

## **Sinemet supply issue 2018 – Parkinson’s UK information for healthcare professionals**

**05 September 2018**

Parkinson’s UK have been made aware by Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited (MSD) that there is currently a supply issue with some of their Sinemet products in the UK and other countries.

MSD has informed us that this has been caused by current manufacturing capacity constraints, and that the following Sinemet products are expected to have intermittent supply as of August 2018:

- Sinemet 12.5/50mg 9x10 tablets
- Sinemet 25/250mg 10x10 tablets
- Sinemet plus 25/100mg 10x10 tablets
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This is a constantly changing situation, however MSD expect that the most commonly used Sinemet 12.5/50mg 9x10 tablets may have supply issues from as of August until Mid-September.

Sinemet 25/250mg 10x10 tablets will be unavailable from end of September and will continue to have supply issues until the first quarter of next year.

Sinemet plus 25/100mg 10x10 tablets will be unavailable from end of October and will continue to have supply issues until the first quarter of next year.

The following products are currently unaffected:

- SINEMET (HALF) CR 25/100MG 6X10 Tablets
- SINEMET 10/100MG 10X10 Tablets
- SINEMET CR 50/200MG 6x10 Tablets

MSD have alerted the Department of Health, as well as pharmacy wholesalers and are working to cascade this information through relevant channels.

### **How is this being communicated to people with Parkinson’s?**

Parkinson’s UK will be placing a statement on their website and social media channels. Staff have already been informed internally and there is an FAQ for helpline staff. Statements and FAQ have been developed with MSD.

### **Parkinson’s UK’s statement:**

If you are currently taking Sinemet, there is a chance that your Pharmacist will be unable to give you your prescription. There are generic versions of Co-careldopa, the active ingredient in Sinemet, available in a range of strengths. Your GP or Pharmacist will discuss these with you and should be able to offer you a suitable alternative.

This is a constantly changing situation and MSD are making efforts to resolve the issue. We will update you immediately if any change happens.

A statement from MSD says: “MSD is committed to ensuring the continuity of supply of our medicines and vaccines – however delays in manufacture and production that we cannot always foresee can unexpectedly happen. Please be reassured that we are doing all that we reasonably can to ensure that normal supply is resumed as soon as possible and are working closely with key stakeholders including Parkinson’s UK, and other professional bodies and agencies to keep them updated.

We recognise the impact this will have on Parkinson's patients, their carers' and the wider medical community and we regret that this situation has arisen."

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your medication or if you are unable to obtain Sinemet products, you can discuss this with your GP, Pharmacist, Consultant or Parkinson's nurse. You can also contact our helpline on 0808 800 0303.

Check for updates from [MSD](#) on the availability of Sinemet in the UK.

[Statement ends]

**I am a pharmacist who can I contact about supply?**

Pharmacists experiencing difficulty in getting hold of product from their wholesaler can contact MSD for an update on availability by calling: 01992 452094; e-mail: [customerservice\\_msduk@merck.com](mailto:customerservice_msduk@merck.com) or alternatively, contact the AAH customer care lines:

Retail customers: 0844 561 8899. Hospital accounts: 0844 561 6699.

**For all other queries relating to Sinemet supplies please refer to the [MSD website](#).**

**To discuss Parkinson's UK's response to this issue, please contact:**

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