**medication for epilepsy: children aged 12 and under**

**Please turn over for adults aged 13 and over**

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**Drugs available in the following (listed alphabetically)**

**Average total daily doses (mg = milligrams)**

**Doses per day**

**Types of seizures or epilepsy that the drug is used for**

**Most common possible side effects include the following:**

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**Anticonvulsants**

**Carbamazepine**

- Tablets: 200mg, 500mg, 1000mg
- Liquid: 25mg/ml, 50mg/ml

- 1–2 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg daily in divided doses up to 100mg twice daily
- 2–3 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg daily divided into 2 doses
- 3–4 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg daily divided into 2 doses

**Most common side effects**

- Skin rash and hypersensitivity. Aflatoxicosis. Risk minimised with slow introduction.
- Headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, fatigue, myoclonus, dizziness and drowsiness.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.

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**Lamotrigine**

- Tablets: 100mg, 200mg, 300mg, 400mg, 500mg

- 1–2 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg daily divided into 3 doses
- 2–3 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg divided into 2 doses daily
- 3–4 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg daily divided into 2 doses
- 4–5 years: 2.5 – 5mg/kg daily divided into 2 doses up to 75mg daily

**Most common side effects**

- Skin rash and hypersensitivity. Aflatoxicosis. Risk minimised with slow introduction.
- Headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, fatigue, myoclonus, dizziness and drowsiness.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.

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**Sodium valproate**

- Tablets: 100mg, 200mg, 300mg, 500mg, 600mg, 1000mg
- Capsules: 150mg, 300mg, 500mg, 1000mg
- Granules: 500mg, 1000mg, 2000mg
- Dispersible tablets: 2mg, 5mg, 25mg, 100mg

- 1–2 years: 150 – 200mg twice daily to max 300mg
- 2–3 years: 200 – 300mg twice daily to max 400mg
- 3–4 years: 250 – 300mg twice daily to max 500mg
- 4–5 years: 300 – 400mg twice daily to max 600mg

**Most common side effects**

- Skin rash and hypersensitivity. Aflatoxicosis. Risk minimised with slow introduction.
- Headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, fatigue, myoclonus, dizziness and drowsiness.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.

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**Succinylsulfathiazole**

- Tablets: 250mg, 500mg, 750mg, 1000mg

- Add-on therapy for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation. Monotherapy for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation (from 12 years)

**Most common side effects**

- Skin rash and hypersensitivity. Aflatoxicosis. Risk minimised with slow introduction.
- Headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, fatigue, myoclonus, dizziness and drowsiness.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Monotherapy</th>
<th>Add-on therapy</th>
<th>Monotherapy and add-on therapy</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbamazepine</td>
<td>Tablets 200mg, 500mg, 400mg</td>
<td>Oral solution 300mg, 500mg</td>
<td>Oral syrup 20mg/5ml, 60mg/5ml</td>
<td>Effective for focal seizures and secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizures. May worsen absence and myoclonic seizures.</td>
<td>1 – 2</td>
<td>Effective for focal seizures with or without secondary generalisation. Add-on therapy may be considered for myoclonic seizures in juvenile myoclonic epilepsy.</td>
<td>1 – 2</td>
<td>Effective for focal seizures and secondarily generalised tonic-clonic seizures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium valproate</td>
<td>Oral solution 200mg/5ml, syrup 200mg/5ml, liquid (sugar free) 200mg/5ml</td>
<td>Modified release tablets 20mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg, 300mg, 400mg</td>
<td>0.5mg, 2mg</td>
<td>For adults: 1 – 2</td>
<td>For adults: 1 – 2</td>
<td>For adults: 1 – 2</td>
<td>For adults: 1 – 2</td>
<td>For adults: 1 – 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamotrigine</td>
<td>Dispersible tablets 2mg, 5mg, 25mg, 100mg</td>
<td>Dispersible tablets 2mg, 4mg, 6mg, 8mg, 10mg, 12mg</td>
<td>Orally disintegrating tablets 5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 30mg, 60mg</td>
<td>Effective for focal tonic seizures.</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>Effective for focal tonic seizures.</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>Effective for focal tonic seizures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenytoin</td>
<td>Crushable tablets 100mg, 200mg, 500mg</td>
<td>Oral liquid suspension 30mg/5ml, 60mg/5ml</td>
<td>Oral liquid suspension 30mg/5ml, 50mg/5ml, 100mg/5ml</td>
<td>May make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.</td>
<td>1 – 3</td>
<td>May make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.</td>
<td>1 – 3</td>
<td>May make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **Monotherapy** means the AED is taken on its own.
- **Add-on therapy** means the AED is taken alongside other AEDs.
- **Tolerance** means that a drug becomes less effective the longer you take it.
- **Effective** means the seizures it works for.
- **Nonpro-UK2232a**

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**Additional Information:**
- **Side effects:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
- **Interactions:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
- **Contraindications:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
- **Precautions:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
- **Dosing:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
- **Monitoring:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
- **Further Information:**
  - *Sodium valproate:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.
  - *Phenytoin:* may make myoclonic and absence seizures worse.

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**Additional Resources:**
- [Epilepsy Society](https://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk)
- [National Health Service (NHS)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- [British Epilepsy Association](https://www.epilepsy.org.uk)

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**Disclaimer:**
- This information is for educational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for advice from your doctor. Epilepsy Society is not responsible for any actions taken as a result of using this information.
- **Confidential (national call rate).**
- **www.epilepsysociety.org.uk**
- **Registered Charity No. 206186**
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**Further Reading:**
- *Epilepsy Handline 01949 601 400 Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, Wednesday 9am to 8pm (Confidential (national call rate)).**