



Circular No. 030 / 18

27th September 2018

Re: Carbidopa/Levodopa 25 mg./100 mg. 100 & Carbidopa/Levodopa 25 mg./250 mg. 100

Dear Pharmacist,

You will be aware of the difficulties in retaining continuity of supply for Sinemet Plus 25 mg./100 mg. 100 & Sinemet 25 mg./250 mg. 100. The HSE is aware that Sinemet Plus and Sinemet at these strengths will not be available for a number of months.

Due to the nature of the product and given the exceptional circumstances, as a temporary measure until such time as supplies of the authorised product become available, generic Carbidopa/Levodopa may be supplied and will be reimbursed under the GMS and Community Drug Schemes.

These products may be claimed with immediate effect by quoting the following relevant numbers:

Carbidopa/Levodopa 25 mg./100 mg. 100 (A) 55514 €20.50
Carbidopa/Levodopa 25 mg./250 mg. 100 (A) 55515 €40.23

From October 2018, the HSE will not pay more than these prices for combination Carbidopa / Levodopa preparations. In some cases, it may be necessary for the patient's prescription to be updated.

It is possible that some limited stock of unauthorised proprietary product will be available for a short period. In this circumstance, where the cost is less than those listed above, the pharmacy can choose to apply under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements for GMS patients or use 777 arrangements for LTI / DPS patients.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey,
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility.