

Depakote/ Depakene (Valproic Acid)

Parent Information Sheet

Why it is prescribed

Valproic Acid is an anticonvulsant that is used to treat seizure disorders.

How to give Valproic Acid

- Valproic Acid is prescribed only for use by the patient whose name appears on the prescription. Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.
- Give Valproic Acid exactly as your doctor has prescribed. Give the medicine at the same time every day.
- Do not give the medication more often or in larger doses than what your doctor has ordered. If you have any questions or concerns about the current medication, call your doctor's office.
- Never take a double dose to make up a missed dose.
- Administration of Valproic Acid requires adult supervision at home and school. Your child should not be expected to remember to take the medication on his/her own. A doctor's prescription is required for the child's school to administer the medicine.
- If you miss more than one dose contact your doctor's office.
- If your child experiences a seizure while on this medication, please notify the doctor's office.
- Never discontinue Valproic Acid without consulting your child's doctor.

Special Considerations

- Your doctor may require periodic blood test to determine the therapeutic level of Valproic Acid for your child, and to screen for liver and blood problems.
- Please notify all other physicians or dentists that your child is taking Depakote.

Side Effects

The most **common** : drowsiness, sleepiness, dizziness, lack of coordination, irritability, blurred vision, stomach upset, and hair loss.

Very rare: skin rashes, uncontrolled movements.

Call your doctor or go to the nearest ER if you experience either of these side effects.

Procedure for getting a prescription

- If you require a prescription refill before your next scheduled appointment, please call the clinical services office at (313) 832-1100 ext. 220.
- The Detroit Institute for Children is not open on weekends or holidays. The clinical services office is open from 8 am till 5 pm Monday through Thursday and 8 am till 12 noon on Fridays.
- If you are overdue for a return appointment or have not kept a scheduled appointment, your child's doctor reserves the right not to prescribe the medication.
- Please have your pharmacy phone number available for prescription refills.

The phone number to the office is (313) 832-1100 ext. 220.

***Poison Control Center:
1-800-764-7661 (1-800-POISON-1)***