WHAT IS NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA SPECTRUM DISORDER?
NMOSD is a rare immune-mediated neurological disease that affects the optic nerve and spinal cord. It is characterized by the development of inflammation in the brain, spinal cord, optic nerves, and/or the optic chiasm. NMOSD is associated with hypertension, and is more common in women.

HOW IS NMOSD DIAGNOSED?
Diagnosis of NMOSD is made by combining clinical history, symptoms, and imaging findings. Imaging studies such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain and spine are used to identify abnormalities in the brain and spinal cord. Laboratory testing may also be performed to identify specific antibodies associated with NMOSD.

WHAT ROLE DOES COMPLEMENT INHIBITION PLAY IN TREATING NMOSD?
Inhibiting the complement system can help reduce inflammation and prevent further damage to the optic nerve and spinal cord. This helps to reduce the risk of relapses and improve the overall quality of life for people living with NMOSD.

WHAT TREATMENT APPROACH IS BEING STUDIED BY ALEXION?
In addition to developing the first approved therapy for adults with anti-AQP4 antibody-positive NMOSD, we continue to advance research to identify new, life-changing therapies for people living with NMOSD.

THE COMPLEMENT SYSTEM
The complement system is a part of the immune system and is essential to the body’s defense against infection. When the system is thrown out of balance (by blocking the C5 protein), it reduces the risk of relapses.