

Michel Cimon, MD, MPH
Executive Director, Medical Affairs
☎ 514.428.3213
Email: michel.cimon@merck.com

Merck Canada Inc.
C.P. 1005
Pointe-Claire-Dorval
Québec H9R 4P8
T 514 428 7920

October 18, 2011



To: Parkinson Society Canada, Toronto, Ontario attn: Ms. Barbara Snelgrove
From: Michel Cimon, Executive Director, Medical Affairs, Merck
Subject: Sinemet supply update

Dear Mrs. Snelgrove:

Merck Canada is committed to providing you with up-to-date information about our products. This letter is to update you with regards to the availability of SINEMET[®] (levodopa and carbidopa tablets, USP) in Canada.

As you are aware, since reacquiring distribution rights last year for SINEMET[®] from Bristol-Myers Squibb, we have worked diligently to ensure that SINEMET[®] is available to Canadian patients with Parkinson's disease. During this time, we have also been working with Health Canada to secure approval for manufacturing changes for SINEMET[®], with the goal of strengthening the supply capability to meet future demands.

We can appreciate how difficult it is for any patient who may not be able to receive their usual medication and sincerely regret having any shortage of SINEMET[®] for any length of time. We know SINEMET[®] is an important medication for patients with Parkinson's disease and are committed to taking all actions available maximize the availability of all strengths.

It was regrettable that there was an approximate 3 month period this past summer where SINEMET[®] 100/10 & 250/25 were unavailable however this was, in large part, due to a much higher than expected demand. We now have full supply of these strengths and are making adjustments in our forecast to minimize such supply disruptions in the future.

With regard to the prolonged unavailability of SINEMET[®] 100/25, we are very pleased to report that the manufacturing change for SINEMET[®] 100/25 has recently been approved in Canada. We are now working to expedite all necessary steps to make this strength available on the Canadian market. We are hopeful that all necessary steps can be completed in the shortest time possible and are looking to have the SINEMET[®] 100/25 strength available on the Canadian market by year end.

Please be assured that Merck Canada will continue to monitor this matter very closely and should you request it, will continue to keep you informed of developments related to the supply of SINEMET® in Canada. Merck is committed to acting in the best interests of patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michel Cimon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dr. Michel Cimon
Merck Canada Inc.