Plaintiffs and class members were injured in fact and
26 lost money and property as a result.

1 177. The misrepresentation and non-disclosures by Defendants of the material facts
2 described and details herein constitute false and misleading advertisements and, therefore, constitute
3 violations of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, *et seq.*

4 178. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs and the class members lost
5 money in an amount to be proven at trial. Plaintiffs and the class members are therefore entitled to
6 restitution as appropriate for this cause of action.

7 179. Plaintiffs and class members seek all monetary and non-monetary relief allowed by
8 law, including restitution of all profits stemming from Defendants' unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent
9 business practices; declaratory relief; reasonable attorney's fees and costs under California Code of
10 Civil Procedure § 1021.5; injunctive relief; and other appropriate equitable relief.

11 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

13 180. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the preceding
14 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

15 181. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and
16 the proposed California Subclass against Defendants.

17 182. Defendants are and were at all times merchants with respect to OTC products, namely
18 Abreva.

19 183. In its advertisements, brochures, packaging, and on its website, Defendants expressly
20 warranted that Abreva heals cold sore when applied. Defendants' expressly warranted that Abreva
21 heals cold sores in 2 ½ days and that it provides symptomatic and anti-viral benefits. These
22 representations formed part of the basis of the bargain that was reached when Plaintiff and Class
23 members purchased Abreva.

24 184. Defendants breached these express warranties by entering into the stream of
25 commerce and selling to consumers a product, namely Abreva, that does not have these benefits.
26 That is, Abreva does not heal cold sores in 2 ½ days and fails to provide symptomatic and anti-viral
27 benefits.

1 was suitable for this particular purpose, and Plaintiff and the Class justifiably relied on Defendants'
2 skill and judgment.

3 194. Abreva was not suitable for this purpose.

4 195. Plaintiff purposed Abreva believing they had the qualities Plaintiff sought, based on
5 the deceptive advertising and labeling, but Abreva was unsatisfactory for the reasons described here.

6 196. Abreva was not merchantable in California, as it was not of the same quality as other
7 products in the category generally acceptable in the trade.

8 197. Abreva was also unmerchantable and breached the implied warranty because they did
9 not conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or label and on other
10 grounds as set forth in Commercial Code 2314(2).

11 198. As a result of this breach, Plaintiff and the Class did not receive goods as impliedly
12 warranted by Defendants.

13 199. Within a reasonable amount of time after Plaintiff discovered the breach, Plaintiff
14 notified Defendants of such breach.

15 200. As a proximate result of this breach of warranty, Plaintiff and Class members have
16 been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

17 201. As Plaintiff remains very much interested in purchasing from Defendants in the future
18 as described above, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to injunctive and equitable relief, restitution,
19 and an order for the disgorgement of funds by which Defendants were unjustly enriched.

20 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

21 **FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**

22 202. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the preceding
23 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

24 203. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and
25 the proposed California Subclass against Defendants.

26 204. At all times relevant, Defendants were engaged in the business of designing,
27 manufacturing, distributing, marketing, and selling Abreva.

28

1 205. Defendants, acting through its representatives or agents, delivered Abreva to its own
2 distributors and various other distribution channels.

3 206. Defendants willfully, falsely, and knowingly omitted various material facts regarding
4 the quality and character of Abreva as discussed throughout.

5 207. Rather than inform consumers of the truth regarding Abreva, Defendants
6 misrepresented the quality, including its 2 ½ days healing claims and its symptomatic and anti-viral
7 claims, including at the time of purchase.

8 208. Defendants made these material misrepresentations to boost or maintain sales of
9 Abreva, and in order to falsely assure purchasers of Abreva that Defendants are reputable companies
10 and that Abreva could perform as promised. The false representations were material to consumers
11 because the representations played a significant role in the value of Abreva as purchased.

12 209. Although Defendants had a duty to ensure the accuracy of the information regarding
13 the 2 ½ healing claims and its symptomatic and anti-viral claims, it did not fulfill these duties.

14 210. Defendants misrepresented material facts partly to pad and protect their profits, as it
15 saw that profits and sales of Abreva were essential for their continued growth and to maintain and
16 grow their reputation as a premier make of over-the-counter products. Such benefits came at the
17 expense of Plaintiff and Class members.

18 211. Plaintiff and Class members were unaware of these material misrepresentations, and
19 they would not have acted as they did had they known the truth. Plaintiff's and Class members'
20 actions were justified given Defendants' misrepresentations. Defendants were in the exclusive
21 control of material facts, and such facts were not known to the public.

22 212. Due to Defendants' misrepresentations, Plaintiff and Class members sustained injury
23 due to the purchase of Abreva that did not live up to their advertised representations. Plaintiff and
24 Class members are entitled to recover full or partial refunds for Abreva due to Defendants'
25 misrepresentations, or they are entitled to damages for the diminished value of the Product in an
26 amount to be determined at trial.

27 213. Defendants' acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, and with intent
28 to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiff's and Class member's rights and well-being, and in

1 part to enrich itself at the expense of consumers. Defendants' acts were done to gain commercial
2 advantage over competitors, and to drive consumers away from considerations of competitors'
3 products. Defendants' conduct warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient
4 to deter such conduct in the future.

5 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

7 214. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the preceding
8 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

9 215. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and
10 the proposed California Subclass against Defendants.

11 216. Defendants negligently and recklessly omitted certain material facts regarding
12 Abreva. Defendants failed to warn consumers that Abreva did not perform as warranted or
13 advertised.

14 217. The advertisements and warranties, which were made expressly through uniform
15 representations from Defendants were material and would have been considered by a reasonable
16 consumer, including Plaintiff and Class members, in making purchasing decisions.

17 218. Plaintiff and Class members acquired Abreva believing it would function as
18 advertised.

19 219. As a result, Plaintiff and Class members were directly and proximately injured by
20 Defendants' negligence in failing to inform Plaintiffs and Class members of Abreva's true nature,
21 namely that it does not heal cold sores in 2 ½ days and does not have symptomatic or anti-viral
22 properties. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages in an amount to be
23 proven at trial.

24 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **FRAUD BY OMISSION**

26 220. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the preceding
27 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

28

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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

Dated: December 3, 2021

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: /s/ L. Timothy Fisher
L. Timothy Fisher

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

JASMINE SMITH, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Alameda (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

L. Timothy Fisher, Bursor & Fisher, P.A., 1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 940 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Tel.: (925) 300-4455

DEFENDANTS

GLAXOSMITHKLINE, PLC and GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER HEALTHCARE

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns PTF and DEF for Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, HABEAS CORPUS, OTHER, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

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

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)

Brief description of cause: Defendants falsely advertise their products.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) X SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 12/03/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ L. Timothy Fisher

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), 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.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
 - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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.
 - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 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-CAND 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 the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an “X” in one of the six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
 - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no 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 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. 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-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.