California School Nurses Organization
Position Statement

EMERGENCY TREATMENT OF UNCONTROLLED SEIZURES IN
THE EDUCATIONAL SETTING
(Formerly 2009 Rectal Medication for Seizures)

STATEMENT
The California School Nurses Organization recognizes CEC 49414.7, as a voluntary option for emergency treatment of uncontrolled seizures. In the event of a medical emergency of uncontrolled seizures, rectal diazepam may be administered by:

- Credentialed School Nurse
- Other licensed health care professionals (Physician, Surgeon, Physician Assistant (PA) Registered Nurse (RN), Public Health Nurse (PHN), Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN))
- A non-medical school employee with voluntary emergency medical training (UAP) whose district is participating in this voluntary program

The California School Nurses Organization recommends that specific guidelines be in place prior to the administration of rectal diazepam.

- Upon receipt of the parent/guardian’s request, the child may qualify for services or accommodations under the Section 504 or an Individualized Education program (IEP)
- The health care provider will sign a current district-approved authorization for a Specialized Physical Health care Procedure and Medication form for rectal diazepam as a life-saving treatment.
- The parent/guardian will provide written consent for rectal diazepam administration in the event of severe uncontrolled seizures and provide the last date and time of administration.
- The Credentialed School Nurse, in collaboration with the parent/guardian, student, and other appropriate personnel, will develop an Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP), which will be incorporated into the Section 504 Plan or the Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Regular training, at least yearly, is strongly recommended. Curriculum will include information regarding recognition and treatment of different types of seizures, administration of an emergency antiseizure medication, techniques and procedures to ensure pupil privacy and emergency follow-up procedures for unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) and include the drug manufacturer’s guidelines. The Credentialed School Nurse or other health care professionals (Physician, Surgeon, Physician Assistant (PA), Registered Nurse (RN), Public Health Nurse (PHN)) may provide the training. CSNO strongly recommends that unlicensed assistive personnel have current CPR and first aid training. CCR Title 5, Sec. 620-627 and CEC 49414.7.
- All seizure management care provided for the student will be documented per CEC 49414.7.

The Credentialed School Nurse will establish methods of communication, tracking, evaluation, follow-up, documentation and monitoring of uncontrolled seizure incidents requiring the administration of rectal diazepam. The Credentialed School Nurses’ standard of practice is based on current law, the Nurse Practice Act, and National Standards such as School Nursing: Scope and Standard of Practice (NASN & ANA 2011).
RATIONAL

Rectal Diazepam is used to control prolonged seizures. It is similar to other benzodiazepines (Valium). The gel preparation results in more rapid absorption.

Definitions:

1. Licensed Credentialed School Nurse is a registered nurse, licensed by the California State Board of Registered Nursing, as defined in # 2 below. The Credentialed School Nurse holds a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college/university and a School Nurse Services credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The credential is granted after the registered nurse completes a Commission-approved post-graduate school nurse program.

2. Registered nurse (RN) is a graduate of a formal nursing education program (two year associate degree or four year baccalaureate degree), who is legally authorized (licensed) to practice nursing by the California State Board of Registered Nursing after passing the national Council Licensing Examination (NCLE).

3. Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) is a graduate of a vocational nursing program who is legally authorized to practice vocational nursing by the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians after passing a vocational nursing examination. The LVN must practice under the direction of a physician or registered nurse and is not an independent practitioner. Licensed assistive personnel (UAP) are health clerks/assistants, health aides, teachers, teacher aides or other non-medical, non-licensed personnel. It is strongly recommended that unlicensed assistive personnel have current CPR and first aid training. If the UAP is performing a specialized health care procedure, CPR certification is required.

4. Unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) are health clerks/assistants, health aides, teachers, teacher aides or other non-medical, non-licensed personnel. It is strongly recommended that unlicensed assistive personnel have current CPR and first aid training. If the UAP is performing a specialized health care procedure, CPR certification is required.

5. Direct supervision means that the supervisor shall be present in the same building as the person being supervised and available for consultation and/or assistance.

6. Indirect supervision means that the supervisor is available to the qualified designated school personnel, either in person or through electronic means to provide necessary guidance, consultation and referral to appropriate care and services as needed.
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References:


California Education Code 49423.5 Specialized Physical Health Care Services

California Education Code 49423, 49423.1 Assistance with Medication during School Day

California Education Code 49414.7 Administration of Emergency Antiseizure Medication by Unlicensed Personnel
