



1 May 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Convulex[®] (Valproic acid) 150mg, 300mg and 500mg capsules

Priority: Level 3* update to MSAN (2019)31

Valid until: End May 2020

Issue

1. There is a supply issue with Convulex[®] (valproic acid) capsules due to a pack size update (switching from 100 to 30 capsules):
 - Convulex[®] 150mg capsules are **back in stock**.
 - Convulex[®] 300mg capsules are out of stock until the **end of May 2020**.
 - Convulex[®] 500mg capsules are **back in stock**.

Advice and Actions

2. Prescribers should consider prescribing double quantities of 150mg capsules where a 300mg dose is required. Alternatively where patients require a supply of 300mg capsules to be dispensed, pharmacists can substitute double quantities of 150mg capsules.
3. Prescribers and pharmacists are requested to discuss any change in treatment with patients and ensure appropriate counselling has been provided on any changes to their treatment regimen.
4. All healthcare professionals in primary, secondary or specialist healthcare services who prescribe and supply valproic acid capsules should work together to:
 - ensure that specialist neurology teams support colleagues in primary care if further advice is required;
 - make sure all female patients who continue treatment containing valproate are enrolled in the pregnancy prevention programme (PPP).

Enquiries

5. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net (secondary care)