



EPILEPSY MANAGEMENT

Policy Code: 1121

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Policy Statement

Epilepsy is a disorder in which nerve cells of the brain from time to time release abnormal electrical impulses. These cause a temporary malfunction of the other nerve cells of the brain, resulting in alteration of, or complete loss of consciousness. Epilepsy can take various forms including partial seizures and generalised seizures.

Participants may experience Epileptic Seizures from time to time. Staff is to ensure the safety of the participant at all times.

Procedure

When convulsions start:

1. Roll client onto their side after jerking stops or immediately if they have food or water in their mouth or if they have vomited.
2. Assess breathing after jerking stops.
3. Note time convulsions started.
4. Check safety of client. Place something soft under client's head and loosen tight neckwear. Protect him/her from harm.
5. Give additional medication if prescribed for this client in this particular situation (see 'Has the treating doctor prescribed medication to be given ...previous section above).
6. Call an ambulance if necessary (See also the section below 'when to call an ambulance (Dial 000)').

While convulsions continue:

1. Stay with client and protect from harm.
2. Roll client onto the side immediately if they vomit.
3. Maintain client's privacy and dignity as far as possible.
4. Call an ambulance if necessary (see next section below).

After convulsions stop:

1. Reassure client.
2. Roll client onto the side.
3. Note time convulsions stop.
4. During recovery period, continue to provide client needs for confusion, agitation, drowsiness, headache, soreness, washing client/changing clothes if needed, care with aspirating fluids or foods.
5. Record seizure on the client's Seizure Chart and in the usual daily records.



CASS Group- Disability Services

Call an ambulance (Dial 000) if:

- You are in doubt.
- The seizure has lasted more than 5 minutes, unless the doctor has specified
- Otherwise or the seizure lasts longer than normal for that person.
- Food, water or vomit are in the client's mouth during the seizure.
- The seizure occurs in water (other than the bath).
- The client has been injured.
- A second seizure occurs before complete recovery from the first one.
- The client has breathing difficulties after the convulsions stop.
- The client has diabetes.
- It is the first known seizure.

Documents related to this policy	
Related Policies	Need Assessment Risk Management
Forms, record keeping or other organisational documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epilepsy Record • Medical Attendance Record • Doctor Visit Report • Epilepsy plan

Reviewing and approving this policy		
Frequency	Person responsible	Approval
3 years	Unit Head	HAS & DS Committee

Policy review and version tracking			
Review	Date Approved	Approved by	Next Review due
Version 1	1 June 2014	HAS & DS Committee	31 May 2017
Version 2	29 May 2017	HAS & DS Committee	28 May 2020
Version 3	November 2020	HAS & DS Committee	November 2023