Definition of Terms

**Epilepsy** – A neurological disorder of the brain characterized by loss of consciousness and jerking movements of arms and/or legs; caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

**Nasal** – Relating to the nose.

**Seizure** – Abnormal electrical activity in the brain. Seizures can be mild as in episodes of staring off into space or severe as demonstrated by loss of consciousness and uncontrolled movements of the limbs.

**Grand mal seizure** – Characterized by loss of consciousness and severe muscle contractions in the arms and/or legs and sometimes arching of the back.

**Petit mal Seizure** – A lapse in conscious awareness characterized by staring off into space.

**Versed® (Midazolam)** – A strong sedative that can be administered in the nose to stop seizure activity.
First Aid for Seizures: What to do

Call 911 if:

- The person stops breathing.
- This is the first seizure the person has ever had.
- The person sustains an injury during the seizure.
- The person remains unconscious after the seizure ends.
- The person has a seizure after being seizure free for 12 months or more.
- The seizure is different than the person’s “typical” seizure (appearance/duration/frequency).

You must know each person’s seizure first aid plan and protocol.

Note the time. You need to know how long the seizure lasts.

Be sure there is nothing tight around the person’s neck.

Turn person on their side to prevent choking or aspiration if vomiting occurs and cushion the head to prevent injury.

Place nothing in the person’s mouth during a seizure.

Move any obstacles that could cause harm out of the way. Do NOT try to hold the person down.

Offer comfort, reassurance and whatever assistance is needed when seizure is over.
What is Nasal Versed® (Midazolam)?
Versed® is a strong sedative often used to induce sleepiness and relaxation in patients about to undergo surgery. It has also been found to be effective in stopping seizures when given in the nose. Some persons with uncontrolled seizure activity have found relief by using this drug as a part of their seizure first aid plan.

What does Nasal Versed® (Midazolam) do?
It calms the parts of the brain being over stimulated by uncontrolled electrical activity. Once these areas have been calmed, the seizure will stop, but the person will be sleepy.

When is Nasal Versed® (Midazolam) administered?
- Nasal Versed® (midazolam) is ordered by a health care professional. Staff with DODD Category 1 medication administration certification can administer the Versed® to persons with seizures but only as specifically instructed by the person’s health care professional.

- Staff will be given written instructions about how and when to administer nasal Versed® (midazolam).

- Staff need to make sure they understand the instructions clearly and understand how to administer this medication before it is needed. If you do not clearly understand, ask the health care professional.

What do I need to do?
- You are responsible for following the standard seizure safety protocol as presented during your certification training. Keep the person safe and administer the nasal Versed® (midazolam) as instructed. Follow the steps for administration as presented on page 5 of this training.

- Because nasal Versed® (midazolam) is an emergency medication, you will need to take it with you wherever you go with the person.

- You will need to locate the nasal Versed® (midazolam) at the beginning of every shift, check the expiration date and do your 3 MAR checks as presented during your certification training. This way, you will know exactly where the medication is, so that you are ready to use it if needed. **DO NOT draw up the dose BEFORE you need it.**

- Refill the prescription as often as needed to ensure there is always an adequate supply available.

- If you used the nasal Versed® (midazolam), you must document its use immediately afterward and inform the appropriate person(s) per your agency’s policy.

- **Call 911 if the seizure does not stop within the time specified by a health care professional, or the seizure activity is different from what is usual for that person.**
## General Protocol for Administering Nasal Versed® (Midazolam)
*(Individuals will also have protocols specific to the person indicating when to give the medication and who to notify)*

1. **If you are not properly trained or skilled in administering nasal Versed® (midazolam) DO NOT attempt to administer.** Call 911.

2. Follow the steps presented in “First Aid for Seizures” when seizure activity begins.

3. Note the time the seizure begins (so you can administer the Versed® at the correct time).

4. If seizure persists beyond the time specified, administer nasal Versed® (midazolam) per manufacturer’s instructions and the person’s drug orders.

5. Note the time Versed® (midazolam) was administered (so you can administer repeat doses if needed, and document when it is safe to do so).

6. If repeat doses are prescribed for cluster seizures, follow the prescribed instructions.

7. Document the person’s response to the Versed® (midazolam).

8. Note and then record the time seizure stops.

9. Monitor the person during recovery from the seizure. **If you cannot arouse the person after the seizure activity stops, call 911 immediately.**

10. If you call 911, inform the appropriate person(s) right away per your agency policy.

11. Complete documentation specified here and as required by your agency policy.

12. If the person is not being provided with pre-filled syringes, please ask the pharmacy if the pre-filled syringes can be made available. If the pre-filled syringe is available, follow the steps for administration as presented on page 6 of this training.
SAMPLE  Steps for Administration of Nasal Versed® (Midazolam) SAMPLE

Be sure you know how to do the procedure.

Pull back syringe plunger until it has air filled to volume needed.

Pop plastic protective cap off the vial. Do not touch the rubber top.

Place needle into the rubber stopper. Turn vial upside down. Inject the air.

Pull back on plunger to fill syringe with ordered amount of Versed®.

Twist syringe off the needle device. Put needle in sharps container.

Attach atomizer tip to end of syringe using a twisting motion.

Hold crown of head stable. Place tip of atomizer snugly against nostril aiming slightly up and outward (toward top of ear). Briskly compress the plunger to deliver ½ of the medication into the nostril. Next, move the atomizer to the other nostril and administer the remaining medication into the other nostril.
**SAMPLE**  
**Steps for Administration of Nasal Versed® (Midazolam) from a Pre-filled Syringe**

1. Remove tip cap from the midazolam syringe by twisting off. Discard the cap.

2. Attach the atomizer to the syringe. (Connect tightly with twisting motion.)

3. If needed, press in the plunger to discard some medicine to get to the prescribed TOTAL dose.

4. Hold person’s head steady with free hand. Insert the head of the atomizer into one nostril snuggly. Quickly press in the plunger to deliver HALF the dose into that nostril.

5. Insert the head of the atomizer into the other nostril. Press the plunger fully to deliver the other half of the dose.
Certification 1 Skills Checklist: Administration of Nasal Versed®
(Midazolam)

1. Wash hands.
2. Assemble supplies.
3. Prepare Versed® (midazolam) per manufacturer’s instructions.
4. Put on gloves.
5. Position person on their back or side to receive Versed® (midazolam) – as per their protocol.
6. Instill Versed® (midazolam) in each nostril as prescribed and per manufacturer’s instructions.
7. Place person on their side in recovery position.
8. Remove gloves and wash hands when it is safe to do so.
10. Notify the appropriate person(s) per agency policy.
11. Monitor the person. Arouse person periodically. Record times.
12. Store equipment per manufacturer’s instructions.
13. Confirm adequate supply remaining or call for refill.

**Call 911 if:**
- Person is turning blue or is having problems breathing.
- The person remains unconscious after the seizure ends.
- Seizure is different from previous seizures.
- Person sustained a head injury or other life-threatening injury during seizure.
- Seizure does not stop within the time frame specified by the health care professional.

Trainee name: ____________________________________ Date: ________________

Instructor Initials     Instructor Name___________________________________

Comments:

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