



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

To: All Community Pharmacists

7th July 2026

Dear colleague

Medicine Supply Notification: Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) 50mg, 250mg, and 500mg modified-release granules sachets sugar free
Tier 2 – medium impact

[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Summary

- Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) **50mg** modified-release granules sachets sugar free is out of stock until late August 2026.
- Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) **250mg** modified-release granules sachets sugar free will be out of stock from early July 2026 until early January 2027.
- Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) **500mg** modified-release granules sachets sugar free is out of stock until end of September 2026.
- Sodium valproate (Epilim Chronosphere®) **100mg** modified-release granules sachets sugar free remains available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
- Sodium valproate (Epilim®) **200mg/5ml** syrup remain available but cannot support an uplift in demand.
- Alternative sodium valproate products remain available (see supporting information: Table 1).

ACTIONS REQUIRED



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

Clinicians should not initiate new patients on Epilim Chronosphere® 50mg, 100mg, 250mg, or 500mg modified release (MR) granules and reserve remaining supplies for patients where there are concerns around epilepsy control being destabilised by a change in product.

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 supporting information);
- if the above formulation is not appropriate, consider whether the dosing regimen can be delivered using Episenta® modified release (MR) granules;
- if the required dose cannot be achieved with the Episenta® MR granules, consider whether dosing can be made up using Episenta® prolonged-release (PR) capsules (see supporting information);
- If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Where Epilim Chronosphere® MR granules are being prescribed off label in the management of bipolar disorder, the specialist who initiated treatment should be consulted for advice on selection of alternative sodium valproate preparation, to avoid abrupt discontinuation.

Where treatment is switched, 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 or symptom control and/or adverse effects after switching brand/formulation.

Supporting information

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. However, maintaining use of the same brand is dependent on its availability.

Epilim Chronosphere® is a controlled release granule formulation of Epilim® (sodium valproate), administered once or twice daily. It is licensed for the treatment of generalised, partial or other epilepsy. Daily dosage is established according to age and body weight and given to the nearest whole 50mg sachet. In patients where adequate control has been achieved, Epilim Chronosphere® formulations are interchangeable with other conventional or prolonged release formulations of Epilim

Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

on an equivalent daily dosage basis. Immediate release formulations of Epilim® (tablets, crushable tablets, liquid, syrup) are usually administered twice daily.

Episenta® is a prolonged-release formulation of sodium valproate, licensed for the treatment of generalised, partial or other epilepsy. It is formulated as prolonged release granules (500mg and 1000mg) and as capsules containing prolonged-release granules (150mg and 300mg). The daily dosage is administered in 1-2 single doses.

Method of administration of solid dosage forms

Epilim® 100 mg crushable tablets can be swallowed whole or crushed, if necessary, in patients unable to swallow solid dosage forms, with or after food.

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 prolonged release granules

Table 1: Availability of alternative sodium valproate products:

Brand and presentation	Marketing Authorisation Holder	Ability to support
Epilim® 100mg crushable tablets	Sanofi	Can support a partial uplift in demand
Epilim® 200mg/5ml oral liquid	Sanofi	Can support full 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

Links to further information:

- BNF: Sodium valproate [Sodium valproate | Drugs | BNF | NICE](#)
- BNF: Epilepsy Treatment Summaries [Epilepsy | Treatment summaries | BNF | NICE](#)
- SmPC: Sodium Valproate Products [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
Telephone No. 028 95 36 0333

- SmPC: Epilim Chronosphere products [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
 - SmPC: Epilim® 100mg Crushable Tablets [Epilim 100mg Crushable Tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) | 518](#)
 - SmPC: Epilim® Liquid 200 mg/5 ml [Epilim Liquid 200 mg/5 ml - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) | 517](#)
 - SmPC: Episenta® Products [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
- NICE CKS: Epilepsy [Epilepsy | Health topics A to Z | CKS | NICE](#)