



VAGUS NERVE STIMULATOR

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS) is indicated for use as an adjunctive therapy in the treatment of seizures that are refractory to anti-epileptic medications. It is a surgically implanted VNS implanted area that is placed under the skin in the upper left chest. Electrical stimulation is delivered through an electrode probe that wraps around the vagus nerve in the neck. Discharges are programmed at a pre-set time, duration and voltage and adjusted by a physician according to the individual's seizure pattern.

B. Adverse events that may occur are listed below in alphabetical order. Most adverse events are associated with the ON periods of stimulation and can often be abated or decreased by lowering the electrical output settings on the VNS implanted area.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| ●Ataxia | ●Infection | ●Paresthesia |
| ●Dyspepsia | ●Insomnia | ●Pharyngitis |
| ●Dyspnea | ●Laryngismus | ●Voice alteration |
| ●Hypesthesia | ●Nausea | ●Vomiting |
| ●Increased coughing | ●Pain | ●Hiccups |
| ●Ear pain | ●Tinnitus | ●Dysphagia |

C. **Magnets:** The VNS magnet is specifically designed for use at onset of seizure activity to interrupt or lessen the severity of a seizure by triggering the VNS to deliver an extra stimulation at a higher voltage between pre-set time cycles. Commercial magnets will not be effective. Parent/careprovider is responsible for providing the specifically designed magnet. The school nurse and parent/careprovider should always be notified when the magnet is used.

When the magnet is held or taped over the VNS implanted area continuously it will turn the VNS completely off. This is often used when the person wants to avoid voice changes, hoarseness, hiccupping, etc. for example when speaking in public or singing, etc.

D. Information, manuals and a "patient and family guide" video are available:

Cyberonics, Inc.
16511 Space Center Blvd., Suite 600
Houston, TX 77058 USA
Telephone: (888) VNS-STIM
www.cyberonics.com

II. PERSONNEL

A. School Nurse

B. Designated school personnel.



VAGUS NERVE STIMULATOR

Student's Name: _____ DOB: _____

PROCEDURE	
ESSENTIAL STEPS	KEY POINTS & PRECAUTIONS
1. Upon onset of seizure activity retrieve the magnet.	All staff must know designated magnet location, e.g., in student's backpack, on wrist, on shoe, on belt buckle. Store magnet away from computers, software, TV's, compact discs, and credit cards, etc. to prevent damage to these items.
2. Swipe or hold the magnet over the VNS implanted area for 3 seconds. a. If the seizure continues for more than one minute, repeat swipe/hold. b. Repeat swipe/hold every minute until the seizure activity ceases.	No need to reposition the student or to remove clothing. For follow up or emergency care, follow Routine Seizure Care procedure. or student's Individualized School Healthcare Plan: Classroom Actions (AKA "ISHP" or "Seizure Protocol")
3. Document on the Seizure Record.	