

PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

POLICY: SEIZURES

Applies to: All Personnel, Volunteers and Persons Served

Original Approval Date: September 19, 2005

Date Board Approved: December 21, 2012

Replaces Policy Dated: September 12, 2011

Board Member's Signature

PREAMBLE

Epilepsy is a disorder of the nervous system characterized by seizures. A person having an epileptic seizure may:

- Suddenly cry out.
- Fall to the ground and lie rigid.
- Have a congested and blue face and neck.
- Have jerky, spasmodic muscular movements.
- Froth at the mouth.
- Bite the tongue.
- Lose control of the bladder and bowel.
- Lose eyes focus, stop blinking and/or staring.

POLICY

General seizure protocol:

- Remain calm.
- Ensure the individual is in a safe place, remove furniture from immediate area. Stay with the individual speaking softly and reassuringly.
- Loosen clothing, belts and collars.
- If possible turn the individual in the recovery position for easier breathing.
- NEVER attempt to place anything in the individual's mouth.
- If tonic clonic seizures continue in a series or if the individual is bluish or if the seizure lasts more than three (3) minutes (unless the medical protocol states differently) call an ambulance and have the person transported to the hospital.
- Most people are fatigued, allow time and space for rest, sleep and recuperation.

Prior to commencing service, individuals with seizures must provide the service area supervisor or manager with a completed seizure protocol form. New protocols are completed annually and/or on the specified expiry date.

Seizure protocols are maintained in the appropriate section of the person's binder. The area supervisor or manager is responsible for orientating and training staff and volunteers to each person's protocol. Staff and volunteers are required to adhere to the protocols. Unless otherwise specified in individual's protocols, seizure activity is documented on an Incident Report form and in the person's Notable section on ShareVision.

If it appears as though a person is having increased seizure activity the supervisor or manager will contact the person's family or caregiver to notify them.