

28 July 2026

Valproate

- 1. Please provide a copy of the Action and Improvement Plan produced pursuant to Action 2 of the NatPSA by the 31 January 2024 deadline, or the nearest equivalent document your organisation holds.**

With regard to Action 2 of the National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA), the consensus is that this work has been undertaken through the guidance and oversight provided by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) and the regional Valproate Implementation Group (VIG).

The Trust does not hold a standalone Trust-specific Action and Improvement Plan. The closest equivalent information is contained within the documentation, minutes and action plans generated through the SPPG-led and VIG processes which directed and monitored implementation of the NatPSA requirements.

If you redirect your request to FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

- 2. Please provide any entry or entries on your corporate risk register relating to valproate-containing medicines (including those recorded as sodium valproate, valproic acid, valproate semisodium, Epilim, or Depakote), added or active at any point between 1 October 2023 and the date of this request. For each entry, please provide the risk title and description, date first added, inherent and residual risk scores, recorded controls and mitigating actions, and current status, if closed, the date of closure and reason recorded. If no such entry exists or has existed in this period, please confirm this in your response.**

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust can confirm that there have been no corporate risk register entries relating specifically to valproate-containing medicines (including sodium valproate, valproic acid, valproate semisodium, Epilim or Depakote) that were added or active during the period 1 October 2023 to the date of this request.

- 3. Please provide copies of any papers, reports or minutes from your Medicines Optimisation Committee or equivalent, or any sub-group or working group established to co-ordinate valproate safety, concerning valproate prescribing or patient outcomes, to address cost concerns you can simplify by identifying documents by keyword searches for “valproate”, “VPA”, “Epilim” and “valproic acid” from October 2023 to March 2026.**

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The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust can advise that oversight of the implementation of the National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA) and associated valproate safety measures has been undertaken through regional governance arrangements led by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG), including the Valproate Implementation Group (VIG).

As a result, the minutes, reports and papers relating to the regional co-ordination of valproate safety are held by the SPPG rather than the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

You may therefore wish to direct this element of your request to the SPPG, which is likely to hold the records of the regional meetings, discussions and actions relating to valproate prescribing, patient safety and implementation of the NatPSA.

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