Seizures: VAGUS NERVE STIMULATOR (VNS) Training for School Personnel

Training Guidelines:

Vagus nerve stimulators are prescribed for individuals with certain types of seizures to decrease the rate, severity and length of seizures. It is a therapy often used in conjunction with antiepileptic medication. In the school setting the VNS may require the use of a special magnet to start stimulation during a seizure. School personnel who are delegated this task will receive training from the School Nurse.

Activation of the VNS with a magnet is a student specific task therefore training will be required for each student who may require this procedure during the school day.

Purpose:

The purpose of this training guideline is to ensure that a student who requires the use of a magnet to activate a VNS during the school day receives the procedure in an appropriate, safe and timely manner.

Training Objectives:

Demonstration and/or verbalization of the following objectives will occur upon completion of the VNS training:

1. Identify characteristics of student’s seizure
2. Identify VNS management order from Seizure Medical Management Plan
3. Purpose of VNS and the magnet
4. Care and storage of the magnet
5. Precautions associated with magnet
6. How to use the magnet
7. Care of the student before, during and after a seizure and the use of the magnet

Evaluation:

Objectives will be evaluated by annual training and periodic review.
# VNS Magnet Training Checklist

**Student Name:** ___________________________  
**Student #** ________________________

**Staff Name:** ___________________________  
**Position:** ________________________

- ✓ Indicates complete

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Completion Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify VNS management order on <em>Seizure Action Plan</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Verbalize what indicates the need for VNS stimulation with the magnet</td>
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| View VNS information on the Epilepsy Foundation website  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iudLDqHRiU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iudLDqHRiU) |                   |
| Verbalize the steps to take to start VNS stimulation with the magnet; demonstrate on a partner (not the student with the VNS) |                   |
| Verbalize how to care for student following the seizure and VNS stimulation with the magnet; discuss when to call EMS |                   |
| Demonstrate how to document the seizure and magnet use on the seizure log                   |                   |
| Discuss care and storage of the magnet.                                                     |                   |
| Discuss magnet precautions.                                                                 |                   |

**Staff Signature:** ___________________________  
**Date:** ____________

**School Nurse Signature:** ___________________________  
**Date:** ____________

**Review Dates:** ____________  
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Revised 8/2015