



# Parkinson Society Canada

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# Soci t  Parkinson Canada

## Shortage of Sinemet – Questions and Answers January 18, 2010

**Q. Is there a shortage of Sinemet and/or the generic brand of levo/carbidopa in Canada?**

**A.** Yes.

**Q. How did this shortage happen?**

**A.** Sinemet and SinemetCR are owned by Merck Canada and distributed by Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS). Generic levo/carbidopa is distributed by Apotex.

The generic product, Apo-levocarb CR 200/50 has been discontinued by Apotex. See advisory at Apotex web site: <http://www.apotex.com/global/pubadvisories/default.asp>.

Due to higher demand for the regular Sinemet, there is a shortage of some products. Stock should be replenished by early to mid-February.

**Q. What are the implications for people living with Parkinson's?**

**A.** People living with Parkinson's should not stop taking their levo-carbidopa just because the generic product is no longer available. Other forms of levo-carb are available.

Stopping levo-carb suddenly for a prolonged period can result in worsening of Parkinson's symptoms which in some cases can be severe and irreversible.

People living with Parkinson's should contact their doctor for any advice on medication.

Updated information will be posted on the web site. Please direct questions to [general.info@parkinson.ca](mailto:general.info@parkinson.ca).

