#### THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY PROTOCOLS

# Seizures (Adult)

- **CFR AND ALL PROVIDER LEVELS** 
  - 1. Protect the patient from injury.
  - 2. ABCs.
  - 3. Airway management:
    - a. Position the patient to maintain airway patency.
    - b. Do not attempt placement of OPA during convulsions.
    - c. Consider use of NPA during active seizures, if available.
  - 4. Avoid unnecessary or excessive restraint.
  - 5. Administer oxygen.
  - 6. Treat all injuries as appropriate.

### CFR STOP

### EMT

- 7. Measure blood glucose level.
  - a. If the glucose reading is below 60 mg/dL, refer to the Altered Mental Status (Adult and Pediatric) protocol.
- 8. Request ALS assistance for ongoing seizures at time of patient contact.
- 9. Transport.

# EMT STOP

# Paramedic

For patients experiencing generalized seizures that are ongoing or recurring.

- 10. If the patient is actively seizing, administer ONE of the following: If intravascular access has already been established, utilize the intravascular route. If intravascular access is not established, utilize the most appropriate and quickest route of administration available (IM/IN), based on available resources.
  - a. Administer Midazolam 5 mg, IV/IM/IN.

<u>OR</u>

b. Administer Lorazepam 2 mg IV/IM/IN.

# <u>OR</u>

- c. Administer Diazepam 5 mg, IV. (Rate of administration may not exceed 5 mg/min.)
- 11. After 5 minutes for generalized seizures that are ongoing or recurring, a single repeat of the same medication, at the same dose, may be given.
- 12. Intravascular access.
- 13. Begin cardiac monitoring.
- 14. Perform Advanced Airway Management in patients with GCS < 8, AND if less invasive methods of airway management are not effective.

# Paramedic STOP

#### Medical Control Options

# If seizure activity persists:

1. Administer any of the benzodiazepines listed above.

#### **Key Points / Considerations**

- 1. Do **NOT** force anything into the patient's mouth.
- 2. Avoid unnecessary or excessive restraint.

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- 3. Status epilepticus (continuing seizure) is a critical medical emergency. Anticonvulsant medication should be administered as soon as possible, preferably starting no later than 5-10 minutes after the onset of the seizure.
- 4. Diabetic patients with a blood glucose level reading between 60 80 mg/dL may still be experiencing hypoglycemia.
  - a. In the presence of such signs and symptoms, treat accordingly.

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