

To: Z060725 (6046871327) - MEDICAL DIRECTOR; PARKINSON SOCIETY BRITISH COLUMBIA (Q7375A)
From: PTM on behalf of MERCK CANADA INC.
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Merck Canada Inc.
16750 Trans-Canada Hwy
Kirkland (Québec)
H9H 4M7
merck.ca

April 4th, 2019



**Subject: Update on drug shortage for SINEMET® (levodopa and carbidopa)
Discontinuation of SINEMET® CR (levodopa and carbidopa controlled release)**

Dear Healthcare Professionals and Patient Associations,

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that Merck Canada Inc. continues to experience supply constraints for SINEMET® (levodopa and carbidopa) and SINEMET® CR emanating from manufacturing challenges and delays with a third-party supplier.

As a result, for **SINEMET®**, Merck Canada Inc. is working to identify solutions to remedy the situation to ensure a more stable source of supply. Unfortunately, we expect that the supply disruption for SINEMET® will continue in 2019. Merck Canada Inc. remains committed to resuming manufacture of this product as quickly as possible.

For **SINEMET® CR** Merck Canada regrets to announce that after having unsuccessfully pursued alternative supply options, the difficult decision was made to cease the manufacturing, distribution and supply of the product once all current inventories have been exhausted.

Generic alternatives of levodopa and carbidopa controlled release are available. As of April 4th, the status of product supply is as follows:

Product Name	Anticipated Resupply
SINEMET® 100 mg/25 mg	Anticipated Resupply: July 2020
SINEMET® 250 mg/25 mg	Anticipated shortage beginning: December 2019 Anticipated Resupply: July 2020
SINEMET® CR 100 mg/25 mg	No resupply (remaining inventory projected to last until September 2019 at current demand level)
SINEMET® CR 200 mg/50 mg	No resupply

As part of our commitment to supporting healthcare professionals and patient communities, we will continue to keep you informed of the availability of SINEMET®. The most up-to-date information regarding SINEMET® supply details is available on www.drugshortagescanada.ca which is regularly updated in relation to the supply situation outlined above.

Should you require any additional information regarding product availability, please call the Merck Canada Information Centre at **1-800-567-2594 ext. 1** or send an e-mail to montreal.orderdesk@merck.com.

If you are a healthcare professional and have a medical question regarding SINEMET®, you may refer to the product monograph or contact the Merck Canada Medical Information Centre by calling **1-800-567-2594 ext. 2** or sending an email to medinfocanada@merck.com.

We recognize and regret any inconvenience caused to patients and their healthcare providers by the discontinuation of SINEMET® CR and appreciate your understanding as we work towards identifying solutions to establish a stable supply of SINEMET® in the Canadian market.

Sincerely,

Ruihong Li, M.D., Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruihong Li".

Vice-President, Medical Affairs
Merck Canada Inc.