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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
 FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS AND PATIENTS**

- Changes to tablet appearances, storage conditions, shelf-life and packs

Re:**Sinemet (carbidopa/levodopa) 10mg/100mg Tablets, PA 1286/9/3****Sinemet (carbidopa/levodopa) 25mg/250mg Tablets, PA 1286/9/5****Sinemet Plus (carbidopa/levodopa) 25mg/100mg Tablets, PA 1286/9/4**





Dear Healthcare Professional,

I am writing to inform you that MSD is updating its manufacturing for Sinemet which will result in changes to the above tablets. Other Sinemet presentations remain unchanged.



This communication which has been approved by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA, formerly IMB) is to advise you in advance of the changes being implemented.

TABLET APPEARANCES

- The new tablets will no longer be scored for half-tablet dosing. Please refer to the following table for changes to tablet appearances.

Presentation	Current Image	New image
Sinemet 10mg/100mg Tablets	 Dapple-blue, oval tablet, one side plain and the other scored and marked '647'	 Light dapple blue, round tablet, with '647' on one side and plain on the other
Sinemet 25mg/250mg Tablets	 Light dapple-blue, oval tablet, one side plain and the other scored and marked '654'	 Light dapple blue, round tablet, with '654' on one side and plain on the other



Sinemet Plus 25mg/100mg Tablets	 Yellow, oval tablet, one side plain and the other scored and marked '650'	 Yellow, round tablet with '650' on one side and plain on the other
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STORAGE CONDITIONS

- Current storage advice states "Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package in order to protect from light."
- Storage advice for the new presentations states "This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions."

SHELF LIFE

- The shelf life will be reduced from 3 years to 2 years in the new packs.

PACK SIZE / PRICE

- Pack sizes are moving from 90 to 100 tablets. It is our intention that the per tablet price will remain the same.

PACKAGE TYPE

- The package type will change from PVC/aluminium blister packs to all aluminium blister packs.

Please ensure all relevant staff are made aware of the content of this letter and that the information is communicated to the patients. There may be a period of time where both old and new tablet presentations are available on the Irish market.

The authorised product information for these medicines is available at www.hpra.ie.
If you have any questions, please contact:

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The first supply will be on the market by September with current packs expected to be phased out by October. MSD would like to thank you for your understanding during this transition.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Brid Seoighe
Associate Director Medical Affairs