

The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association
Movement Disorder Chapter
&
The Movement Disorder Society of Australia and New Zealand
Joint Position Statement – 19th May 2020 (2nd Edition)

Sinemet® Supply Shortage Recommendations

Sinemet® (levodopa/carbidopa) is a medication commonly used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease as well as other neurological disorders. From 23 August 2018, there has been an international supply shortage of various formulations of Sinemet® including:

- Sinemet® 250/25 immediate release
- Sinemet® 100/25 immediate release
- Sinemet® CR 200/50 controlled release

**Disclaimer: The following table is a guide for substitute medications for Sinemet® and is not intended as medical advice. Following conversions to a non-identical formulation, patients should be monitored for any unexpected deterioration in symptom control. Medication alternatives other than equivalent brands should only be dispensed with the correct prescription from a treating physician. If Parkinson's medications are to be changed, this should be discussed with the patient's usual neurologist or staff specialist.*

Sinemet® (Levodopa/Carbidopa)	Recommended substitute brand and dosage with closest Levodopa dose equivalence
Sinemet® 100/25 tablet	APO-Levodopa/Carbidopa® 100/25 tablet Kinson® (Levodopa/Carbidopa) 100/25 tablet Sinadopa® (Levodopa/Carbidopa) 100/25 tablet Madopar® (Levodopa/Benserazide) 100/25 tablet Madopar® (Levodopa/Benserazide) 100/25 Capsule
Sinemet® 250/25 tablets	APO-Levodopa/Carbidopa® 250/25 tablet Sinadopa® (Levodopa/Carbidopa) 250/25 tablet Kinson® (Levodopa/Carbidopa) 100/25 (x2½) tablets Madopar® (Levodopa/Benserazide) 100/25 (x2½) tablets Madopar® (Levodopa/Benserazide) 200/50 (x1¼) tablets
Sinemet® CR 200/50 Controlled Release tablets	Stalevo® (Levodopa/Carbidopa/Entacapone) 150/37.5/200 tablet Madopar® HBS (Levodopa/Benserazide) slow release 100/25 (x2) tablets (HBS - hydrodynamically balanced system)

Reference: Tomlinson, C, Stowe, R, Patel, S, Rick, C, Gray, R & Clarke, C 2010, 'Systematic review of levodopa dose equivalency reporting in Parkinson's disease' *Movement Disorders*, vol. 25, no. 15, p. 2649-2653

Information for Pharmacists and Clinicians

Alternative products have temporarily been made available under Section 19A of the Therapeutics Goods Act.

These include:

- Carbidopa and Levodopa tablets, USP 25mg/250mg
- Carbidopa and Levodopa Extended-release tablets 50mg/200mg
- Sinemet CR 50mg/200mg Prolonged-Release tablets (MSD-UK Peach-coloured, blister packs of 60)

Pharmacists in the first instance should be able access these medicines via the following wholesalers:

- API: 1300 363 303
- Sigma: 1300 132 293
- Symbion: 1300 772 000

Should there be any issues with supply, pharmacists should then contact:

- Medsurge Healthcare on 1300 788 261 for Carbidopa and Levodopa immediate and extended-release
- Mylan on 1800 028 365 for Sinemet CR 50mg/200mg Prolonged-Release tablets

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