

## Merck to offer 100 million settlement in NuvaRing lawsuits

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Final Position Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

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(HealthDay)—Merck will pay \$100 million to settle thousands of lawsuits over the company's NuvaRing birth control device, according to insiders.

The <u>settlement</u> will be announced Friday and provide an average payout of more than \$58,000 per case, two people familiar with the <u>deal</u> told *Bloomberg News*. They did not want to be identified because they hadn't been authorized to talk publicly about the accord.

The deal will resolve several thousand cases in federal and state courts in Missouri and New Jersey. Women accused Merck of selling NuvaRing even though the company knew that the device put them at higher risk



for <u>blood clots</u> than products from other companies.

A Merck spokeswoman declined to comment on the settlement, *Bloomberg* reported.

More information: Other Health Highlights: Feb. 7, 2014

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