

Drug	Dose; Rate (Maximum)	May be preferable	Contraindications & Cautions
(fos)Phenytoin	20mg/kg; 50mg/min (2000mg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already taking phenytoin, suspected poor adherence • Alternatives contra-indicated or previously ineffective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant hypotension • Bradycardia, heart block • Porphyria • Generalized epilepsy • Overdose of recreational drugs or antidepressants
Valproate	30mg/kg; 10mg/kg/min (3000mg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already taking valproate, suspected poor adherence • Generalized epilepsy • Comorbid migraine, mood disorder • Alternatives contra-indicated or previously ineffective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of childbearing age¹ • Pre-existing liver disease or pancreatitis • Known metabolic disorder predisposing to hepatotoxicity • Caution in acute stroke or brain injury (risk of thrombocytopenia)
Levetiracetam	60mg/kg; 6mg/kg/min (4500mg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already taking levetiracetam, suspected poor adherence • Need for minimal drug interactions • Alternatives contra-indicated or previously ineffective 	<p>May not be best choice in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acute or prior brain injury² • known mood/behaviour disorder (may exacerbate) • Reduce dose in renal impairment