

## MEDICATION SAFETY ALERT

### RESPONSE to Drug Safety Update - Antiepileptics

MHRA Drug Safety Update (Nov 13) recommended that patients prescribed the following drugs for treatment of epilepsy should be maintained on a specific manufacturer's branded or generic product.

- Carbamazepine (several manufacturers)
- Phenobarbital (1 manufacturer per formulation)
- Phenytoin (1 manufacturer per formulation)
- Primidone (2 manufacturers available)

#### **Recommended actions (in treatment of epilepsy)**

Phenobarbital and Phenytoin - patients should remain on same formulation of preparation unless advised by specialist

Carbamazepine and Primidone - patients should remain on same manufacturer's product unless advised by specialist (see page 2 for further details)

**For further information please contact:  
Marie Miller, Interface Pharmacist (01482 675207 or 674731)  
or your Medicines Management Team**

## Recommended actions - Carbamazepine & Primidone

### Community pharmacists

- Offer MUR to all patients prescribed carbamazepine or primidone for epilepsy
- Advise patients on need to remain on same brand/manufacturer & to bring medicines to hospital for any hospital visit
- Record current manufacturer on PMR and send information to patient's GP
- Supply same manufacturer's product to patient (if availability problem discuss with prescriber)

### GP practices

- Record information on current manufacturer (once known) on prescribing system
- Include manufacturer on prescription e.g. "Carbamazepine (Teva)"

### Secondary Care

- Use patient's own medicine when available during in-patient stay
- Include details of manufacturer on all prescriptions, discharge letters, clinic letters
- Pharmacy Dept will advise on manufacturer's product to be used for initiation, change in treatment