## Medicine Shortage Communication

28 October 2026

**<change as appropriate>**

# Emend (aprepitant, 80 mg hard capsules; 125 mg hard capsules; 125 mg powder for oral suspension): planned permanent marketing cessation (discontinuation)

Dear Healthcare Professionals,

Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V., as Marketing Authorisation Holder (MAH) for this product, is notifying healthcare professionals about the planned marketing cessation of Emend (aprepitant) in the EU/EEA.

<As a result, shortages have already been reported in some countries. The timing and extent of any impact on availability will vary by country and presentation. By May 2028, the medicine is expected to have been ceased in all countries>.

## *Overview of situation*

- **Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V. has made the decision to permanently cease the marketing and supply of all presentations of Emend 80 hard capsules, Emend 125 mg hard capsules and Emend 125 mg powder for oral suspension in the EU/EEA markets.**
- **This decision is based on commercial reasons and is not related to any safety, efficacy or quality concerns with Emend.**
- **The permanent cessation affects all EU/EEA countries where the product is available:**
  - **Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden for Emend 80 mg hard capsules.**
  - **Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Sweden for Emend 125 mg hard capsules.**
  - **Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden for Emend 125 mg+80 mg hard capsules.**
  - **Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands for Emend powder for oral suspension.**

- **The timing of permanent cessation will vary by country and presentation, depending on available supply.**

## *Mitigation measures*

In order to manage the product permanent cessation, Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V. is engaging with the European Medicines Agency and the National Competent Authorities to ensure that healthcare professionals have sufficient time to prepare.

**In preparation for the product permanent cessation, healthcare professionals should:**

- **Review current treatment plans and consider alternative therapies for affected patients.**
- **Alternatives may include another aprepitant-containing medicine or a medicine in the same therapeutic class such as Ivemend (fosaprepitant) powder for solution for infusion.**
- **For children aged 6 months and older, no other alternative medicine is available as a powder for oral suspension. To ensure continuity of care for children and infants who require this formulation, healthcare professionals should follow relevant national guidance and consider suitable therapeutic alternatives where available. The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) has issued official guidelines for the extemporaneous (magistral) preparation of an oral liquid alternative using adult capsules.**
- **Other therapeutic options, such as 5-HT3 receptor antagonists, are also available in paediatric formulations, although they are not equivalent in terms of mechanisms of action.**

For additional information and advice, consult **EMA's shortage catalogue, <your country's shortage register> <or contact your national competent authority>.**

**To ensure continuity of supply and patient care, Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V. is offering to transfer the marketing authorisation to an interested third party or, in accordance with Article 10c of Directive 2001/83/EC, to allow a third party to use the relevant pharmaceutical, non-clinical and clinical documentation to continue marketing the product.**

## *Background on the medicine*

Emend is an antiemetic agent that is available in powder for oral suspension and hard capsules. Emend is used in combination with other antiemetic agents as follows:

Emend 80 hard capsules and Emend 125 mg hard capsules are indicated for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with highly and moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy in adults and adolescents from the age of 12.

Emend 125 mg powder for oral suspension is indicated to the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with highly and moderately emetogenic cancer chemotherapy in children, toddlers and infants from the age of 6 months to less than 12 years.

## ***Company contact point***

<Contact point details for access to further information, including relevant website address(es), telephone numbers and a postal address>

## ***Annexes*** *(if applicable)*

<Link/reference to other available relevant information, such as information on the website of a competent authority>

## Communication Plan for Medicine Shortage Communication

| MSC COMMUNICATION PLAN | |
|---|---|
| **Medicinal product(s)/active substance(s)** | Emend (aprepitant) 80 mg hard capsules; 125 mg hard capsules; 125 mg powder for oral suspension. |
| **Marketing authorisation holder(s)** | Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V |
| **Purpose of the communication** | To inform prescribing physicians and pharmacists of the upcoming permanent cessation of supply of Emend and mitigation measures to manage the permanent marketing cessation. |
| **MSC recipients** | The target group for this communication includes healthcare professionals involved in prescribing, dispensing or managing antiemetic prophylaxis for patients receiving chemotherapy, including oncologists, haematologists/haemato-oncologists, paediatric oncologists and paediatric haemato-oncologists. The target group may be further defined at national level in agreement with the respective national competent authorities. |
| **Member States where the MSC will be distributed** | In all EEA member states where Emend is distributed where a communication is needed, in agreement with respective national competent authorities. |

| **Timetable** *[Delete steps which are not applicable]* | **Date** |
|---|---|
| **MSC and communication plan (in English) agreed by SPOC WP** | 09.10.2026 |
| **MSC and communication plan (in English) agreed by MSSG** | 28.10.2026 |
| **Submission of translated MSCs to the national competent authorities for review** | By 06.11.2026, where applicable |
| **Agreement of translations by national competent authorities** | By 13.11.2026, where applicable |
| **Dissemination of MSC** | Date to be determined based on local situation and in agreement with NCAs |