

# GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO PERSONS WITH SEIZURE-LIKE SYMPTOMS

\*\*\*\*PLEASE PRINT THIS INFORMATION AND KEEP IT READILY AVAILABLE DURING CLASS\*\*\*\*

Seizures are caused by uncontrolled electrical activity in the brain, which usually last from 2 seconds to 2 minutes in duration. Seizure symptoms can include passing out, rigidity, repetitive jerking movements of body, speech difficulties, and eye rolling or fluttering. Injury from falling is the most prevalent consequence of a seizure. **YOUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO MAKE SURE THE STUDENT IS SAFE AND TO MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF TRAUMA TO OTHERS.** [Do not contact the Nursing Department. They are on-campus only as instructors, not available to administer medical care.] Witnessing a seizure can be alarming, but in most cases the seizure will subside and the student will get back to normal fairly quickly.

It is important to encourage students to remain calm and follow the steps listed below.

1. **STAY CALM.** Remove furniture or other articles that may pose potential injury to student. Help the person to a reclining or side-lying position if possible. Remove eyeglasses if applicable/possible.
2. **Call 9-1-1.**
3. **Call Security at 734-735-9401 or dial "0" if you do not reach someone.** Ask others to temporarily leave the area until the situation is under control.
4. Check to see if the individual is wearing a medical alert bracelet, if possible, so that you can alert emergency medical personnel.
5. If you have received information that the student has a registered disability and it is possible, Contact Disability Services at extension 4167. Counselors can pull the student's file to see if there is additional needed information (including parents/significant other's phone numbers).
6. Allow the seizure to run its course. Do not restrain the student.

7. **Do not put anything into the student's mouth.** A seizing student cannot swallow their tongue and you are likely to injure the student by placing something in his/her mouth.

8. When the jerking motions stop, have the student lay on his/her side. It is not uncommon for someone who has a seizure to vomit. This will help prevent the student from choking. Let the student rest in this position until he/she regains consciousness.

9. When the student regains consciousness, he/she will likely be confused or disoriented. Reassure the student that he/she is safe and that help is on the way. **Do not give the student anything to eat or drink.**

## WHEN FIRST RESPONDERS ARRIVE:

- Only the MCCC professionals should share information in order to protect confidentiality of student.
- The FIRST RESPONDERS will decide the level of care needed. In many cases, they will recommend transporting the student to the hospital. Expect, when conscious, some students will refuse transport. (Transporting is an expense to be borne by the individual. Even more serious from the student's perspective is that hospitals must report seizures. In Michigan, if the student drives, he/she will lose his/her driver license for a minimum of six months.) It is the student's right to refuse medical care despite what any MCCC professional may believe is in the best interest of the student.
- After the emergency personnel leave, invite the students to return to the classroom. Do not discuss the details of the incident, but be open to calm students that may appear distressed over the incident.
- Follow-up by completing the MCCC Risk Management Incident Report as soon as possible. The report form may be obtained from MCCC Security, Division offices, or the switchboard.