# Wheelchair seizure first aid

## What to do if someone has a seizure:

**A person with epilepsy will have an Epilepsy Management Plan. The plan will advise you on how to assist and support them if they have a seizure in a wheelchair.**

### Steps to follow:

- Record the time and duration of the seizure.
- Leave the person seated in the wheelchair and secure the seat belt where available.
- Do not try to move them unless their Epilepsy Management Plan says so. Moving them could cause you or the person to get injured.
- Make sure the wheelchair brakes are on and secure.
- Remove any nearby objects that could cause harm, where possible.
- Tilt the person's head into a position that keeps their airways clear. This may include turning the head to the side to allow excessive secretions to drain.
- Support their head with something soft if there is no moulded headrest.
- If available, recline the wheelchair using the tilt/recline function. Avoid tilting the wheelchair from the wheels.
- Do not try to restrain the person or put anything in their mouth.
- Do not try to bring them around or give them anything to eat or drink until you are sure that they have completely recovered.
- Reassure the person and let them know you will stay with them until they recover or the paramedics arrive if an ambulance needs to be called.

## CALL 000 FOR AN AMBULANCE:

- **If it is their first seizure.**
- **If you do not know the person or if there is no Epilepsy Management Plan.**
- **If the seizure lasts for 5 minutes or more.**
- **If the seizure stops, but the person does not regain consciousness within 5 minutes.**
- **If another seizure begins.**
- **When a serious injury has occurred.**
- **If the person was eating or drinking, or there is food, fluid or vomit in their mouth.**
- **If the seizure occured in water.**
- **If you believe the person is pregnant or has diabetes.**

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**Emergency Services** 000 **National Epilepsy Support Service** 1300 761 487 **Website** epilepsysmart.org.au

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