



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2026/012

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

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 17/02/2026

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

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

Actions Required

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.

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); 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 supporting information);
- If the above options are not considered appropriate, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

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.

Supporting information

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

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

other effective or tolerated treatment. 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 on an equivalent daily dosage basis. Immediate release formulations of Epilim (tablets, crushable tables, liquid, syrup) are usually administered twice daily.

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.

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

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

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

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](#)

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.