

Covidien plc  
Form 425  
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under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Subject Company: Covidien plc

Form S-4 File No.: 333-197406

**Letter to Clinical Investigators and Q&A for Background**

P.I. NAME, MD

SITE NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP CITY,

COUNTRY

**Re: ILLUMENATE Clinical Trial**

Dear ILLUMENATE Clinical Trial Investigator,

Covidien is committed to providing timely communication to our study investigators. Today, Covidien announced it has signed a material agreement with Spectranetics under which Spectranetics will acquire the Stellarex<sup>®</sup> drug-coated angioplasty balloon (Stellarex<sup>®</sup> DCB) and the on-going clinical program. The transaction with Spectranetics is expected to close promptly after consummation of Medtronic's acquisition of Covidien and receipt of required regulatory approvals.

Covidien made the decision to divest the Stellarex<sup>™</sup> DCB program in connection with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) review of the pending acquisition of Covidien by Medtronic. In order to obtain clearance under U.S. antitrust law, Medtronic and Covidien have agreed to divest Covidien's Stellarex<sup>®</sup> DCB program.

Like Covidien, Spectranetics is dedicated to investing in the research and development of innovative treatment solutions that improve peripheral vascular procedures. They are committed to continue the ILLUMENATE trial series as planned. All patients enrolled will continue to be followed closely per protocol. Covidien is committed to ensuring no disruption to these clinical trials, and we will work closely with Spectranetics to ensure a successful transition upon closing the transaction. Your current clinical contacts and the clinical team supporting these trials remain unchanged.

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Please be assured that we will implement an effective and seamless transition, while delivering the same level of excellent quality products and service you have come to expect from Covidien and our clinical teams.

We greatly appreciate your partnership in clinical research, and are committed to your ongoing success as a clinical researcher. We thank you for your patience and look forward to future collaboration in seeking groundbreaking therapies that directly impact patient care.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Turco, M.D.

Chief Medical Officer

Vascular Therapies

Covidien

**NO OFFER OR SOLICITATION**

Kate Rumrill

Vice President, Medical Affairs

Peripheral Vascular

Covidien

Amanda Johnson

Vice President, Regulatory

and Medical Affairs

Spectranetics

This communication is not intended to and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to subscribe for or buy or an invitation to purchase or subscribe for any securities or the solicitation of any vote or approval in any jurisdiction pursuant to the acquisition, the merger or otherwise, nor shall there be any sale, issuance or transfer of securities in any jurisdiction in contravention of applicable law. No offer of securities shall be made except by means of a prospectus meeting the requirements of Section 10 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

### **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE FILED WITH THE SEC**

Medtronic Holdings Limited ( New Medtronic ) has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ) a registration statement on Form S-4 that includes the preliminary Joint Proxy Statement of Medtronic, Inc. ( Medtronic ) and Covidien plc ( Covidien ) that also constitutes a preliminary Prospectus of New Medtronic. The registration statement is not complete and will be further amended. Medtronic and Covidien plan to mail to their respective shareholders the final Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) in connection with the transactions. **INVESTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PRELIMINARY JOINT PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS (INCLUDING THE SCHEME) AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN OR WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MEDTRONIC, COVIDIEN, NEW MEDTRONIC, THE TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS.** Investors and security holders are able to obtain free copies of the preliminary Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) and other documents filed with the SEC by New Medtronic, Medtronic and Covidien through the website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, investors and shareholders are able to obtain free copies of the preliminary Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) and other documents filed by Medtronic and New Medtronic with the SEC by contacting Medtronic Investor Relations at [investor.relations@medtronic.com](mailto:investor.relations@medtronic.com) or by calling 763-505-2696, and will be able to obtain free copies of the preliminary Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus (including the Scheme) and other documents filed by Covidien by contacting Covidien Investor Relations at [investor.relations@covidien.com](mailto:investor.relations@covidien.com) or by calling 508-452-4650.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLICITATION**

Medtronic, New Medtronic and Covidien and certain of their respective directors and executive officers and employees may be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies from the respective shareholders of Medtronic and Covidien in respect of the transactions contemplated by the Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of the respective shareholders of Medtronic and Covidien in connection with the proposed transactions, including a description of their direct or indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be set forth in the final Joint Proxy Statement/Prospectus when it is filed with the SEC. Information regarding Medtronic's directors and executive officers is contained in Medtronic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 25, 2014 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated July 11, 2014, which are filed with the SEC. Information regarding Covidien's directors and executive officers is contained in Covidien's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2013 and its Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, dated January 24, 2014, which are filed with the SEC.

### **Covidien Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

Statements contained in this communication that refer to Covidien's estimated or anticipated future results, including estimated synergies, or other non-historical facts are forward-looking statements that reflect Covidien's current perspective of existing trends and information as of the date of this communication. Forward-looking statements generally will be accompanied by words such as anticipate, believe, plan, could, should, estimate, expect, outlook, guidance, intend, may, might, will, possible, potential, predict, project, or other similar expressions. It is important to note that Covidien's goals and expectations are not predictions of actual performance. Actual results may differ materially from Covidien's current expectations depending upon a number of factors

affecting Covidien's business, Medtronic's business and risks associated with the proposed transactions. These factors include, among others, the inherent uncertainty associated with financial projections; the timing to consummate the proposed transactions; the risk that a condition to closing of the proposed transactions may not be satisfied; the risk that the required regulatory approvals for the proposed transactions are not obtained, are delayed or are subject to conditions that are not anticipated; New Medtronic's ability to achieve the synergies and value creation contemplated by the proposed transactions; the anticipated size of the markets and continued demand for Medtronic's and Covidien's products; New Medtronic's ability to promptly and effectively integrate Medtronic's and Covidien's businesses; the diversion of management time on transaction-related issues; competitive factors and market conditions in the industry in which Covidien operates; Covidien's ability to obtain regulatory approval and customer acceptance of new products, and continued customer acceptance of Covidien's existing products; and the other risks identified in Covidien's periodic filings

- 2 -

including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended September 27, 2013, and from time to time in Covidien's other investor communications. We caution you that the foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive. In addition, in light of these risks and uncertainties, the matters referred to in Covidien's forward-looking statements may not occur. Covidien undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law.

**Statement Required by the Irish Takeover Rules**

The directors of Covidien plc accept responsibility for the information contained in this communication. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this communication is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

No statement in this announcement is intended to constitute a profit forecast for any period, nor should any statements be interpreted to mean that earnings or earnings per share will necessarily be greater or lesser than those for the relevant preceding financial periods for Medtronic or Covidien or New Medtronic as appropriate. No statement in this announcement constitutes an asset valuation.

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