

# FIRST AID FOR SEIZURES

## TONIC CLONIC SEIZURE

## Person in Wheelchair

Convulsive seizures where the body stiffens (tonic phase) followed by general muscle jerking (clonic phase)



### DO

- ✓ Stay with the person
- ✓ Time seizure
- ✓ Apply brakes
- ✓ Leave person in chair with seatbelt on
- ✓ Recline backrest only – do not tip wheelchair
- ✓ Lean person slightly to one side to aid drainage of any fluid/food/vomit in mouth as required
- ✓ Support head and protect airway as required
- ✓ After the jerking stops, carefully remove from chair and place in recovery position as required
- ✓ Observe and reassure until recovered

### DO NOT

- ✓ Put anything in the person's mouth
- ✓ Restrain the person
- ✓ Lift wheels from ground

## CALL 111 FOR AN AMBULANCE IF:

- You are in any doubt
- Injury has occurred
- There is food/fluid/vomit in mouth
- Seizure occurs in water
- Person has breathing difficulties after jerking stops
- Another seizure quickly follows
- Seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes
- The person is non-responsive for more than 5 minutes after the seizure ends



This is not medical advice or an exhaustive list of responses to seizures. This is a guide to help you consider your response to seizures. If you are in any doubt about what to do, do not hesitate to call an ambulance.

For more information or advice about epilepsy, contact Epilepsy New Zealand on **0800 374 537** or visit [www.epilepsy.org.nz](http://www.epilepsy.org.nz)



**EPILEPSY NEW ZEALAND**  
THE NATIONAL EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND  
*kia titiro ki te tangata - see the person*

