

SEIZURES

Transfer Criteria

- Past history of epilepsy with breakthrough seizure, and subtherapeutic anticonvulsant level
- Observation of a head injury after a seizure with a normal neuro exam and Head CT
- New onset seizures with a normal neuro exam and Head CT scan
- If clinically indicated, obtain any of the following:
- lytes, BUN, Cr, glucose, glucose, Mg, drug levels, pulse ox, and EKG / monitor

Exclusion Criteria

- Status epilepticus
- Meningitis, positive LP
- CVA, SAH documented, or suspected but not ruled out in EC
- Brain mass (tumor, abscess, blood)
- Positive CT scan
- Delirium Tremens
- Seizures due to toxic exposure (i.e. theophylline or carbon monoxide toxicity)
- Abnormal labs not readily treatable in Observation Unit
- Persistent focal neurological findings
- New EKG changes or significant arrhythmia
- Seizures due to hypoxemia
- Pregnancy or eclampsia

Interventions in the Observation Unit

- Seizure precautions
- Serial MSQ, Neuro checks, and vital signs
- EKG monitoring
- Pulse oximetry as indicated
- Toxicological testing as indicated
- IV hydration
- NPO, or clear liquid diet as indicated
- Medications, including anticonvulsants, as indicated
- EEG testing as indicated
- New onset seizures - Neuro or Med consult (phone acceptable)

Disposition parameters

Home

- No deterioration in clinical status
- Therapeutic levels of anticonvulsants (if indicated)
- Correction of abnormal labs
- Appropriate home environment

Hospital

- Deterioration of clinical status - abnormal mentation, vitals, or neuro exam
- Rule in for exclusionary causes
- Inappropriate home environment
- Recurrent seizures or status epilepticus