

Training for Organisations in the Emergency Management of Seizures Using Midazolam or Rectal Valium

Purpose

The Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria offers training in how to administer midazolam or rectal valium for the emergency management of seizures. This document outlines both the scope and the requirements of the training.

Background

The Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria provides training where the need for emergency management of seizures is required in the community. There are situations where it is unrealistic and dangerous to wait for an ambulance to attend for someone having a seizure and prompt administration of a medication such as midazolam or rectal valium is vital. Midazolam and rectal valium are not formally approved for use in this setting and training is only provided if there are clear, documented and signed instructions from the prescribing doctor.

The training is client-specific and tailored to each individual's needs and is conducted by a registered nurse who has a background in epilepsy and has a Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training qualification.

Training for agency workers

Training will be provided when the following criteria are met:

1. The client has been prescribed midazolam (for buccal or intranasal use) or rectal valium for seizures
2. A copy of both the Epilepsy Management Plan and Emergency Medication Management Plan, or a copy of the treating doctor's instructions and/or prescription, are provided with the client's permission. This information is treated in a confidential manner and is required one week prior to the training
3. The workers have a current CPR certificate
4. We strongly recommend that organisations complete the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria's Skills in Epilepsy Support and Management to be able to provide appropriate support for people with epilepsy.

Overview of workshop content

- Overview of working with a client with epilepsy
- What is midazolam or rectal valium?
 - Rationale for use in relation to epilepsy
 - Drug action and potential side-effects
 - Post-administration monitoring issues
- How to administer emergency medication for your client, following the client's specific Emergency Medication Management Plan or the doctor's written instructions and prescription
- Tips on how to create and review the Epilepsy Management Plan and Emergency Medication Management Plan
- Demonstration and practice of the administration in a simulated scenario

- When to call an ambulance
- Understanding your workplace policies in relation to administering emergency medication.

The workshop can include topics that cover the skills required to support someone with epilepsy if general epilepsy training hasn't been provided in the past.

Optional post-training follow-up

1. Epilepsy Management and Emergency Medication Management Plans can be checked and feedback provided by the trainer
2. We recommend that organisations complete a two-yearly update, as a minimum, provided there has been no change in the medication or support staff
3. Any concerns or questions can be discussed with the trainer.

Learner outcomes specifically related to administering emergency medication

1. List what equipment is used when administering midazolam or rectal valium
2. Document when the emergency medication should be given for each client and for which seizure types
3. For each client, correctly write how much medication should be given: ___ mg ___ ml
4. List three situations when an ambulance should be called if midazolam or rectal valium has been given
5. Be able to identify three signs that indicate the client is experiencing side-effects
6. Identify two steps that are required if the worker doesn't understand what is documented on the Emergency Medication Management Plan.

Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria support materials provided

1. Epilepsy Management Plan pro forma, if an organisation does not have its own
2. Emergency Medication Management Plan to attach to the Epilepsy Management Plan
3. Guidelines for Creating an Epilepsy Management Plan and an Emergency Medication Management Plan
4. Midazolam or rectal valium instructional poster
5. Midazolam or rectal valium information sheet
6. When an Ambulance is Called in an Emergency for Epilepsy

Cost

Training and assistance with the development of Epilepsy Management Plans is charged at an hourly rate. Courses are tailored to the specific support needs of the person living with epilepsy and can be provided at the organisation's venue or at the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria.

Contact the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria for further details.

For more information

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