

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Smith & Nephew plc
(Registrant)

Date: August 21, 2003

By: /s/ Paul Chambers

Paul Chambers
Company Secretary

2

Smith & Nephew plc
15 Adam Street
London WC2N 6LA
England

T 44 (0) 207 401 7476
F 44 (0) 207 960 2350
www.smith-nephew.com

[COMPANY LOGO] We are smith &

21 August 2003

SMITH & NEPHEW INFORMED OF SEC INFORMAL INVESTIGATION INTO
CENTERPULSE ACCOUNTING

Smith & Nephew has been informed by Centerpulse AG that the US Securities and Exchange Commission is conducting an informal investigation into certain Centerpulse accounting issues. Smith & Nephew has no further details to impart at this time.

Smith & Nephew announced recently that it does not intend to increase its offers for Centerpulse and InCentive Capital. Under Swiss law Smith & Nephew's offers for the two companies remain open until 27 August 2003.

Enquiries

Edgar Filing: SMITH & NEPHEW PLC - Form 6-K

Angie Craig
Smith & Nephew

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7401 7646

David Yates
Financial Dynamics

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7831 3113

United States of America

The offer for Centerpulse shares is being made in the United States only through a prospectus/offer to exchange, which is part of a registration statement filed with the SEC by Smith & Nephew Group. Centerpulse shareholders who are US persons or are located in the United States are urged to read the registration statement, including the prospectus/offer to exchange included therein, and the other documents filed, or to be filed, with the SEC by Smith & Nephew Group or Centerpulse relating to the Centerpulse offer, because they contain important information about the Centerpulse offer. You may obtain a free copy of these documents from the SEC's Web site at www.sec.gov. You may also obtain this information from Morrow & Co., Inc., the US information agent for the Centerpulse offer, at (800) 607-0088, or by e-mail at centerpulse.info@morrowco.com

News