



25 February 2026

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) 100mg modified release granules sachets sugar free

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: mid-April 2026

Issue

1. Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) 100mg modified release granules sachets sugar free will be out of stock from late February until mid-April 2026.
2. Alternative sodium valproate products remain available (see additional information section: Table 1).

Advice and Actions

3. Clinicians should not initiate new patients on Epilim Chronosphere® 100mg modified release (MR) granules sachets and reserve remaining supplies for patients where there are concerns around epilepsy control being destabilised by a change in product.
4. In stable patients with adequate epilepsy control who run out of supply, clinicians should:
 - consider switching to Epilim® crushable tablets or Epilim® 200mg/5ml oral liquid to make up the required equivalent daily dosage (see additional information section); or
 - if the above formulation are not appropriate, consider whether the dosing regimen can be delivered using Episenta® modified release (MR) granules sachets;
 - if the required dose cannot be achieved with the Episenta® MR granules sachets, consider whether dosing can be made up using Episenta® prolonged-release (PR) capsules (see additional information section);
 - If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.
5. Where there is a switch in treatment, clinicians should ensure that the patient is:
 - not intolerant to any of the excipients;
 - counselled where there is a dose frequency change;
 - reassured that they are receiving the same treatment, albeit a different formulation, or from a different manufacturer, in order to maintain their treatment;
 - advised to seek advice if they experience loss of seizure control and/or adverse effects after switching brand.

Additional Information

6. Epilim Chronosphere is a controlled release formulation of Epilim (sodium valproate), administered once or twice daily. It is licensed for the treatment of generalised, partial or other epilepsy only when there is no other effective or tolerated treatment. Daily dosage is established according to age and body weight and given to the nearest whole 50mg sachet.
7. In patients where adequate control has been achieved, Epilim Chronosphere formulations are interchangeable with other conventional or prolonged release formulations of Epilim on an equivalent daily dosage basis. Immediate release formulations of Epilim (tablets, crushable tables, liquid, syrup) are usually administered twice daily.
8. Episenta prolonged-release preparations are administered in 1-2 single doses. The prolonged release granules are only available at higher strengths of 500mg and 1000mg. The prolonged release capsules are available at lower strengths of 150mg and 300mg.
9. Sodium valproate is a Category 2 antiepileptic. 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, treatment history, and potential implications to the patient of having a breakthrough seizure.

Method of administration of solid dosage forms

10. Epilim® 100 mg crushable tablets can be swallowed whole or crushed if necessary, in patients unable to swallow solid dosage forms.
11. Episenta® PR capsules should be swallowed whole without chewing, with plenty of liquid, such as a full glass of water. For patients with swallowing difficulties, the contents of the capsule(s) may be sprinkled or stirred into soft food or drinks and swallowed immediately without chewing or crushing the PR granules.

Table 1: Availability of alternative sodium valproate products:

Brand and presentation	Marketing Authorisation Holder	Ability to support
Epilim Chronosphere® 50mg modified release granules sachets	Sanofi	Cannot support an uplift in demand
Epilim Chronosphere® 250mg modified release granules sachets	Sanofi	Cannot support an uplift in demand
Epilim Chronosphere® 500mg modified release granules sachets	Sanofi	Cannot support an uplift in demand
Epilim® 100mg crushable tablets	Sanofi	Can support full uplift in demand
Epilim® 200mg/5ml oral liquid	Sanofi	Can support full uplift in demand
Epilim® 200mg/5ml syrup	Sanofi	Cannot support an uplift in demand
Episenta® 500mg modified release granules sachets	Desitin Pharma	Can support full uplift in demand
Episenta® 1000mg modified release granules sachets	Desitin Pharma	Can support full uplift in demand
Episenta® 150mg prolonged-release capsules	Desitin Pharma	Can support full uplift in demand
Episenta® 300mg prolonged-release capsules	Desitin Pharma	Can support full uplift in demand

Off label use

12. If Epilim Chronosphere 100mg MR granules sachets sugar free is being used off label in the management of males or females with bipolar disorder, the specialist who initiated treatment should be consulted for advice to ensure abrupt discontinuation is avoided.

Links to further information

[BNF: Sodium valproate](#)

[SmPC: Epilim Chronosphere MR 100 mg modified release granules](#)

[SmPC: Epilim 100mg Crushable Tablets](#)

[SmPC: Epilim Liquid 200 mg/5 ml](#)

[SmPC: Episenta Products](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

13. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service (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.
14. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool 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

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