



# TAYSIDE PRESCRIBER

## ADTC Supplement No 169 - July 2018



### Valproate (Epilim®▼, Depakote®▼): use by women & girls of childbearing potential - updated advice

Below are the key points from [Drug Safety Update, April 2018](#) and [Drug Safety Update, May 2018](#)


- Women & girls of childbearing potential must be on the Pregnancy Prevention Programme; they must be on effective contraception & be reviewed by a specialist at least annually.
- Pregnancy Prevention Programme materials have been revised to be consistent with new requirements. This includes: Patient Guide, Guide for Health Care Professionals, Risk Acknowledgment Form, Patient Card and Visual Warning symbol.
- The updated risk materials are available online from valproate entries on

[www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk). Hard copies will be sent in the post to healthcare professionals. Further copies are available from individual companies.

- The Risk Acknowledgment Form should be completed by a specialist and patient at initiation and at least yearly at treatment reviews.
- GPs must identify and follow up women & girls of childbearing potential on valproate to ensure they are reviewed annually by a specialist and are on effective contraception.
- Pharmacists should give the Patient Card to female patients when dispensing

valproate. Packs of valproate medicines will start to be available with a detachable Patient Card from December 2018.

- A visual warning as outlined below will be added to packs of valproate by September 2018. In the meantime pharmacists should add a sticker on to the box (available from individual companies).



**WARNING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

This medicine can seriously harm an unborn baby. Always use effective contraception during your treatment.  
If you are thinking about becoming pregnant, or you become pregnant, talk to your doctor straight away.  
Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

#### Updated Symptomatic Relief Policy

The [NHS Tayside symptomatic relief policy for adults](#) has been updated and reviewed by the Medicines Policy Group and updated charts are available to order (via PECOS). The updated policy can be accessed from Staffnet (search for 'symptomatic relief').

Key changes made include:

- Peptac® liquid has replaced Maalox® (co-magaldrox) for dyspepsia
- Zerobase® cream has been added for dry skin
- Removal of lactulose and addition of Laxido®
- Normal Saline (sodium chloride 0.9%) nebulas have been added for wheeze or problematic secretions
- Nicorette® inhalator has been added for patients with nicotine withdrawal (prior to a review to determine the most appropriate longer-term form of NRT)
- The previous policy restricted all symptomatic relief medicines to <2 doses in 24 hours. The revised policy now has individual maximum doses / frequencies for each medicine.

#### Accrete D3 Preparations – Prescribe Carefully

- Accrete D3 One a Day (1g calcium/880iu vitamin D) is a chewable ONCE daily formulation of calcium and vitamin D. It is suitable for patients who have swallowing difficulties with standard Accrete D3 film-coated tablets (600mg calcium/400iu vitamin D) which are a TWICE daily preparation.
- Care should be taken to prescribe the chewable formulation of Accrete D3 as 'Accrete D3 One a Day Chewable' with the directions – Take ONCE daily.
- Both Accrete D3 formulations (standard film-coated tablets and chewable tablets) are first choice for calcium and vitamin D preparations in the [Tayside Area Formulary](#).
- Accrete D3 One a Day chewable replaced Calceos Chewable tablets in the formulary earlier this year as a more palatable preparation with ONCE daily dosing to aid patient compliance.

#### Respiratory Update – Triple Combination Preparations for COPD

If patients require an inhaled corticosteroid for maintenance in COPD, the triple combination preparations Trimbow® or Trelegy® are recommended.

Use of Trimbow® or Trelegy® in patients who have not previously been prescribed an inhaled corticosteroid and long-acting beta2-agonist (ICS/LABA) is currently off-label. This off-label use approved by the NHS Tayside Respiratory MCN, has now been endorsed by the Tayside Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC).

#### Tayside Area Formulary App and Website Updates

Users of the netFormulary app and Tayside Area Formulary website may have noticed some changes in the latest updates. The app is now on version 3.3 and the website is now on version 8.3.

Changes to note:

- Any search term which finds results within a drug entry will now display the **drug name in red** in the relevant formulary entry to help draw attention to the search results (in both the app and website)
- In the app when an audio note has been recorded the microphone icon will turn **red** (this was previously **blue**).

Both the App User Guide and Tayside Area Formulary (website) User Guide have been updated and are available from the formulary website [Homepage](#).



For full information on any of the drugs listed below use the link to the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) website below to search by generic, brand or SMC no.  
See NHS Tayside 'Local Decisions on SMC Advice' database (link below) for full details on Board decisions - these are currently listed alphabetically by page.

## SMC Advice

### Published May 2018

Avelumab 20mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (Bavencio®) SMC No 1315/18

Brodalumab 210mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe (Kyntheum®) SMC No 1283/17

Icatibant acetate, 30mg, solution for injection in pre-filled syringe (Firazyr®) SMC No 1332/18

Nusinersen 12mg solution for injection (Spinraza®) SMC No 1318/18

Regorafenib 40mg film-coated tablets (Stivarga®) SMC No 1316/18

Selexipag, 200 mcg, 400 mcg, 600 mcg, 800 mcg, 1,000 mcg, 1,200 mcg, 1,400 mcg, 1,600 mcg film-coated tablets (Uptravi®) SMC No 1235/17

### SMC 'Not recommended' medicines - May 2018

Brentuximab vedotin 50mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Adcetris®) SMC No 2085

Naltrexone hydrochloride/bupropion hydrochloride 8mg/90mg prolonged-release tablets (Mysimba®) SMC No 2086

### Published June 2018

Crizotinib 200mg and 250mg hard capsules (Xalkori®) SMC No 1329/18

Everolimus 2mg, 3mg and 5mg dispersible tablets (Votubia®) SMC No 1331/18

Fluticasone propionate/ formoterol fumarate 50microgram/5microgram, 125microgram/5microgram pressurised inhalation, suspension (Flutiform k-haler®) SMC No 2016

Guselkumab 100mg solution for injection (Tremfya®) SMC No 1340/18

Inotuzumab ozogamicin 1mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Besponsa®) SMC No 1328/18

Ledipasvir/sofosbuvir 90mg/400mg film-coated tablet (Harvoni®) SMC No 1343/18

Midostaurin 25mg soft capsules (Rydapt®) SMC No 1330/18

Telotristat ethyl 250mg film-coated tablets (Xermelo®) SMC No 1327/18

### SMC 'Not recommended' medicines - June 2018

Eslicarbazepine acetate 200mg and 800mg tablets (Zebinix®) SMC 2090

Local processes exist to allow prescribing of non-SMC approved medicines for individual patients and are available in the [NHS Tayside Policy on the Prescribing of Medicines that are Non-formulary \(including Individual Patient Treatment Requests\)](#).

## New & Updated Formulary Links

[RCP Clinical Guideline for Stroke](#)

[Local Treatment Protocol: Testosterone in menopausal women with low sexual desire](#) (updated due to supply problems with Testogel®)

## Other Formulary Updates

Methylphenidate hydrochloride M/R tablets (Amber traffic light) brand changed to Xaggitin XL®.

Nedocromil 2% eye drops now non-formulary as discontinued by the manufacturer.

Brodalumab (Kyntheum®) subcutaneous injection (Red traffic light – Hospital Only) added to formulary for severe psoriasis as a 3rd line biologic after TNF biologics (etanercept or adalimumab) and after IL-17 biologics (e.g. secukinumab).

## Links to Additional Information

Monthly Drug Safety Updates:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-safety-update-monthly-newsletter](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-safety-update-monthly-newsletter)

For full details of medicines and forthcoming SMC Advice see **SMC Website**:

[www.scottishmedicines.org.uk](http://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk)

For a Summary of a Product's Characteristics (SPCs) see **Electronic Medicines Compendium Website**:

<http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>

For full details on NHS Board decisions see **Tayside Area Formulary - Local Decisions on SMC Advice database**:

<http://www.nhstaysideadtc.scot.nhs.uk/approved/formular/medsearchmain.htm>

Local implementation of SMC recommendations is taken forward by the Tayside Prescribing Support Unit (PSU). This bulletin is based on evidence available to Tayside PSU at time of publication and is covered by the Disclaimer and Terms & Conditions of Use.

Medicines within the Tayside Area Formulary are intended to guide choice on a rational selection of medicines for **adults** which have been included on the basis of clinical efficacy, safety, patient acceptability and cost-effectiveness.

This bulletin is produced by the Medicines Advisory Group (MAG), which is a sub-group of the NHS Tayside Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee. Please direct any queries to:

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