## Crexont® (carbidopa/levodopa) – New drug approval

- On August 8, 2024, Amneal Pharmaceuticals announced the FDA approval of Crexont (carbidopa/levodopa), for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, post-encephalitic parkinsonism, and parkinsonism that may follow carbon monoxide intoxication or manganese intoxication in adults.

- Crexont is an oral formulation of carbidopa/levodopa that combines both immediate-release granules and extended-release pellets.

- The efficacy of Crexont was established in an active-controlled study in patients with Parkinson's disease. The study consisted of a 3-week dose adjustment period of immediate-release carbidopa/levodopa treatment prior to a 4-week conversion period to Crexont, which was followed by a 13-week, double-blind, double-dummy, randomized period comparing Crexont to immediate-release carbidopa/levodopa. The primary efficacy measure was the mean change from baseline in "On" time without troublesome dyskinesia in hours per day at the end of the study (week 20 or at early termination).

    — Patients reported an improvement in "On" time without troublesome dyskinesia with Crexont compared to immediate-release carbidopa/levodopa which was statistically significant ($p = 0.019$). The mean "On" time without troublesome dyskinesia at week 20 was 11.35 hours with Crexont vs. 10.77 hours with immediate-release carbidopa/levodopa.

- Crexont is contraindicated in patients currently taking a nonselective monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor or have recently (within 2 weeks) taken a nonselective MAO inhibitor.

- Warnings and precautions for Crexont include falling asleep during activities of daily living and somnolence; withdrawal-emergent hyperpyrexia and confusion; cardiovascular ischemic events; hallucinations/psychosis; impulse control/compulsive behaviors; dyskinesia; peptic ulcer disease; and glaucoma.

- The most common adverse reactions (≥ 3% and greater than immediate-release carbidopa/ levodopa) with Crexont use were nausea and anxiety.

- The recommended starting dosage of Crexont in levodopa-naïve patients is 35 mg carbidopa/ 140 mg levodopa taken orally twice daily for the first three days. Thereafter, dosage may be increased gradually as needed to a maximum daily dosage of 525 mg carbidopa/2100 mg levodopa divided up to four times daily.

    — Refer to the Crexont drug label for dosing recommendations when switching from other carbidopa/levodopa products.

- Amneal plans to launch Crexont in September 2024. Crexont will be available as 35 mg/140 mg, 52.5 mg/210 mg, 70 mg/280 mg, and 87.5 mg/350 mg extended-release capsules.