



December 6, 2017

## **Walgreens Boots Alliance to Invest in Chinese Pharmacy Chain GuoDa**

DEERFIELD, Ill.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (Nasdaq: WBA) today announces that it has reached an agreement with China National Accord Medicines Corporation Ltd. to become an investor in its subsidiary Sinopharm Holding Guoda Drugstores Co., Ltd. ("GuoDa"), which operates and franchises retail pharmacies across China.

Following a public tender process, Walgreens Boots Alliance's bid met all the requirements set by the seller to acquire a 40 percent minority stake in GuoDa through a capital increase worth RMB2.767 billion (around \$416 million). The transaction is subject to regulatory review and approval, and other customary closing conditions. Upon completion, Walgreens Boots Alliance would account for this stake as an equity method investment.

GuoDa is a leading retail pharmacy chain in China, and has been pursuing its vision for expansion across the country in the context of the ongoing healthcare reforms and increasing importance of the pharmacy channel in the country. Walgreens Boots Alliance, as a global pharmacy-led enterprise, believes it is well positioned to provide its significant expertise to GuoDa and support its growth ambitions.

Executive Vice Chairman and CEO Stefano Pessina said, "We are very pleased to become a strategic investor in GuoDa. It is China's leading pharmacy chain and we believe that we can positively contribute to its continued successful development with our global pharmacy expertise. We have had a presence in China for around 10 years, initially through Alliance Boots, and we are excited about the opportunity to further invest in the country's fast growing retail pharmacy sector."

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About GuoDa**

Sinopharm Holding Guoda Drugstore Co., Ltd. ("GuoDa") is a large national pharmacy chain in China. It is China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation's (CNPGC) retail pharmacy platform, established in March 2004 and headquartered in Shanghai.

GuoDa operates more than 3,500 retail pharmacies across around 70 cities, and employs close to 20,000 people. In 2016, GuoDa was consolidated into China National Accord Medicines Corporation Ltd. ("Sinopharm Accord") (Shenzhen Stock Exchange/A Share: 000028). After over 10 years of rapid growth, GuoDa has developed national coverage across 19 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

In line with CNPGC's strategy to further grow the State-owned pharmaceutical and healthcare business, GuoDa aims to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities created by the Chinese healthcare reform to further expand nationwide.

#### **About Walgreens Boots Alliance**

Walgreens Boots Alliance (Nasdaq: WBA) is the first global pharmacy-led, health and wellbeing enterprise. The company's heritage of trusted health care services through community pharmacy care and pharmaceutical wholesaling dates back more than 100 years.

Walgreens Boots Alliance is the largest retail pharmacy, health and daily living destination across the U.S. and Europe. Walgreens Boots Alliance and the companies in which it has equity method investments together have a presence in more than 25\* countries and employ more than 385,000\* people. The company is a global leader in pharmacy-led, health and wellbeing retail and, together with the companies in which it has equity method investments, has more than 13,200\* stores in 11\* countries as well as one of the largest global pharmaceutical wholesale and distribution networks, with more than 390\* distribution centers delivering to more than 230,000\*\* pharmacies, doctors, health centers and hospitals each year in more than 20\* countries. In addition, Walgreens Boots Alliance is one of the world's largest purchasers of prescription drugs and many other health and wellbeing products.

The company's portfolio of retail and business brands includes Walgreens, Duane Reade, Boots and Alliance Healthcare, as well as increasingly global health and beauty product brands, such as No7, Soap & Glory, Liz Earle, Sleek MakeUP and Botanics.

The company ranks No. 1 in the Food and Drug Stores industry of Fortune magazine's 2017 list of the World's Most Admired Companies.

More company information is available at [www.walgreensbootsalliance.com](http://www.walgreensbootsalliance.com).

\* As of 31 August 2017, using publicly available information for AmerisourceBergen.

\*\* For 12 months ending 31 August 2017, using publicly available information for AmerisourceBergen.

(WBA-GEN)

### Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

*All statements in this release that are not historical statements are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the agreement with China National Accord Medicines Corporation Ltd to become an investor in its subsidiary GuoDa, the transaction contemplated thereby, the tender process with respect thereto and the possible time and effects thereof, the ability of the parties to complete the transactions considering the various closing conditions, and statements regarding retail pharmacy growth and expansion in China. Words such as "expect," "pending," "potential", "likely," "preliminary," "would," "could," "should," "can," "will," "project," "intend," "plan," "believe," "seek," "estimate," "anticipate," "may," "possible," "assume," and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions, known or unknown, which could cause actual results to vary materially from those indicated or anticipated. Such risks include, but are not limited to, risks related to the proposed transactions and acquisitions generally, including the risk that the transactions may not close due to one or more closing conditions to the transactions not being satisfied or waived, risks related to the ability to realize the anticipated benefits of the proposed transactions, the outcome of legal and regulatory matters, the risk of unexpected costs, liabilities or delays, changes in management's assumptions, and risks associated with changes in laws, regulations or interpretations thereof. These and other risks, assumptions and uncertainties are described in Item 1A (Risk Factors) of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2017, which is incorporated herein by reference, and in other documents that the Company files or furnishes with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those indicated or anticipated by such forward-looking statements. Accordingly, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. Except to the extent required by law, Walgreens Boots Alliance does not undertake, and expressly disclaims, any duty or obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statement after the date of this release, whether as a result of new information, future events, changes in assumptions or otherwise.*

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