

MHRA Guidance issued - Full pack dispensing of valproate-containing medicines.

Email from MHRA:

We're pleased to announce the publication of our guidance on dispensing of valproate-containing medicines in the manufacturer's original full pack. Please feel free to share this with colleagues across the sector. **You can view the guidance [here](#).**

Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) consulted on proposals to enable original pack dispensing and full pack dispensing of medicines containing sodium valproate.

This guidance provides information on the reasons for the change to dispensing of valproate-containing medicines, and outlines what pharmacists need to do differently.

The change comes into force in England, Scotland and Wales from **11 October 2023**. The legislative changes outlined above currently do not apply to Northern Ireland. This guidance on dispensing valproate-containing medicines should be considered by pharmacists in Northern Ireland as good practice.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, valproate-containing medicines must always be dispensed in the manufacturer's original full pack from 11 October 2023. You must either round up or down so that the patient receives their supply in the manufacturer's original full pack and ensure that they receive an amount that is as close as possible to that prescribed. You must not subsequently re-package any valproate-containing medicine into plain dispensing packaging.

This new legislative amendment, requiring the supply of valproate-containing medicines in the manufacturer's original full packaging, is a further measure to ensure that patients taking valproate-containing medicines have access to information setting out the risks and need for patients of childbearing potential to fulfil the conditions of the Pregnancy Prevention Programme before taking valproate-containing medicines.

You can read our news story on the guidance [here](#).

Here are the social media links below:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7117878393198530561>

[\(20\) MHRAgovuk on X: " 🇬🇧 Patients should now get their valproate-containing medicines in the manufacturer's original full pack under new law. 🔗 Read the guidance here: https://t.co/5C48buBzdL https://t.co/PHInimJqsF" / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

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Our guidance accompanying the legislation will be critical for effective implementation. We intend to further review this guidance and will of course look forward to your continued support in this if amendments are required.

If you have any questions or comments on the guidance, please contact us by emailing SafetyAlerts@mhra.gov.uk