

JOE HAS A SEIZURE, WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Joe is a 22-year-old man with a medical diagnosis of cerebral palsy and generalized seizures. He takes Tegretol and Keppra for seizure control; his last seizure was three weeks ago, lasting two minutes. With Joe's seizures he will lose consciousness and has convulsions, he will also lose bladder control. Joe's post seizure behavior is that he is very sleepy and can be confused. Joe has an Individualized Seizure Protocol. The Neurologist wants the 911 protocol to be followed as per the Agency, but would like to be notified if Joe experiences two seizures in a 24-hour period, or if his post seizure behavior last longer than one hour.

It is 3 p.m. Joe has returned from his Day Program, the Day Program has reported that Joe had a seizure at 12 noon. It was a generalized seizure lasting for one minute; Joe was sleepy for 30 minutes after the seizure but at present appears awake and alert.

What needs to be done?

Please review questions, answer and see rationale.

1. Document in the Seizure Tracking Sheet that Joe has had a seizure using the information the Day Program has provided. TRUE or FALSE

TRUE It is important to document all seizures on the Seizure Tracking Sheet so the Neurologist can get a clear understanding of Joe's seizure activity.

2. Call the neurologist as soon as Joe gets home. TRUE or FALSE

FALSE The Seizure Protocol for Joe states that it is not necessary to call, however if Joe appeared confused or very sleepy you would need to call the Neurologist as stated by the Seizure Protocol.

3. Continue to give Joe his seizure medication as per Medication Administration Program (MAP). TRUE or FALSE

TRUE All medications should be given as per MAP policy

It is now 5p.m. At the dinner table Joe loses consciousness and slumps down out of his chair to the floor. He starts jerking and contracting his muscles, his lips turn blue and he becomes incontinent of urine.

What needs to be done?

1. Gently turn him on his side, loosening up his shirt around his neck and removing his glasses, TRACK TIME.

TRUE or FALSE

TRUE These are ALL important, keeping an eye on the clock, remember if it lasts longer than 5 minutes then you need to call 911. Turning him onto his side allows Joe's airway to remain open letting all secretions go to the floor, not into his lungs. Loosening his shirt and removing his glasses will protect his airway and keep him from becoming injured.

2. Call 911!!! He is having a seizure and he looks like he is not breathing and he is going to die!! He looks in pain !!
TRUE or FALSE

FALSE It is scary to see a seizure but it is very important NOT TO PANIC. If the seizure is lasting longer than 5 minutes then you will need to call 911. If Joe is not breathing you need to call 911 and start CPR, but LOOK CAREFULLY. In most Generalized seizures the breathing pattern may change but will return to his regular breathing pattern.

3. OBSERVE, look at what is happening to Joe. How is he breathing, was he injured during his fall. Observe his seizure pattern. Continue to track time.
TRUE or FALSE

TRUE Your observations will insure safety. With proper documentation on the Seizure Tracking Sheet you may better help the Neurologist understand Joe's seizure pattern.

Joe's seizure has stopped after 3 minutes, he sits up and you help him to a chair. He is very sleepy but will answer your questions correctly.

What needs to be done?

1. Bring Joe back to the dinner table and help him eat, then assist him to bed.
TRUE or FALSE

FALSE Joe should not eat or drink anything until he is fully awake.

2. Call the Neurologist, clearly stating what has occurred today and how he is reacting now.
TRUE or FALSE

TRUE Joe's Seizure Protocol states that the Neurologist should be called if Joe has more than two seizures in 24 hours.

3. After you call the Neurologist you should document on the Seizure Tracking Sheet and write a Medical Progress note.
TRUE or FALSE

TRUE It is very important to document all seizure activity. ANY phone call to a HCP should be documented in the medical progress notes as well as all seizure activity.