

## **Epilim® (sodium valproate) Syrup (200mg/5ml) – advance notice of shortage**

### **Shortage information**

Epilim® syrup which is due to be out of stock from mid-March 2024 to end-April 2024.

### **Prescribing in NHS Grampian**

We have a small number of patients across NHS Grampian who are prescribed Epilim® syrup.

### **Stock information & availability**

Epilim® 200mg/5ml liquid (sugar-free) remains available and can support with any uplift during syrup shortage.

### **Preparation differences (oral solution vs syrup)**

While both of these preparations have the same licensed indications Epilim® 200mg/5ml liquid is sugar-free and contains two additional excipients that may cause allergic reactions, so allergy history should be established before prescribing.

- Sodium methyl hydroxybenzoate/sodium propyl hydroxybenzoate (possibly delayed reaction)
- Ponceau 4R (E124), a colourant (azo dye) may cause reactions including asthma in some people, and higher likelihood if they are also allergic to aspirin.

### **Antiepileptic category**

Sodium valproate is a 'Category 2' antiepileptic, meaning the need for continued supply of a particular manufacturer's product should be based on clinical judgement and consultation with patient and/or carer, taking into account factors such as seizure frequency and treatment history. See [MHRA](#) for further details.

### **Actions for primary care**

For some patient's, personal stock as well as stock within the community pharmacy network may mean that no change to prescribing is required. No proactive switching should be undertaken and stock information should be ascertained prior to undertaking a switch.

Where it is confirmed that patients do not have enough stock (both personal stock and residual stock within community pharmacy network) to cover the duration of potential supply issues, consideration should be given to prescribing Epilim® liquid, noting the need to assess suitability due to additional excipients.

Where prescribing of liquid is deemed not clinically appropriate, further advice should be sought from the patients recommending specialist without delay.

### **Further information**

- [Medicine Supply Tool](#) (log on with NHS email required)
- [MHRA](#) antiepileptic drugs

February 2024

**Data information**

*Data provided is ePrescribed (Dec 23 – Feb 24, run 290224)*

*The data provides prescribing information. It does not confirm that the prescription has been dispensed by community pharmacy or collected by the patient.*

*The data only captures electronic prescribing information – any handwritten prescriptions will not be included.*

*Duplicate CHI have been removed for ease of use.*