

Office of MUI/Registry Unit

Ted Strickland, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

Health & Safety Alert # 53-11-10

Post-Seizure Care

Background

Seizure disorders are quite common for many individuals with developmental disabilities. The service delivery system has done a good job defining, planning for, and intervening appropriately when an individual has a seizure. There is a tremendous amount of literature available to the field defining seizures and identifying seizure care plans. However, there is not much literature to address “Post-Seizure Care” for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Alert

The MUI/Registry Unit has identified health and safety risks for individuals after they have had a seizure. In many cases, the individual is tired following a seizure, and the first thing they want to do is lie down and rest. This makes perfect sense, and in most cases, it is just what the individual needs. In a few cases however, allowing the individual to go to his/her bedroom to rest without supervision can have dire consequences. There have been instances of choking, additional seizures, and shortness of breath that have been documented post-seizure. (The primary concern is that the above noted episodes are occurring, and care providers are unaware that they are occurring as they left the individual alone to rest.) This alert has been created to heighten awareness of supervision needs for individuals following a seizure. The attached post-seizure guide has been developed by department physicians to give providers of service a tool to help guide appropriate supervision occurs following a seizure.

For questions or comments regarding the above Alert, please contact the MUI/Registry Unit at (614) 995-3810.

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Post-Seizure Guide

Name: _____

Date /
Time: _____

	Now	5 min.	10 min.	15 min.	30 min.	45 min.	60 min.	2 hrs.	3 hrs.	4 hrs.
Vitals:										
Pulse										
Blood Pressure										
Respirations										
Breathing Pattern										
Temp										
O2 Sat										
Neuro Checks:										
Pupils										
Level of alertness										
Response to deep pain (Pressure on eyeballs)										
Speech (if appropriate)										

Eyes on (until 20 min.)

If seizures recur, then return to seizure care and notify medical / nursing. Keep individual on his or her side while seizing.