

# Medicines Safety Tablet Press

Medicines safety newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacy teams  
NHS Northamptonshire ICB

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## ➤ **Valproate updated safety and educational materials**

Updated [safety and educational materials](#) are now available to support the implementation of the regulatory measures announced in the November 2023 National Patient Safety Alert and the September 2024 Drug Safety Update. They also include previous updates to product information on the risk of low birth weight in children exposed to valproate during pregnancy. The following have been updated:

- Annual Risk Acknowledgement Form for female patients
- Risk Acknowledgement Form for male patients starting valproate
- Patient guide for women
- Patient guide for men
- Patient card
- Booklet for healthcare professional
- Valproate dispensary poster

## ➤ **Quality improvement project ideas**

A list of suggested prescribing quality improvement projects is available on the [Primary Care Portal](#). Practices may find this useful if looking for a project idea.

## ➤ **Medicines Safety PLT sessions**

The Medicines Optimisation Team can provide a one-hour medicines safety PLT session at PCN or practice level. Please contact the team if you are interested in booking a session. [northantsicb.medicinesoptimisationteam@nhs.net](mailto:northantsicb.medicinesoptimisationteam@nhs.net)

## ➤ **Prescribing antibiotics for acne**

Acne is one of the most common indications for long term and/or repeated antibiotic use. Oral antibiotics should not be used as monotherapy. A topical retinoid or benzoyl peroxide should always be co-prescribed with oral antibiotics to reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance developing. Treatment should be reviewed after 12 weeks and should not be continued beyond 6 months unless in exceptional circumstances. RCGP Target have "[How to....](#)" resources for treatment of acne.

## ➤ **[Headaches in over 12s: diagnosis and management - updated guidance \(CG150\)](#)**

NICE has amended strength of recommendations on migraine prevention amended to make the use of topiramate or propranolol a 'consider' recommendation alongside amitriptyline, to better reflect the balance between the benefits and harms associated with the 3 medicines.

## ➤ **New Post-Market Surveillance (PMS) regulations for medical devices.**

From 16 June 2025 the [Post-Market Surveillance \(PMS\) regulations](#) require device manufacturers to actively track the safety and performance of products already in use. This will help identify potential safety issues earlier and speed up responses to incidents and emerging risks. Problems with, or defects in, medical devices should be reported via the Yellow Card Scheme [Report a problem with a medicine or medical device - GOV.UK](#)

This edition is also available on the Primary Care Portal