The effectiveness of levodopa administered with carbidopa and entacapone in the treatment of Parkinson's disease was "wear off" over time. Levodopa tend to diminish or care for people with Parkinson's drug called levodopa, which has most widely-used agent to treat Parkinson's disease, many effective medications are now available to improve function for many Parkinson's patients. These symptoms usually increase and impact a person's ability to perform everyday tasks, such as getting dressed or walking and getting dressed. That is good news for the 1.5 million Americans who suffer from this chronic progressive neurological condition, medical experts say. While the disease is under control, the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease are primarily the result of the degeneration of dopaminergic cells, or neurons, in a part of the brain that controls and modulates movement. Symptoms include limbs that tremble, slowness of movement, stiffness of limbs and difficulty walking or balance problems. As the disease progresses, these symptoms usually increase and impact a person's ability to work and function.

While there is no cure for Parkinson's disease, many effective medications are now available to address its symptoms. The most widely-used agent to treat the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease is a drug called levodopa, which has remained the gold standard of care for people with Parkinson's for nearly 40 years. The effects of levodopa therapy will diminish or “wear off” over time. When levodopa “wears off,” patients find that their symptoms reappear before their next dose. Despite this, levodopa is still an effective agent in managing Parkinson’s disease symptoms, and as a result, newer drugs are often used to extend its benefits. A new option for these Parkinson’s patients comes in the form of a new levodopa therapy called Stalevo® (carbidopa, levodopa and entacapone) tablets.

Stalevo is a combination of levodopa and two other ingredients—carbidopa, which reduces the side effects of levodopa; and entacapone, which extends levodopa’s benefits. Stalevo is an enhanced levodopa therapy that significantly improves Parkinson’s disease patients’ ability to control body movements and the ability to perform basic functions such as walking and getting dressed.

"Wearing off" is a top challenge for people with Parkinson's disease and their doctors. When patients have hours of tremors, slowed movement and impaired posture, they suffer with their ability to function normally. Many patients have to avoid daily activities like shopping or dining out because they are afraid they might freeze up when their medication wears off," explains William Kilner, M.D., director of the Movement Disorder Center at New York’s Mount Sinai Medical Center. "With Stalevo, people with Parkinson's disease who have 'wearing off' can expect more consistent and longer-lasting relief, which may help them to live more normal lives."

Stalevo simplifies treatment for many patients by providing the medications in one tablet, which reduces the number of tablets that patients need to take daily. For more information, consult your doctor, or call 1-866-STALEVO (866-782-5386).

Digital Television and HDTV: What Everyone Should Know

(NAPSA)—Walk into any consumer electronics retail location today and you’ll likely see a sign with the words “digital revolution” for your living room, and nine times out of 10, you’ll have a look at the digital television (DTV) section of the showroom floor. Why? Because DTV is TV today. DTV is here, it is now and it is the must-have technology for the U.S. home.

What does DTV, and HDTV in particular, mean for the average U.S. consumer? It means crystal clear picture quality—more than twice years times the clarity of your old analog TV, with almost digital quality similar to that of a compact disc. Because television sets have a lifespan of approximately 8 years, consumers want to purchase the “right-sized” and “right-priced” television that provides the maximum benefit for the maximum number of years to come. For consumers today, purchasing a new DTV or HDTV product means choosing a DTV product that will remain competitive in a rapidly changing technology marketplace and is consistent with the quality they demand today.

Digital television and HDTV is rapidly changing the way we look at television. Sometimes, consumers with digital cable service or digital satellite service experience an issue with their DTV or even HDTV. These are two distinct systems, however. Digital satellite and digital cable simply refer to a bit-stream delivering the TV signal to the home. DTV, which comes in varying degrees of quality—standard definition (SDTV), high-definition (HDTV), and ultra-high-definition (UHDTV)—is the most advanced television standard. HDTV, the better and high-definition (HDTV), the best—refers to the quality of the programming, signal and equipment bringing the consumer the entertainment. DTV is a new standard that will ultimately replace the analog TV service.

Some may wonder, a system overhaul of this magnitude comes with its hiccups, and the DTV transition is no exception. Until recently, DTV sets were available on the market only for over-the-air (antenna) consumers and for a few DVB households. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently approved an industry-agency agreement, however, which will enable national digital cable subscribers to purchase integrated HDTV sets (digital cable ready or DCRs) for a seamless “plug-and-play” transition from analog to DTV service and enjoyment.

Hopefully, consumers won’t think twice about the even ponder how the set came to be for sale at retail—this is the point of integration of the plug-and-play agreement. Consumers in the digital cable should visit an authorized dealer and install DTV and HDTV equipment as simply as they did analog TV. The agreement makes DTV more consumer-friendly and the enjoyment. Never before has the DTV marketplace offered such high quality audio and video entertainment. Now is the time for consumers to sit back and enjoy taking their numbers with them has been created by Cingular Wireless to help consumers wade through what may be a complicated process. The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that as of Nov. 24, the nation’s 146 million cell phone users will be able to keep their phone numbers if they change carriers. The “number portability” service will first be available only in the country’s 10 largest metropolitan markets, and will be available throughout the country by the end of 2004. The Cingular Checklist is available at Cingular retail locations as well as online at www.cingular.com.

HINTS FOR TOWNS

Building Homes For Long-Term Appeal

(NAPSA)—City planners have discovered that consumers’ demand is moving to very high design standards,” according to Lynn Howard, executive director, Illinois Masonry Institute. "Many people who are building new homes want a seamless "plug-and-play" transition to HDTV. DTV will come in varying degrees of quality—SDTV, HDTV, and UHDTV. HDTV, the best, refers to the quality of the programming, signal and equipment bringing the consumer the entertainment. DTV is a new standard that will ultimately replace the analog TV service.

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Did You Know?

(NAPSA)—A recent survey reveals good news about relationships: zero percent adults with children about 90 percent of tweens say that how they are treated by the adults in their lives makes them feel good about themselves. The survey was conducted on behalf of uniquely ME! The Girl Scout/Unilever Self-Esteem Program. The uniquely ME! program was developed by Unilever and Girl Scouts of the USA and is designed to build and foster self-esteem in girls 8 to 14 nationwide. For more information, visit www.girlscouts.org.

The holidays are normally a time of celebratory carousing. One experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, this time can be overwhelming. Planning a holiday of a holiday can be more difficult than the arrival of the day itself. For help managing your grief or the grief of loved ones during this season, or for information on hospice care, call VITAS Innovative Hospice Care®, the nation’s leading provider of comprehensive hospice services at 1-800-93-VITAS. A checklist for cell phone customers who are considering changing wireless carriers and