



29 February 2024

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Epilim<sup>®</sup> (sodium valproate) syrup 200mg/5ml**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

#### **Issue**

1. Epilim<sup>®</sup> (sodium valproate) 200mg/5ml syrup is out of stock from mid-March until w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.
2. Epilim<sup>®</sup> (sodium valproate) 200mg/5ml liquid (sugar-free) remains available and can support increased demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians/prescribers should:
  - consider prescribing Epilim<sup>®</sup> 200mg/5ml liquid (sugar-free) which can support the market during this time, ensuring that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (see additional information below), understands the dose remains the same, and to report any side effects or loss of seizure/symptoms control after the switch; and
  - if the above option is not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

#### **Additional Information**

##### Clinical Information

4. Both of these preparations are licensed for the treatment of generalised, partial or other epilepsy. Epilim<sup>®</sup> 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.

##### Links to further information

- [SmPC – Epilim Syrup 200mg/5ml](#)
- [SmPC – Epilim Liquid 200mg/5ml](#)

## **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

5. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
6. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool in order to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

## **Enquiries**

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