

Early Learning

Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy

Epilepsy - Appendix 23.4

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy.

Current Environmental Context

Epilepsy is a common, serious neurological condition characterised by recurrent seizures due to abnormal electrical activity in the brain. While about 1 in 200 children live with epilepsy, the impact is variable – some children are greatly affected while others are not. Epilepsy is unique: There are virtually no generalisations that can be made about how epilepsy may affect a child. There is often no way to accurately predict how a child’s abilities, learning and skills will be affected by seizures. Because the child’s brain is still developing, the child, their family and doctor will be discovering more about the condition as they develop. The most important thing to do when working with a child with epilepsy is to get to know the individual child and their condition. All children with epilepsy should have an *Epilepsy Management Plan*.

Most people living with epilepsy can achieve good control of their seizures through medication however, it is important that all those working with children living with epilepsy have a good understanding of the effects of seizures, required medication and appropriate first aid for seizures.

The Epilepsy Foundation has a range of resources and can assist with the development of an Epilepsy Management Plan (EMP). The foundation also provides training and support to families and educators in the management of epilepsy, and in the administration of emergency medication in the event of seizure activity requiring an emergency response.

The service must ensure that each child with epilepsy has a current EMP, seizure record and where relevant, an Emergency Medication Management Plan (EMMP), filed with their enrolment record. These plans are to be no older than 12 months. A list of children with epilepsy should be compiled and placed in a secure, but readily accessible, location known to all staff, together with an EMP, seizure record and where required the EMMP for every child with epilepsy.

Children with epilepsy should be able to participate in all activities of the service safely (risk modifications considered) and to their full potential, and should not be discriminated against in any way.

The following attachments contain detailed information relating to all aspects of this policy:

- Attachment 23.4a:** Responsibilities relating to Epilepsy policy
 - Attachment 23.4b:** Seizure First Aid
 - Attachment 23.4c:** Epilepsy risk management considerations
 - Attachment 23.4d:** Sample risk minimisation plan for children prescribed emergency medication
 - Form – 23.4.1:** Epilepsy enrolment checklist for children prescribed emergency medication
- Epilepsy Management Plan templates, and resources to support educators (Educate Me, Include Me) are available from: www.epilepsysmart.org.au

DOCUMENT TITLE & NUMBER	DEALING WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS POLICY - EPILEPSY Appendix-23.4			
Content Owner	Uniting Early Learning-Head of Early Learning			Page 1 of 2
Document Author	EL Practice Manager	Document Version	V 4.0	Policy No. 23.4
Date Published	14/12/2018	Revision Due Date	30/11/2020	

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Resources/Sources

Uniting Early Learning acknowledges the contribution of the Epilepsy Foundation in the development of this policy. This policy was reviewed by the Epilepsy Foundation in September 2017.

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 167, 169, 174
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 79, 85, 86, 87, 90, 91, 92, 93, 95, 98, 101, 136, 137
- Epilepsy Foundation www.epilepsyfoundation.org.au phone information line 1300 761 487
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Authorisation

This policy was adopted by Uniting Early Learning on: 14 December 2018

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by: 30 November 2020

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