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| 14th September 2023    FAO/ Prescribing Lead/Practice Manager  All Somerset GP Practices | Pharmacy Team  Cheddon Lodge  Cheddon Road  Taunton  TA2 7AZ   Tel: (01823) 368265  [MedicinesManagement@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:MedicinesManagement@somersetft.nhs.uk)  www.somersetft.nhs.uk |

Dear Prescribing Lead/Practice Manager,

**RE: Supporting GP practices with valproate prescribing reviews**

The risks of valproate prescribing are well documented and have been highlighted by the MHRA. [Valproate: reminder of current Pregnancy Prevention Programme requirements; information on new safety measures to be introduced in the coming months - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/valproate-reminder-of-current-pregnancy-prevention-programme-requirements-information-on-new-safety-measures-to-be-introduced-in-the-coming-months)

The [Commission on Human Medicines](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/commission-on-human-medicines) has advised that there should be greater scrutiny of the way valproate is prescribed and that further risk minimisation measures are required – in particular that two specialists should independently consider and document that there is no other effective or tolerated treatment for ALL patients aged under 55 years, including men.

The mental health and neurology teams at Somerset Foundation Trust would like to review your patients currently prescribed valproate please complete the table below with your patient details to [MedicinesManagement@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:MedicinesManagement@somersetft.nhs.uk) by **Friday 29th September.**

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| **Name of GP Practice:** | | | | | | |
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| **Name** | **Date of Birth** | **NHS Number** | **Current prescription** | **Indication for valproate** | **Named GP** | **Named GP email address** |
| *e.g. Joe Bloggs* | *01.02.1985* | *123 456 7890* | *Valproic acid 400mg BD* | *Manic episodes with bipolar* | *Dr Smith* | *drsmith@nhs.net* |
| *e.g. Jane Bloggs* | *02.03.1995* | *123 456 7890* | *Sodium valproate MR 500mg BD* | *Epilepsy* | *Dr Brown* | *drbrown@nhs.net* |
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If you have any queries please email [MedicinesManagement@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:MedicinesManagement@somersetft.nhs.uk) or call (01823) 368265.

Best wishes,

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Description automatically generated

**Andrew Prowse**

**Director of Pharmacy**

**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**