

## PRODIGY Guidance - Epilepsy

**PRODIGY**  
Practical Support for Clinical Governance

### Have I got the right guidance ?

Applies to all ages

This guidance is based on the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) Guideline *Diagnosis and Management of Epilepsy in Adults* (April 2003). The guidance also incorporates guidelines published by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in April 2004, technology appraisal number 79 *Newer drugs for epilepsy in children*; and in March 2004, technology appraisal number 76 *Newer drugs for epilepsy in adults*.

This guidance covers the initial management of epilepsy and the continued management of epilepsy with monotherapy. It also covers the emergency management of prolonged seizures (status epilepticus).

This guidance does not cover the management of people who are uncontrolled on monotherapy, who require combination therapy under the supervision of a specialist, or who have complicated paediatric epilepsy syndromes such as infantile spasms (West's syndrome) or Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

There is separate PRODIGY guidance for *Alcohol - problem drinking* and *Febrile convulsion*.

### Changes

**Last revised in November 2004**

[www.prodigy.nhs.uk/guidance.asp?gt=Epilepsy](http://www.prodigy.nhs.uk/guidance.asp?gt=Epilepsy)

**August 2004** - updated to incorporate the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals number 79 *Newer drugs for epilepsy in children*, and number 76 *Newer drugs for epilepsy in adults*. Validated in September 2004 and issued in November 2004.

**January 2004** - minor update to section on *Hormone replacement therapy* to incorporate the recent safety update from the Committee of Safety of Medicines (CSM) which advises that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) should no longer be used first-line for the prevention of osteoporosis. However, the risk:benefit of HRT remains favourable for the treatment of menopausal symptoms.

**June 2003** - reviewed. Validated in September 2003 and issued in October 2003.

**October 2000** - updated to incorporate the Department of Health Referral Guidelines for Suspected Brain Tumour. Validated in November 2000 and issued in December 2000.

**July 1999** - written. Validated in October 1999 and issued in January 2000.

### Goals and Outcome Measures

#### Goals

To ensure correct diagnosis and seizure classification

To stop seizures or, if this is not possible, reduce their

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frequency and severity

To minimize adverse effects on lifestyle

To provide information to people with epilepsy and their carers

***NICE, SIGN and GMS audit criteria***

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), has specified measures that could be used as a basis for audit of newer drugs for epilepsy in adults and in children, see <http://www.nice.org.uk/> for more information.

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) specifies the following key audit criteria for the management of people with epilepsy:

**Diagnosis**