Rectal Diazepam Training

2010 Version
Rectal Diazepam Training

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Video/DVD
- Practical Demonstration
Guidance For the Use of Rescue Medication

- Training must be given, to those who will administer rescue medication, by experienced qualified staff.
- The protocol must be shared with those who will need to follow it.
- The individual must be included whenever possible in the decision making process around deciding on the use of rescue medication – (consent to its use sought and recorded).
Care Plan

• Each individual should have an epilepsy care plan.
• Care plans should include details of individual such as:
  • Type of epilepsy – if known
  • Types of seizure
  • Details of prescribed treatment
  • Details of who is responsible for monitoring / reviewing epilepsy
  • Details of any known aura
  • Known triggers
  • Usual length of seizure
  • Mental state during recovery etc
Protocol

The Prescribing doctor must provide a clear protocol for the use of rescue medication in prolonged or repeated (cluster) convulsive seizures.
This Protocol must include:

- Details of service user (name, DOB, age, address)
- Details of the prescribing doctor and start date.
- When to give medication (i.e. when seizure is prolonged, 5 minutes or more, repeated/cluster)
- The Dose of medication prescribed and route of administration.
- Time to allow for drug to take effect (e.g. 6–10 minutes)
- Details of any second dose – when to give and time to allow for drug to take effect.
- Time allowed between doses and maximum dose in 24 hours
- What to do if rescue medication doesn’t work (call ambulance)
Protocol continued

- The protocol should be reviewed annually by the prescribing doctor.
- The protocol should be kept with the medication for the specific individual.
- Consider copying / reducing / laminating the protocol to make it easier to take out with person.
- The protocol must be checked before each administration of emergency medication.
What is Diazepam?

- Rectal Diazepam has been around for over thirty years as a first aid remedy for prolonged or repeated (cluster) seizures that could develop into Status Epilepticus
- Reduces anxiety
- Induces drowsiness
- Stops seizure activity by decreasing the effectiveness of the transmitter substance responsible for passing on the electrical activity
How to give Rectal Diazepam (1)

- Note the time the seizure starts
- Follow the individual's protocol to see how long to wait before giving diazepam
- Decide to give diazepam
- **Check diazepam package to ensure:**
  - Dose, expiry date, route, time interval, name and correct medication
  - Prepare the person having the seizure, expose the bottom maintaining privacy and dignity as best you can
How to Give Rectal Diazepam (2)

- Remove Diazepam tube from the packet and remove the cap
- Insert the nozzle of the tube into rectum (think about the size of each individual, tubes are designed for adults, NEVER FORCE THE TUBE FURTHER THAN IT WILL EASILY GO)
- Squeeze the tube dispelling liquid into the rectum, continue to squeeze the tube as you remove the tube
- Gently press the bottom cheeks together to prevent seepage
How to Give Rectal Diazepam (3)

• Stay with the individual until the seizure has stopped
• Note the time the seizure stops
• Stay with the person until they have returned to usual functioning
• Assist the person to dress or tidy themselves (remember: they may have been incontinent)
• Document the seizure in the notes or care plan etc
It is vital that Rectal Diazepam is administered according to the Guidelines because prolonged convulsive epileptic seizures are potentially life threatening