



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seirbhís Aisíoca Príomhchúraim
Bealach amach 5 an M50
An Bóthar Thuaidh
Fionnghlas
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26th July 2010

Circular No. 014/10

Re: Sinemet Products

Dear Pharmacist,

You will already have been notified by Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) that there may be some stock shortages in the country over the coming months.

MSD have confirmed there should be sufficient stock in the country to address usual requirements for Sinemet products if pharmacists / patients do not stockpile over and above their immediate needs. MSD have advised us there will be fresh stocks in the country for the beginning of August and the HSE is reminding Pharmacists they should supply licensed product whenever possible.

As there may be cyclical shortages for limited periods, the following arrangements are approved to address potential shortages of Sinemet products –

- The Licensed product should be used whenever possible.
- Pharmacists who have contacted United Drug and MSD and still cannot obtain the licensed product may supply an unlicensed product. Where it is necessary to use an unlicensed product to ensure uninterrupted supply of maintenance treatment –
 - For Medical Card patients – these claims are to be catered for under discretionary Hardship Arrangements through the relevant Local Health Office. Due to the exceptional nature of this product, prior individual authorisation for the supply of the unlicensed product will not be required.
 - For DPS, LTI and HAA patients – Electronic claimants may use the claiming code for unlicensed medicines 77750, with a copy of the relevant invoice attached to the claim form. Manual claimants should submit the form in the Exception Claims bundle, with a copy of the relevant invoice attached.

Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service