

DIAZEPAM RECTAL GEL (DIASTAT) ADMINISTRATION

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

A. PURPOSE

1. To control acute, repetitive or prolonged seizures.
2. To prevent status epilepticus, a life-threatening condition in which seizures are continuous.
3. To administer Diastat safely and in a timely manner.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Diazepam rectal gel (Diastat) is an “emergency anti-seizure medication” approved by Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Education Code 49414.7 allows unlicensed school staff to administer emergency anti-seizure medication to students with acute, prolonged or repetitive seizure
2. Licensed healthcare provider and parent authorizations for medication must be completed and signed. Healthcare Provider Authorization must specify student specific seizure symptoms, including frequency, type, duration, medication dosage, potential side effects and instructions when to call the paramedics.
3. Diastat training must be student specific- demonstration. Verbalization of the following by the trainee will occur upon completion of the training:
 - a. Identification of characteristics of student’s seizures
 - b. Understanding of Diastat order from the licensed healthcare provider
 - c. Location, storage and disposal of Diastat
 - d. Appropriate steps of administration of Diastat
 - e. Care of the student before, during and after the administration of Diastat
 - f. Documentation of Diastat administration
4. Parent/guardian must notify the school if Diastat was administered within the past 4 hours on a school day.

C. PERSONNEL

1. School nurse or school physician
2. Designated school personnel who possess current First Aid and CPR Certification and are trained by the school nurse or the school physician.

D. EQUIPMENT

1. Provided by parent/guardian:
 - a. Diastat medication; correct dosage pre-dialed and cap intact
 - b. Water soluble lubricant
2. Provided by school:
 - a. Plastic bag for disposal of waste
 - b. Disposable latex-free gloves
 - c. Barrier for privacy (i.e. blanket, sheet or towel)

ESSENTIAL STEPS	KEY POINTS AND PRECAUTIONS
1. Determine if the student is having a seizure. Start timing, summon help and administer first aid.	Knowledge of student specific seizures is required. DO NOT LEAVE THE STUDENT.
2. If student has not received Diastat within the past 4 hours, prepare to administer the medication.	If student has received Diastat within the past 4 hours, do not give Diastat and call 911.
3. Check medication observing the “5 Rights of Medication Administration”: right student, right medication, right dosage, right route and right time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct dosage should appear on the display window and dosage must match the healthcare provider’s order. • Ensure the locking ring is engaged and cap is not detached. • Check for the expiration date.
4. Position student on the right or left side. Provide privacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side lying is the preferred position for rectal administration. • If student needs Diastat administration while on the bus, ask the driver to stop the bus.
5. Put on gloves.	Observe universal precautions at all times.
6. Remove cap from syringe; ensure seal pin is removed with the cap.	If seal pin is not intact, correct dosage and content cannot be guaranteed.
7. Administration of medication <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lubricate tip with lubricating jelly. b. Bend upper leg forward and separate buttocks to expose rectum. c. Gently insert syringe tip into rectum, slowly count to three while pushing plunger until it stops. d. Slowly count to three before removing syringe from the rectum. e. Withdraw syringe and hold buttocks together while counting to three. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lubrication will allow gentle tip insertion into rectal canal b. Clear visualization of rectal opening is necessary c. To reduce risk of injuring rectal mucosa; the rim should be snug against rectal opening d. To ensure medication does not leak out
8. Keep student in the side laying position and monitor respiratory status. Note time medication was given.	Monitor respiratory status by counting number of times chest rise and fall per minute. Normal rate is 12-20 breaths/minute.
9. Remain with the student for at least 30 minutes after the administration of Diastat or as stated in the healthcare provider’s order for other actions and/or before returning to class.	Post- administration care will be determined by the student’s condition and discussion with licensed healthcare provider and defined in the Seizure Action Plan.

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<p>10. Used Diastat syringe must be placed in a double-bag and returned to parent.</p>	<p>School nurse is to ensure Diastat is replaced by parent.</p>
<p>11. Call 911 if the following reaction is observed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Change in breathing rate (less than 10 breaths/minute) and pattern without improvement. Changes in color without improvement Inability to arouse the student after 30 minutes Seizure continues 15 minutes after administration of Diastat <p>* Notify administrator, school nurse, and parent.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Normal breathing rate is 12-20 breaths/minute Brief dusky coloring should subside as breathing improves Student may be drowsy, but should be arousable.
<p>12. Stay with the student while waiting for the paramedics. Observe for additional symptoms and provide CPR if needed.</p>	<p>If Diastat is administered by non-medical personnel, 911 is called if school nurse is not available on site</p>
<p>13. Medication Administration on the Bus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus driver should safely pull over and stop the bus Place student on his/her side across the seat facing away from the seat back (or in aisle if necessary) Administer Diastat as specified by the licensed healthcare provider Keep student on the side facing you and continue to monitor seizure activity When seizure abates and child regains consciousness, stay with the child and provide reassurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Diastat is administered in the school bus, 911 is called. Transportation to an emergency room will be determined by emergency medical personnel. If student is transported by paramedics, provide the following information: Name, dose, route and time of medication administration. Give used syringe to paramedic. School staff designee will accompany student to the Emergency Department until parent arrives.
<p>14. Used Diastat syringe must be placed in a double-bag and given to the paramedic.</p>	
<p>15. Document medication electronically including date, time, reason and student's response.</p>	

ESSENTIAL STEPS	KEY POINTS AND PRECAUTIONS
16. Document medication electronically including date, time, reason and student's response.	If 911 is called, school must document in ISTAR.

APPROVED:

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Date



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REFERENCES:

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5. Supporting Students with Special Health Care Needs (2014) *Neurological Issues* pp. 451-458.
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7. Title 5: EDUCATION, Division 1. California Department of Education, Chapter 2. Pupils, Subchapter 3. Health and Safety of Pupils.
8. Education Code 491414.7. Emergency Anti-Seizure medication.
9. Epilepsy Foundation of America (2013) Seizure Training for School Personnel.