

Valproate

Current updates and Data

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Current update

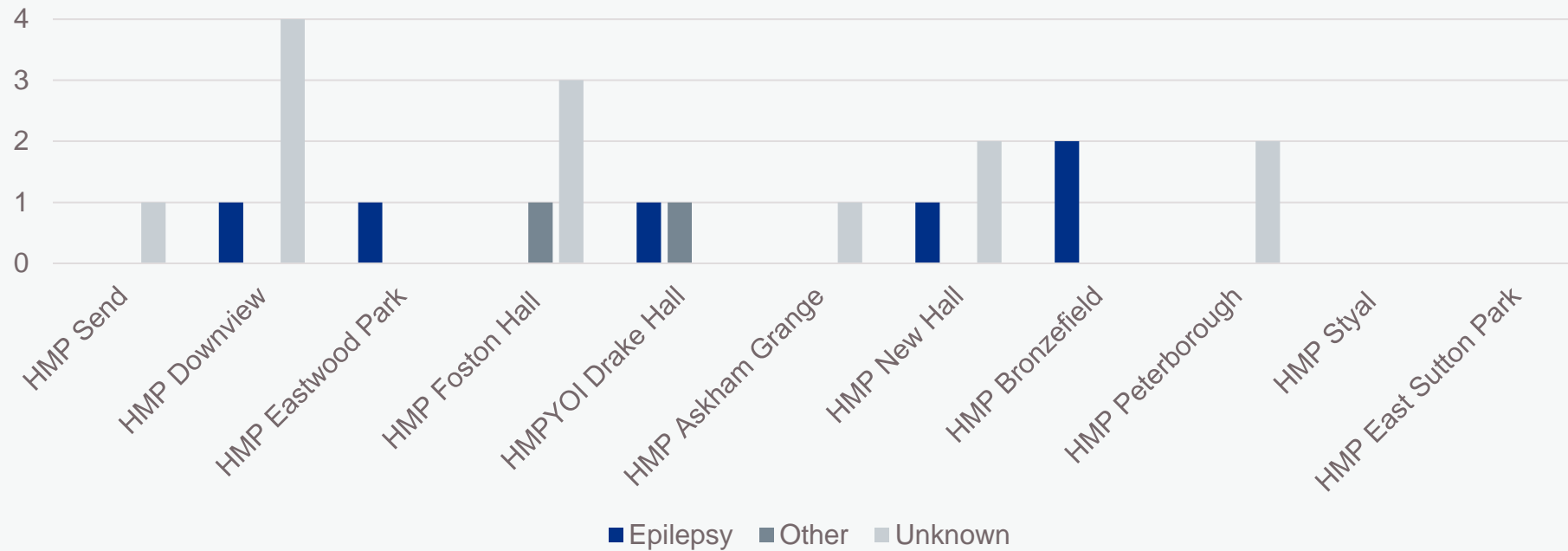
- A recommendation from a review of health and social care in women's prisons published in November 2023 highlighted improvements needed in medicines management and communication with women about their health and social care.
- The safeguards needed in women taking or initiated on valproate makes this a focus for medicines safety improvements in women's prisons.
- Briefings were developed for both Men and Women, detailing safety requirements and key partners. These can be viewed here: [Valproate - National Health & Justice & Sexual Assault Referral Centres \(SARCs\) Communication, Newsletters & Bulletins - Futures](#)
- Further to this, an audit has recently been completed within the female secure and detained estates.

Audit

- An audit was distributed for completion within the female estate to:
 - Establish the number of patients taking valproate and which products
 - Understand the reasons for valproate products being prescribed
 - Ensure that national standards are being met
 - Identify collaboration between specialists
 - Identify continuity of care
 - Drive quality improvements

Data

- 9 out of 11 female prisons have prescribed valproate products in the last 3 months.
- Patients aged from 27 – 59
- Reasons for prescriptions are either Bipolar Disorder or Epilepsy



Next Steps

- Working with the Patient Safety Specialist & Clinical Improvement Lead on the outcome of the audit and next steps including any journal publications.

Thank You



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