

Notes From Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS NatPSA Sodium Valproate Stakeholders Meeting

Wednesday 28th August 2024
9.30am – 10.30am via MS Teams

Present:-

NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB
Nottingham University Hospitals
Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust
Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust
General Practice

No.	Item	Action
1.	Welcome, Introductions & Apologies ICB welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received.	
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting The notes were recorded as an accurate record of the meeting held on 19 th June 2024. Matters Arising Q&A Sheets – ICB advised that some links still need to be included in the document. Also need to decide where ARAF forms sit. ICB agreed for the Q&A sheets to be shared. Secondary Care are still undecided whether ARAF forms will be stored on Care Centrix or Medway and then shared across primary care. SFH asked if there was a preference on where to store forms, and ICB suggested asking GP Leads to help make a decision. Bassetlaw Paediatrics – ICB advised referral form links are in the template. DBH Guidance Document – to share with the group.	
3.	Organisational Feedback SFHT – reported having met with Divisional Managers for Neurology who advised that they think the process is fine and understand the service that NUH are providing to SFHT. SFH is considering inviting a leadership team to a future meeting. The capacity issue for adults with epilepsy needs to be written into the SLA. Consultant advised that the children's service at SFHT is working well with the number of patients not being overwhelming. NUH – advised that service leads at NUH would like more administration to help with ARAF forms and need to put a case forward. NHCT – reported that a trust wide policy has gone to the Pharmacy Governance Group and TMOG for approval.	

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	An internal working group has taken valproate off the stock list except in Forensics. Many Forensic patients are taking valproate. Advised of a PCN pharmacist in the community who had requested that an ARAF form be completed for a male patient under 55 years who was prescribed valproate before November 2023 when the new arrangements were put in place. NHCT asked for clarification, and would more requests like this be coming through? General Practice asked if this information could be added to the FAQ sheets. NUH advised he had also received a letter from a PCN pharmacist asking for a risk assessment for a patient. NUH advised that neurology are planning to put together a flow chart showing all caveats. Primary care needs to ensure that patients taking valproate are aware of all the risks.	
4.	Agreement of Next Steps ICB to arrange circulation to all members of the group the latest Q&A documents for information. NUH to review SLA with SFHT on capacity issues.	
5.	Any Other Business Topiramate – ICB advised that a NatPSA has come out regarding migraine and epilepsy patients taking topiramate. Migraine patients – Unless complex, the majority of patients will be taken care of by primary care clinicians as ARAF form allows a signatory from a health care professional. ICB is currently addressing guidance. Epilepsy patients – ARAF forms need to be signed by a specialist, so patients will need to be referred into secondary care. There are approximately 130 adult patients in NUH, and secondary care are addressing how they intend to manage them. Consultant advised that paediatric female migraine patients will be looked after in primary care but expect more patients will probably be referred into neurology more often. General Practice advised they are developing some searches in SystmOne to help identify patients who may become pregnant ready to offer them pre-conception advice. SFH to raise awareness around topiramate at the SFHT medical and clinicians monthly meeting. NHCT advised she had discussed topiramate with the medicines safety team and was advised that there are a few patients prescribed it for mood stabilisation reasons. NHCT have a policy about safely prescribing drugs to females of childbearing age. ICB advised that across Nottingham & Nottinghamshire there are approximately 130 adult epilepsy patients and 65 paediatric patients.	

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	A topiramate working group may be required. The female rights and the rights of the unborn child need to be addressed. The MSO Network Group will address comments and suggestions from this group for the pregnancy project work. ICB thanked everyone for attending the meeting.	
6.	Date & Time of Next Meeting Tuesday 29th October 2024 – 9.30am – 10.30am	