Contents

SUMMARY ................................................................. 1
INTRODUCTION .......................................................... 3
DESCRIPTION OF GAUCHER DISEASE .................................. 3
   Forms of the Disease .................................................. 3
   Prevalence .................................................................. 4
   Diagnosis ................................................................... 6
   Treatment ................................................................... 6
ENZYME REPLACEMENT THERAPY ....................................... 7
   Mode of Administration ................................................. 7
   Clinical Experience ................................................... 7
   Conclusions Regarding Efficacy .................................... 11
   Conclusions Regarding Appropriate Dosing Regimens ......... 12
THE DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALGLUCERASE .......... 13
   History of Alglucerase Development .............................. 13
   The Cost of Developing Alglucerase ............................... 16
   Conclusions About the Discovery and Development of Alglucerase 17
THE COST OF MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTING, AND MARKETING
   PLACENTAL ALGLUCERASE .......................................... 17
POTENTIAL ADVANCES IN THERAPY FOR GAUCHER DISEASE ....... 18
PAYING FOR ALGLUCERASE THERAPY ................................. 19
   Cost of Treatment ..................................................... 19
   Who Pays the Cost of Alglucerase Treatment? .................. 20
   Insurance Payment for Alglucerase Therapy ....................... 21
POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF FEDERAL SUBSIDIES ................. 27
CONCLUSION ............................................................... 28
REFERENCES ................................................................. 29

Figure

Figure Page

Tables

Table Page
  1. Incidence of Gaucher Disease in the United States .................. 5
  2. Clinical Experience With Ceredase ................................. 8
  3. Clinical and Experimental Evidence Supporting Low-Dose Therapy Unfractionated .................... 10
  4. Scientific Basis for Biweekly High-Dose Unfractionated Versus Low-Dose Fractionated ............. 11
  5. The Development of Ceredase ...................................... 13
  6. NIH Contracts Pertaining to Alglucerase ................................ 15
  7. Estimated Annual Per Patient Drug and Ancillary Charges for Alglucerase Therapy Under Four Potential Dosing Regimens .................................................... 20
  8. Distribution of Alglucerase Patients by Primary Payer ................ 21
  9. Selected Insurance Characteristics of Full-Time Participants in Employment-Based Plans at Medium and Large Firms .................................................. 23