Notice of cessation of manufacture, distribution and supply of SINEMET® CR (carbidopa levodopa)

July 16, 2019

American Parkinson's Disease Foundation
National Headquarters
135 Parkinson Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10305

Dear American Parkinson's Disease Foundation,

I am writing to inform you that Merck has made the difficult decision to discontinue supplying the continuous release (CR) formulation of SINEMET® in the U.S. We have informed the Food & Drug Administration of this decision.

Decisions like this are not easy and we do not take them lightly. In this case, despite significant efforts to secure a reliable and stable supply and after a careful and extensive evaluation of the situation, we are no longer able to provide this medicine to patients in the U.S. We also carefully assessed the availability of other options for patients. Currently, Merck supplies less than one percent of the approved uses of SINEMET CR in the U.S.

We recognize that this news may be very difficult for patients and their families, and our focus now is to help minimize any disruption to patient care. We also recognize that patients and their families turn to patient organizations such as yours, in addition to healthcare professionals, for guidance and advice. We are therefore fully committed to ensuring that your organization, other patient advocacy groups, professional societies, and prescribers are aware of this discontinuation so that healthcare professionals can advise patients on the most appropriate alternatives for them.

SINEMET CR will continue to be available through product expiry or until the current inventory is depleted.

For more information or so that we can address any questions, please contact the Merck National Service Center at 1-800-672-6372.

Sincerely,

Anne E. de Papp MD

Anne E. de Papp, MD
Vice President & Head, U.S. Medical Affairs