Epilepsies in children, young people and adults.

Guideline ID: 2715 Published: 2022 Apr 27 (last updated 2025 Jan 30)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Epilepsies in children, young people and adults. London (UK): National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE); 2022 Apr 27 (last updated 2025 Jan 30). 150 p. (NICE guideline; no. 217)

View Original Guideline

Overview

Guideline Objective

To improve diagnosis and treatment for different seizure types and epilepsy syndromes, and reduce the risks for people with epilepsy

Note: This guideline does not cover the management of non-epileptic seizures.

Patient Population

Children, young people, and adults with suspected or confirmed epilepsy

Note: This guideline does not cover new-born babies (under 28 days) with acute symptomatic seizures.

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Diagnostic testing and assessment
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological management
- Treatment considerations for epileptic seizures in children, young people, and adults; childhood-onset epilepsies; and status epilepticus, repeated or cluster seizures, and prolonged seizures
- Ongoing monitoring, including referral to specialist services and antiseizure medication withdrawal
- Consideration of comorbidities and reducing risk of epilepsy-related mortality
- Role of epilepsy specialist nurses
- Transition from pediatric to adult services

Note: Refer to the original guideline for full recommendation statements.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

- Supplement 1: Methods; 2022 Apr 27.
- Supplement 2: Health Economics; 2022 Apr 27.
- Supplement 3: Cost Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies for People with Focal and Generalised Tonic-Clonic Seizures; 2022 Apr 27.

- NICE Guideline: Methods; 2022 Apr 27.
- NICE Guideline: Methods; 2025 Jan 30.
- Evidence Reviews; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 1: Prediction of Second Seizure; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 2: Modifiable Risk Factors for a Second Seizure; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 3: Diagnosis of Epilepsies; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 4: Information and Support; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 5: New Technologies; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 6: Safety of Antiseizure Medications in Women and Girls; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 7: Monitoring; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 8: Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Women and Girls; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 9: Antiseizure Medication for Status Epilepticus; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 10: Antiseizure Medications for Repetitive/Cluster Seizures: Monotherapy and Add-on Therapies; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 11: Antiseizure Medication for Prolonged Seizures: Monotherapy; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 12: Ketogenic Diets for Drug-Resistant Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27. Also available from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews website; 2018.
    - 13: Referral and Surgical Interventions; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 14: Vagus Nerve Stimulation; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 15: Prevalence of Psychological Disorders in People with Epilepsies; 2022 Apr 27.
    - 16: Psychological Treatments for People with Epilepsies; 2022 Apr 27. Also available from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews website; 2020.
    - 17: Prediction of Death, including SUDEP, in People with Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.

- 18: Modifiable Risk Factors for Epilepsy Related Mortality; 2022 Apr 27.
- 19: Reducing the Risk of Seizure-related Mortality, including SUDEP; 2022 Apr 27.
- 20: Transition from Paediatric to Adult Epilepsy Services; 2022 Apr 27.
- A: Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scan to Detect Relevant Abnormalities in People with Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.
- B: Computed Tomography Scan Performance in People with Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.
- C: Effectiveness of Genetic Testing in Determining the Aetiology of Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.
- D: Antibody Testing in Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.
- E: Monotherapy for Generalised Tonic-Clonic and Focal Onset Seizures; 2022 Apr 27. Also available from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews website; 2022.
- F: Add-on Therapy for Generalised Tonic-Clonic and Focal Onset Seizures; 2022 Apr 27.
- G: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies in the Treatment of Absence Seizures; 2022 Apr 27.
- H: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies in the Treatment of Myoclonic Seizures; 2022 Apr 27.
- I: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies in the Treatment of Tonic or Atonic Seizures/Drop Attacks; 2022 Apr 27.
- J: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies in the Treatment of Idiopathic Generalised Epilepsies, including Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.
- K: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies in the Treatment of Dravet Syndrome; 2022 Apr 27.
- L: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies in the Treatment of Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome; 2022 Apr 27.
- M: Discontinuation of Pharmacological Treatment; 2022 Apr 27.

- N: Criteria for Referral to Specialist Services; 2022 Apr 27.
- O: Effectiveness of a Nurse Specialist in the Management of Epilepsy; 2022 Apr 27.
- P: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies for Infantile Spasms; 2022 Apr 27.
- Q: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Medications for Self-limited Epilepsy with Centrotemporal Spikes; 2022 Apr 27.
- R: Effectiveness of Antiseizure Therapies for Epilepsy with Myoclonic-Atonic Seizures (Doose Syndrome); 2022 Apr 27.

- Antiepileptic Drugs: Review of Safety of Use during Pregnancy: MHRA Public Assessment Report; 2021 Jan 7.
- Cost-Utility Analysis: The Cost Effectiveness of Resective Epilepsy Surgery in Adults; 2022 Apr 27.
- Developing NICE Guidelines: The Manual; 2014 Oct 31 (last updated 2025 Oct 23).

Implementation Tools

- Visual Summary; 2022 Apr 27.
- Baseline Assessment Tool; 2025 Jan 30.
- Research Recommendations.
- Practical Steps to Improving the Quality of Care and Services Using NICE Guidance.

Patient Education

- Information for the Public; 2022 Apr 27.

Note: This patient information is intended to help patients better understand their health and their diagnosed disorders. Patients and their representatives should still consult with a licensed health care professional for evaluation of treatment options as well as answers to their personal medical questions.

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TRUST Scorecard

Composition of Guideline Development Group (GDG)

Multidisciplinary GDG Members	**Yes**
Methodologist Involvement	**Yes**
Incorporation of Patient and Public Perspective	

Systematic Review of Evidence

Literature Search	
Study Selection	
Evidence Synthesis	

Foundations for Recommendations

Strength of Evidence Grade	
Description of Benefits and Harms of Recommendations	
Summary of Evidence Supporting Recommendations	
Strength of Recommendations Rating	
Clear Articulation of Recommendations	

Funding Source **Yes**

Disclosure and Management of Financial Conflicts of Interests 

External Review 

Updating 

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