

The Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association
Movement Disorder Chapter
&
The Movement Disorder Society of Australia and New Zealand

Joint Position Statement – 8 July 2019

Sinemet® 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

The shortage is expected to continue until 31 December 2019 and only emergency supplies for these products are available.

The following table is intended to provide clinicians and patients with information about options regarding substitute medications for Sinemet®.

Sinemet® (Levodopa/Carbidopa)	Recommended substitute brand and dosage with closest Levodopa dose equivalence
Sinemet® 100/25 tablet (Immediate release)	- Kinson® (Levodopa/Carbidopa) 100/25 tablet - Madopar® (Levodopa/Benserazide) 100/25 tablet - Madopar® (Levodopa/Benserazide) 100/25 Capsule
Sinemet® 250/25 tablets (Immediate release)	- 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

*The listed medication conversions are provided for guidance only, are not intended as personal medical advice and that any such changes should be discussed with the patient's treating doctor.

*Following conversions to a non-identical formulation, patients should be monitored for any unexpected deterioration in symptom control.

During this time, alternative products which are not on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), have 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

For more information regarding these products, contact Medsurge on 1300 788 261.

A community pharmacist can access these medicines via wholesalers such as API, Sigma and Symbion. Please contact your wholesaler for more information regarding ordering, stock availability and time required for stock to arrive:

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

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