



15 December 2009

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Dear Pharmacist

### Advance Notice – Stock Shortage

#### **SINEMET CR® (levodopa/carbidopa) 200/50 mg tablets**

We write to inform you that Australia will experience a significant shortage in the supply of SINEMET CR for approximately one year, starting in early 2010 and continuing into 2011.

*Supplies of the immediate release formulation of SINEMET [SINEMET 100/25 mg and SINEMET 250/25mg tablets] are not expected to be affected.*

The shortage in SINEMET CR is not related to any product quality or safety issue. This temporary global shortage of SINEMET CR is related to a change in the source of supply and the necessary time needed to obtain regulatory approvals for the change.

This means that SINEMET CR will not be available for all current patients. At this time, it is estimated that initially only 20% of patients will be able to receive uninterrupted supply of SINEMET CR in 2010. We seek your assistance in helping to ensure that the limited supplies of SINEMET CR will be available for those patients with the greatest need – those for whom there are no suitable alternatives. In order to support the patients with the greatest need it is expected that 80% of patients on SINEMET CR will need to be switched to alternative treatments, as medically appropriate.

**We kindly ask that you immediately direct all patients taking SINEMET CR to their prescribing doctor to have their current treatment reviewed and, where medically appropriate, switched to an alternative treatment.**

To facilitate this course of action, we have notified neurologists, geriatricians and general practitioners of the impending shortage of SINEMET CR requesting that patients be switched to alternative treatments, where medically appropriate.

**Wholesalers have also been informed of the impending shortage and we ask that increased orders not be placed with wholesalers as this will prematurely exhaust existing supplies of SINEMET CR.**

For further information, please contact Medical Information on 1800 645 712.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Troels Wolthers  
Medical Director

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