



# Company Statement

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Media Contact: Dominique Quirion  
dominique.quirion@merck.com

## **UPDATE ON SINEMET® (LEVODOPA AND CARBIDOPA) AND SINEMET® CR (LEVODOPA AND CARBIDOPA CONTROLLED RELEASE)**

KIRKLAND, QC - April 5, 2019 - Merck, known as MSD outside of Canada and the United States, is informing regulatory health agencies and healthcare professionals worldwide of important changes in the availability of continuous release (CR) and immediate release (IR) formulations of SINEMET® (carbidopa-levodopa), medicines indicated for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Due to manufacturing challenges with the company's current third-party manufacturer and considering that generic carbidopa-levodopa alternatives are available, Merck will discontinue the supply of SINEMET® CR in Canada, once current inventories have been exhausted. The difficult decision was made after unsuccessfully pursuing alternative supply options and is not related to any product quality or safety issue.

Based on current demand, depletion of the current inventory of SINEMET® CR 100/25 MG is expected in September 2019. SINEMET® CR 200/50 MG is no longer available.

As for SINEMET®, Merck 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 understands the importance of a steady supply of SINEMET® and remains committed to resuming manufacture of this product as quickly as possible.

We will continue to inform patients and healthcare professionals of the availability of our medicines. The most up to date information regarding SINEMET® and SINEMET® CR supply is available and regularly updated on [www.drugshortagescanada.ca](http://www.drugshortagescanada.ca).

Despite the availability of generic alternatives in Canada, Merck understands that such decisions may be disruptive for patients. We sincerely apologize for any difficulty this situation may cause healthcare professionals and the patients they serve. Merck remains dedicated to helping patients with Parkinson's disease and to ensuring a reliable supply of SINEMET® for Canadian patients and healthcare professionals.

- Healthcare professionals with a medical question regarding SINEMET® or SINEMET® CR may refer to the product monograph available on [www.merck.ca](http://www.merck.ca) or contact the Merck Information Centre by calling 1-800-567-2594 ext. 2 or by emailing [medinfocanada@merck.com](mailto:medinfocanada@merck.com).
- Patients with any concerns regarding the medicine they may be taking should consult with their pharmacist or healthcare provider.

To consult the Canadian product monographs for complete prescribing information including contraindications, warnings, precautions, adverse reactions, interactions, dosing and condition of clinical use:

- [SINEMET®](#)
- [SINEMET® CR](#)

### **About Merck**

For over a century, Merck, a leading global biopharmaceutical company known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships.

Today, Merck continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world - including cancer, cardio-metabolic diseases, emerging animal diseases, Alzheimer's disease and infectious diseases including HIV and Ebola. For more information about our operations in Canada, visit [www.merck.ca](http://www.merck.ca) and connect with us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) @MerckCanada.

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