

## Epilepsy medicines available in the United Kingdom

The following information about epilepsy medicines is taken from the *British National Formulary (BNF) Number 62* (September 2011). The *BNF* is published by the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. It is updated twice a year. For the most up-to-date information about medicines, visit [www.bnf.org](http://www.bnf.org)

The medicines listed on this fact sheet are those usually prescribed for everyday seizure control. Other medicines, such as diazepam or midazolam, are available for emergency use. We have not included emergency medicines on this list.

Under the heading *Indications in epilepsy*, the main use of each medicine is given. Sometimes a doctor may prescribe epilepsy medicines for other seizure types than those listed.

Epilepsy medicines are available in a number of different formulations such as tablets, capsules, chewtabs, sugar-free liquid, syrup, dispersible tablets, crushable tablets and sprinkle capsules.

For further information about medicines, such as side-effects and dosages, please consult your GP, specialist, refer to the *BNF* or contact the Epilepsy Helpline.

### Word list

#### **adjunct/adjunctive**

used with other epilepsy medicines

#### **atypical**

not typical or not usual

#### **monotherapy**

used on its own

#### **focal-onset seizures**

seizures that start in one part of the brain

#### **refractory seizures**

seizures that are difficult to control with epilepsy medicines

#### **secondary generalisation**

focal seizures that spread to the rest of the brain, causing generalised seizures

Generic name	Brand names *	Indications in epilepsy	UK licence
acetazolamide	Diamox	Has a specific role in treating epilepsy associated with menstruation. It can also be used with other anti-epileptics for refractory tonic-clonic, absence and focal seizures. It is occasionally helpful in atypical absence, atonic and tonic seizures	1988
acetazolamide modified release	Diamox SR		

\*Brands may change from time to time

<b>Generic name</b>	<b>Brand names *</b>	<b>Indications in epilepsy</b>	<b>UK licence</b>
carbamazepine	Tegretol	Focal and secondary generalised tonic-clonic seizures, primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures	1965
carbamazepine modified release	Carbagen SR		
	Tegretol Prolonged Release		
clobazam	Frisium	Adjunct in epilepsy	1979
clonazepam	Rivotril	All forms of epilepsy	1979
eslicarbazepine acetate	Zebinix	Adjunctive treatment in adults with focal seizures, with or without secondary generalisation	2009
ethosuximide	Emeside Zarontin	Typical absence seizures; it may also be used in atypical absence seizures. Rarely used for myoclonic or tonic seizures	1955
gabapentin	Neurontin	Monotherapy and adjunctive treatment of focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation	1993
lacosamide	Vimpat	Adjunctive treatment of focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation. (NHS Scotland: accepted for restricted use as adjunctive treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation in patients from 16 years. Restricted for specialist use in refractory epilepsy.)	2008
lamotrigine	Lamictal	Monotherapy and adjunctive treatment of focal seizures and generalised seizures including tonic-clonic seizures; seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; monotherapy of typical absence seizures in children	1991
levetiracetam	Keppra	Monotherapy and adjunctive treatment of focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation, and for adjunctive therapy of myoclonic seizures in patients with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy and primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures	2000
oxcarbazepine	Trileptal	Monotherapy or adjunctive treatment of focal seizures with or without secondary generalised tonic-clonic seizures	2000
*Brands may change from time to time			

<b>Generic name</b>	<b>Brand names *</b>	<b>Indications in epilepsy</b>	<b>UK licence</b>
phenobarbital (phenobarbitone)	N/A	All forms of epilepsy except typical absence seizures	1912
phenytoin	Epanutin	All forms of epilepsy except absence seizures	1938
pregabalin	Lyrica	Adjunctive therapy for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation	2004
primidone	Mysoline	All forms of epilepsy except absence seizures	1952
rufinamide	Inovelon	Adjunctive treatment of seizures in Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. (NHS Scotland: restricted use as adjunctive treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome in patients four years old and above. Also restricted for use when alternative traditional anti-epileptic drugs are unsatisfactory.)	2007
sodium valproate  sodium valproate modified release	Epilim  Epilim Chrono  Epilim Chronosphere  Episenta  Epival	All forms of epilepsy	1973
tiagabine	Gabitril	Adjunctive treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation not satisfactorily controlled with other anti-epileptics	1998
topiramate	Topamax	Monotherapy and adjunctive treatment of generalised tonic-clonic seizures or focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation; adjunctive treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome	1995
valproic acid	Convulex  Depakote	All forms of epilepsy	1993
*Brands may change from time to time			

Generic name	Brand names *	Indications in epilepsy	UK licence
vigabatrin	Sabril	Adjunctive treatment for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation. Not to be prescribed unless all other appropriate drug combinations are ineffective or have not been tolerated. Should be initiated and supervised by appropriate specialist. Monotherapy for management of infantile spasms in West's syndrome	1973
zonisamide	Zonegran	Adjunctive treatment for refractory focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation	2005
*Brands may change from time to time			

### Epilepsy Helpline

freephone 0808 800 5050

text 07797 805 390

helpline@epilepsy.org.uk

www.epilepsy.org.uk

If you have any comments you would like to make about this fact sheet, please contact us. Please quote F001.06

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Epilepsy Services, Epilepsy Action

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### Contact details

Epilepsy Action, New Anstey House, Gate Way Drive, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7XY.

Tel: 0113 210 8800. Fax: 0113 391 0300.

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