Seizure Safe Schools Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Seizure Action Plan?

a. A seizure action plan is a written, individualized health plan designed to acknowledge and prepare for the health care needs of a student diagnosed with a seizure disorder.

2. When does this Act become effective?

a. Beginning January 1, 2022, each school district board of education shall have at least one school employee at each school who has met the training requirements.

3. What are the training requirements for school personnel?

a. Administer or assist with the self-administration of a seizure rescue medication or medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms as approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and any successor agency and

b. Recognize the signs and symptoms of seizures and the appropriate steps to be taken to respond to these symptoms.

4. Where can the coursework for the training school personnel be found?

a. Any training programs or guidelines adopted by the state agency for the training of school personnel in the health care needs of any student diagnosed with a seizure disorder shall be fully consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America and any successor organization. Notwithstanding any state agency requirement or other law to the contrary, for the purposes of this training ….

5. What is the responsibility of the student’s parent or legal guardian?

a. Provide the school with a written authorization to administer the medication at school.

b. Provide a written statement from the student’s health care provider that shall contain the following information:

i. The student’s name

ii. The name and purpose of the medication

iii. The prescribed dosage

iv. The route of administration

v. The frequency that the medication may be administered

vi. The circumstances under which the medication may be administered

c. Provide the prescribed medication to the school in its unopened, sealed package with the label affixed by the dispensing pharmacy intact

d. Collaborate with school personnel to create a seizure action plan

6. Where will the written authorization, written statement and seizure action plan be filed?

a. In the office of the school nurse or school administrator and shall be distributed to any school personnel or volunteers responsible for the supervision or care of the student.

7. How long will the gathered information (written authorization and administration of medication) be effective?

a. For the school year in which it is granted and may be renewed each following school year.

8. Will each district in the State of Oklahoma require school personnel to be trained for Seizure Safe Schools?

a. The Seizure Safe Schools Act shall apply only to a school that has a student enrolled who has a seizure disorder and has a seizure rescue medication or other medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms approved by the United Stated Food and Drug Administration and any successor agency prescribed by the student’s health care provider.

9. Who may promulgate administrative rules for the development and implementation of seizure education program and procedures?

a. The State Board of Education may promulgate administrative rules for the development and implementation of the seizure education program and the procedures for the development and content of seizure action plans.

10. Can school employees subject to disciplinary action resulting from action taken in compliance with the Seizure Safe Schools Act?

a. A school employee may not be subject to any disciplinary proceeding resulting from an action taken in compliance with the Seizure Safe Schools Act. Any employee acting in accordance with the provisions of this act shall be immune from civil liability unless the actions of the employee rise to a level of reckless or intentional misconduct.

11. Is a school nurse responsible for the actions of other school personnel?

a. A school nurse shall not be responsible for and shall not be subject to disciplinary action for actions performed by a volunteer.

12. Is there a time when Emergency Action Plans for students with a history of seizures no longer applies, for example: seizure free for three years not having seizure medication for 5 years?

a. It is recommended that the advice from the neurologist be followed, and the plans written accordingly.

13. What should be done if a parent or guardian requests that the school nurse not call 911 when the child has a pseudo seizure lasting more than 5 minutes?

a. It is best practice to follow the physician’s orders. Below are websites with information regarding non-epileptic seizures. i. https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/diagnosis/imitators-epilepsy/psychogenic-nonepileptic-seizures-pnes-cause-diagnosis-and-treatment

ii. https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/diagnosis/imitators-epilepsy/faq-psychogenic-nonepileptic-seizures-or-events

iii. Information and a pre-recorded presentation for school nurses on psychogenic seizures can be found on www.Learn.Epilepsy.com