

Subject: Scope of Practice/Procedure - Paramedic
Rectal Administration of Diazepam Protocol

Associated Policies: 5332, 6516

I. Indications

- A. Pediatric patient, age less than twelve (12) years, who:
 - 1. is actively seizing and has been seizing for more than ten (10) minutes, or
 - 2. is actively seizing and has recurrent seizures, with no re-awakening in between seizures, and
 - 3. has had one (1) failed attempt at intravenous access or no vein is immediately apparent after close inspection.

II. Therapeutic Effects

- A. Decreases cerebral irritability.
- B. Relaxes skeletal muscle tissue.
- C. Sedation.

III. Contraindications

- A. Absolute:
 - 1. Suspected or known allergy to Diazepam.
- B. Relative:
 - 1. Shock.
 - 2. Trauma to rectum.
 - 3. Congenital or surgical anomaly of the rectum.

IV. Adverse Effects

- A. Respiratory depression or arrest may be caused or worsened by Diazepam.
- B. Drowsiness, vertigo, ataxia, transient hypotension.
- C. Rectal injury may occur due to forceful entry of syringe.
- D. Inadequate absorption, following rectal administration.

V. Equipment

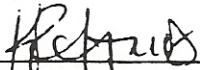
- A. 1-5 ml disposable syringe -- without needle.
- B. Water-soluble lubricant.
- C. 16 or 18 gauge needle (for drawing the medication).

VI. Procedure

- A. Assure airway is open. Provide high-flow oxygen. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway.
- B. Explain the procedure to the parent or care giver.
- C. Place the patient in a lateral knee-chest position or supine with an assistant holding the legs apart.

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- D. Draw Diazepam 0.5 mg/kg (maximum dose 20 mg) into a 1-5 ml syringe -
- do not use a larger syringe.
- E. Remove the needle from the syringe.
- F. Lubricate syringe barrel with water soluble lubricant.
- G. Gently insert the lubricated syringe into the rectum approximately 2-4 cm.
- H. Instill the Diazepam into the rectum.
- I. Squeeze the buttocks together while removing the syringe to facilitate
drug retention.
- J. Document response and vital signs. Observe the patient carefully for
respiratory depression and hypotension.

Approved: 

Approved as to Form: 