

## The epilepsies: pharmacological treatment by epilepsy syndrome

This table provides a summary reference guide to pharmacological treatment.

### Anti-epileptic drug (AED) options by epilepsy syndrome

<b>Epilepsy syndrome</b>	<b>First-line AEDs</b>	<b>Adjunctive AEDs</b>	<b>Other AEDs that may be considered on referral to tertiary care</b>	<b>Do not offer AEDs (may worsen seizures)</b>
Childhood absence epilepsy or other absence syndromes	Ethosuximide Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Ethosuximide Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Clonazepam Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Topiramate <sup>a</sup> Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	Carbamazepine Gabapentin Oxcarbazepine Phenytoin Pregabalin Tiagabine Vigabatrin
Juvenile absence epilepsy or other absence syndromes	Ethosuximide Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Ethosuximide Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Clonazepam Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Topiramate <sup>a</sup> Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	Carbamazepine Gabapentin Oxcarbazepine Phenytoin Pregabalin Tiagabine Vigabatrin

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<b>Epilepsy syndrome</b>	<b>First-line AEDs</b>	<b>Adjunctive AEDs</b>	<b>Other AEDs that may be considered on referral to tertiary care</b>	<b>Do not offer AEDs (may worsen seizures)</b>
Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy	Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Clonazepam Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	Carbamazepine Gabapentin Oxcarbazepine Phenytoin Pregabalin Tiagabine Vigabatrin
Epilepsy with generalised tonic–clonic seizures only	Carbamazepine Lamotrigine Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine Levetiracetam Sodium valproate Topiramate		
Idiopathic generalised epilepsy	Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Clonazepam Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	Carbamazepine Gabapentin Oxcarbazepine Phenytoin Pregabalin Tiagabine Vigabatrin

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<b>Epilepsy syndrome</b>	<b>First-line AEDs</b>	<b>Adjunctive AEDs</b>	<b>Other AEDs that may be considered on referral to tertiary care</b>	<b>Do not offer AEDs (may worsen seizures)</b>
Infantile spasms not due to tuberous sclerosis	Discuss with, or refer to, a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist Steroid (prednisolone or tetracosactide <sup>a</sup> ) or vigabatrin			
Infantile spasms due to tuberous sclerosis	Discuss with, or refer to, a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist Vigabatrin or steroid (prednisolone or tetracosactide <sup>a</sup> )			
Benign epilepsy with centrotemporal spikes	Carbamazepine <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Carbamazepine <sup>a</sup> Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Gabapentin <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Eslicarbazepine acetate <sup>a</sup> Lacosamide <sup>a</sup> Phenobarbital Phenytoin Pregabalin <sup>a</sup> Tiagabine <sup>a</sup> Vigabatrin <sup>a</sup> Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	

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Panayiotopoulos syndrome	Carbamazepine <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Carbamazepine <sup>a</sup> Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Gabapentin <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Eslicarbazepine acetate <sup>a</sup> Lacosamide <sup>a</sup> Phenobarbital Phenytoin Pregabalin <sup>a</sup> Tiagabine <sup>a</sup> Vigabatrin <sup>a</sup> Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	
Late-onset childhood occipital epilepsy (Gastaut type)	Carbamazepine <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate	Carbamazepine <sup>a</sup> Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Gabapentin <sup>a</sup> Lamotrigine <sup>a</sup> Levetiracetam <sup>a</sup> Oxcarbazepine <sup>a</sup> Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Eslicarbazepine acetate <sup>a</sup> Lacosamide <sup>a</sup> Phenobarbital Phenytoin Pregabalin <sup>a</sup> Tiagabine <sup>a</sup> Vigabatrin <sup>a</sup> Zonisamide <sup>a</sup>	

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<b>Epilepsy syndrome</b>	<b>First-line AEDs</b>	<b>Adjunctive AEDs</b>	<b>Other AEDs that may be considered on referral to tertiary care</b>	<b>Do not offer AEDs (may worsen seizures)</b>
Dravet syndrome	Discuss with, or refer to, a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist Sodium valproate Topiramate <sup>a</sup>	Clobazam <sup>a</sup> Stiripentol		Carbamazepine Gabapentin Lamotrigine Oxcarbazepine Phenytoin Pregabalin Tiagabine Vigabatrin
Continuous spike and wave during slow sleep	Refer to a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist			
Lennox–Gastaut syndrome	Discuss with, or refer to, a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist Sodium valproate	Lamotrigine	Felbamate <sup>a</sup> Rufinamide Topiramate	Carbamazepine Gabapentin Oxcarbazepine Pregabalin Tiagabine Vigabatrin
Landau–Kleffner syndrome	Refer to a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist			
Myoclonic-astatic epilepsy	Refer to a tertiary paediatric epilepsy specialist			
<sup>a</sup> At the time of publication (January 2012), this drug did not have UK marketing authorisation for this indication and/or population (please see table 3 in appendix E of the NICE guideline for specific details about this drug for this indication and population). Informed consent should be obtained and documented.				

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A consistent supply of a particular manufacturer's AED preparation is recommended, unless the prescriber, in consultation with the child, young person, adult and their family and/or carers as appropriate, considers that this is not a concern. Different preparations of some AEDs may vary in bioavailability or pharmacokinetic profiles and care needs to be taken to avoid reduced effect or excessive side effects. Please see recommendation 1.9.1.4 of the NICE guideline for further information. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In November 2013, the MHRA issued new advice about oral anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) and switching between different manufacturers' products of a particular drug. Following a review of the available evidence, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) has classified AEDs into 3 categories depending on the level of potential concerns related to switching between different manufacturers' products. Consult the MHRA advice for more information.

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