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Executive Vice President  
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August 19, 2010

Amy Comstock Rick, J.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Parkinson's Action Network  
1025 Vermont Avenue, Suite 1120  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Rick:

Merck (known as MSD outside the U.S. and Canada) is currently managing a temporary global supply shortage of SINEMET<sup>®</sup> (carbidopa-levodopa) and SINEMET CR<sup>®</sup> (carbidopa-levodopa controlled release), which are Merck's Parkinson's disease products. I would like to personally express our sincere apology for this supply interruption. Merck is doing its best to restore supplies as soon as possible and sincerely regrets any inconvenience or distress this interruption has caused to people who rely on SINEMET.

The extent of this supply shortage varies from country to country. Although our supply estimates change from time to time, all dosage strengths of SINEMET IR (immediate release) are now fully available in most countries, and SINEMET CR is in the process of being re-supplied. We expect SINEMET CR to be fully available by mid 2011 to most countries, contingent on regulatory approvals. With respect to your question about the supply status of SINEMET in the United States, supply is currently available. Attached is a grid that provides a summary of current supply status in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Please note that while Merck manufactures SINEMET for supply in the United States, as well as globally, Bristol Myers Squibb distributes the product in the United States.

The global supply shortage arose as Merck changed the supply source of an active ingredient used in SINEMET, a process that requires qualification of the new active ingredient to meet Merck standards and regulatory approvals of the source change. The shortage is not related to any product safety or quality issues. Merck continues to work with regulatory authorities to obtain the necessary approvals of the source change. In the meantime, we are managing available supply of SINEMET through an allocation system to optimize use of available stock. The allocation system primarily takes into account various considerations, including availability of alternative generic equivalents, contract requirements, and patient needs.

For obvious ethical reasons, whether alternative generic equivalents are available from other manufacturers in a country is an important criterion we take into consideration for supply allocations. With respect to these generic equivalents – which are tablets containing the same active ingredient as SINEMET – Merck understands how difficult it is for any patient who may not be able to receive their usual medication. We know that it can be difficult to find the optimum treatment regimen for Parkinson's patients and we know that it can be difficult to change therapies. While we recognize that some patients may object to having their physicians switch their therapy from a branded to a generic medicine, it is a medically appropriate option and a common occurrence in clinical practice. We encourage all patients and caregivers who have questions about their treatment options to speak to their health care provider.

Any patient, caregiver or health care professional in the United States who has a medical information question about SINEMET should contact Bristol-Myers Squibb's Medical Information Center at 1-800-321-1335.

Please be assured that Merck takes this matter very seriously and intends to always act in the best interests of patients in these difficult circumstances. We are committed to urgently working towards a stable supply of SINEMET as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rosenblatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Dr. Michael Rosenblatt  
Chief Medical Officer  
Merck & Co., Inc.  
One Merck Drive  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

<b>Country</b>	<b>SINEMET CR</b>	<b>SINEMET IR</b>
Belgium	Available*	Available*
Canada	Available*	Available*
Israel	Available*	Not marketed
Luxembourg	Available*	Available*
Poland	Available*	Not marketed
Portugal	Available*	Available
Spain	Available*	Available*
France	Available* 2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2010	Available*
Germany	Available* 2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2010	Available*
Italy	Available* 2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2010 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
UK	Available* 2 <sup>nd</sup> half 2010	Available*
U.S.	Available*	Available*
Austria	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Bulgaria	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Czech Republic	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Not marketed
Estonia	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Faeroe Islands	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Finland	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Hungary	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Not marketed
Iceland	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Lithuania	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Norway	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Sweden	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Switzerland	Early to mid 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Cyprus	Mid to late 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Denmark	Mid to late 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Ireland	Mid to late 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Netherlands	Mid to late 2011 contingent on regulatory approval	Available*
Croatia	Not marketed	Not marketed
Georgia	Not marketed	Available*
Greece	Not marketed	Available*
Romania	Not marketed	Available*
Russia	Not marketed	Available*
Slovenia	Not marketed	Available*
Turkey	Not marketed	Available*
Ukraine	Not marketed	Available*
Malta	Not marketed	Not marketed
Serbia	Not marketed	Not marketed

\* Periodic interruptions in supply may occur until such time that product is re-supplied to full stock levels.

Information current as of August 16, 2010.