



**March 12, 2012**

## **Management of Seizures**

### **POLICY:**

1. During a seizure the student's physical safety will be ensured at all times
2. For any student whose seizure lasts more than 5 minutes an ambulance will be called (An exception will be made if a physician specifies in a physician's order)
3. An ambulance will be called immediately for any student with no history of seizure activity
4. Parents will be notified whenever any seizure activity has taken place
5. Two staff members should always be present when a student is seizing, one to care for the student and one to make phone calls if necessary
6. Students with a history of seizures are required to have individualized seizure plans

### **PROCEDURES:**

#### During the Seizure:

1. If available, ask another staff member to notify nurse
2. Stay calm and track time with watch.
3. Keep the student safe by moving furniture or equipment away from the student
4. Do not restrain
5. Turn student gently onto one side. This will help keep the airway clear.

6. Place a cushion or folding cloth beneath the head for protection.
7. Do not put anything in the mouth
8. Stay with the student until fully conscious.
9. During the seizure observe the characteristics of the seizure including the following:
  - a. Precipitating factors such as: fever, menses, bright lights, loud noises, etc.
  - b. Time of onset
  - c. Aura
  - d. Clinical progression of the seizure activity, i.e. from right arm twitching to generalized activity, skin pallor, cyanosis of tongue, to area around mouth
  - e. Loss of consciousness
  - f. Duration of motor activities
  - g. Post-ictal state (sleepy, lethargic, confusion, crying, vocalizing, headache)

After the Seizure:

1. Check the student for injuries and allow student to rest
2. Notify school nurse, if not already
3. Remain nearby until the student appears aware and alert
4. As per policy, inform parents that seizure activity has occurred

Seizures as Emergencies

A seizure is generally considered an emergency when:

- Tonic clonic seizure (characterized by loss of consciousness and violent muscle contractions) lasts longer than 5 minutes

- Student has repeated seizures without regaining consciousness
- Student is injured
- Student is pregnant or known diabetic
- Student has a first-time seizure
- Student has breathing difficulties
- Student has a seizure in the water

#### Off Campus Activities

- If seizure occurs off campus on a field trip or worksite, and a nurse is not present, 911 will be called
- Diastat CANNOT be administered by non-nursing staff.

#### Swimming

All students with a history of seizures are required to have:

- 1:1 Continual observation by a LABBB staff member in the pool with the student
- Flotation device