



# Medication Safety Series: MSS 31

## Medicines for Parkinson's Disease



Visit [Parkinson's UK](https://www.parkinsonsuk.org/) to access a wide range of resources for healthcare professionals.

- Patients with Parkinson's are at risk of significant harm if they don't get their **medication on time, every time**. 'On time' means **within 30 minutes of the prescribed time**.
- Over half of people with Parkinson's don't get their medication on time when they are in hospital. This leads to worse patient outcomes and longer recovery times.
- It is vital that a person's Parkinson's medication is not stopped abruptly at any time, even short delays can worsen symptoms. These can include rigidity, pain and tremors, increasing the risk of falls, as well as causing stress, anxiety and swallowing issues, increasing the risk of aspiration.
- **Prescribers:** ensure the **"time critical"** box is ticked ☒ when prescribing these medicines on EPMA. This icon will then appear next to each dose on the administration record:
- **Nurses / pharmacy:** ensure the medication is available for inpatient administration and supply for leave/discharge

### Drugs to Avoid in Parkinson's Disease:

Some drugs can bring on Parkinson's-like symptoms and should generally be avoided. These include:

- Chlorpromazine
- Flupentixol
- Haloperidol
- Metoclopramide
- Prochlorperazine
- Trifluoperazine



All antipsychotics should be used with caution

### Medicines for Parkinson's Disease (oral administration unless otherwise indicated)

#### Levodopa

- Co-beneldopa – benzerazide + levodopa
- Co-careldopa - carbidopa + levodopa (also available as intestinal gel Duodopa® – see [PSS6](#))
- Levodopa with carbidopa + entacapone
- Foslevodopa + foscarbidopa (s/c infusion) - Produodopa®

#### Catechol-o-methyltransferase (COMT) Inhibitors

- Entacapone
- Opicapone
- Tolcapone

#### Monoamine-oxidase B inhibitors (MAOI-B)

- Rasagiline
- Safinamide
- Selegiline

#### Dopamine agonists

- Amantadine
- Apomorphine (s/c injection or infusion)
- Bromocriptine
- Cabergoline
- Pramipexole
- Quinagolide
- Ropinirole
- Rotigotine (patch)

### Be aware of look alike-sound alike medicines and different oral formulations:

- Errors in selection of Co-BENELdopa and Co-CARELdopa preparations have been reported.
- Patients may be prescribed different formulations of the same medicine for different times of the day - ensure the correct formulation is prescribed and selected for administration:

Formulation	Co-BENELdopa (benzerazide + levodopa)	Co-CARELdopa (carbidopa + levodopa)
Immediate-release tabs / caps	12.5 mg / 50 mg 25 mg / 100 mg 50 mg / 200 mg	12.5 mg / 50 mg 10 mg / 100 mg 25 mg / 100 mg 25 mg / 250 mg
Dispersible tabs	12.5 mg / 50 mg 25 mg / 100 mg	
M/R tabs / caps	25 mg / 100 mg	25 mg / 100 mg 50 mg / 200 mg