

Vagus Nerve Stimulation

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Vagus nerve stimulation (VNS) is used to reduce the severity and length of a seizure. A battery-powered-pulse generating device is implanted under the skin in the upper left chest. Mild pulses are delivered from the device to the brain through the vagus nerve in the neck to help prevent or stop seizure activity. As an implanted medical device, the VNS requires monitoring for device malfunction, failure, and infection. Manufacturer guidelines should be followed for safety restrictions or precautions specific to the device and magnet.

WARNING SIGNS

- Incision site discomfort immediately following surgery
- Continuous hoarseness
- Continuous throat irritation
- Choking
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Magnet dropped or damaged
- Continued seizure activity after magnet use

ESSENTIAL STEPS

1. Do not leave the student unattended.
2. Contact the school nurse/health room.
3. Contact parent/guardian.
4. If the seizure continues, proceed with the next steps of the student's seizure action plan which may include administration of emergency medication.
5. Call 911.