

Epilepsy versus Seizures



Seizures are characterized by a sudden change in movement, behavior, sensation, or consciousness produced by an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain.



Epilepsy is a condition of spontaneously recurring seizures. Having a single seizure does not necessarily mean a person has epilepsy.



Epilepsy tends to be a lifelong condition that affects how electrical energy and connections behave in the brain.



 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

How is epilepsy diagnosed?

Epilepsy is diagnosed by meeting with your neurologist or epileptologist and undergoing a series of tests. You will receive a thorough neurological examination. Your medical history will be reviewed to include a detailed recounting of the seizures. In most cases, an EEG (electroencephalogram) and/or MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) test will be performed. You will meet with your provider after these tests to discuss your overall personal health situation.

How is epilepsy treated?

- » Epilepsy may be treated with anti-seizure medications.
- » For patients who do not respond to medications, the vagus nerve stimulator and resective epilepsy surgery are also options.
- » There are several investigational interventions currently in development. Please discuss these options and your personal situation with your neurologist.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Epilepsy Centers of Excellence

To connect with an Epilepsy Center of Excellence, please email ECOE@va.gov.



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VETERANS AFFAIRS

Epilepsy Centers of Excellence

Improving the health and well-being of Veteran patients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders through the integration of clinical care, research, and education.



Learn more @ www.epilepsy.va.gov
Email us @ ECOE@va.gov

The VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence

The VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE) is a network of 17 sites across the country that provide comprehensive epilepsy evaluation and care for Veterans with seizure disorders. These sites fall within four regions, which are also known as our Epilepsy Centers of Excellence: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest.

What is epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures that affect a variety of mental and physical functions. When a person has two or more seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy.

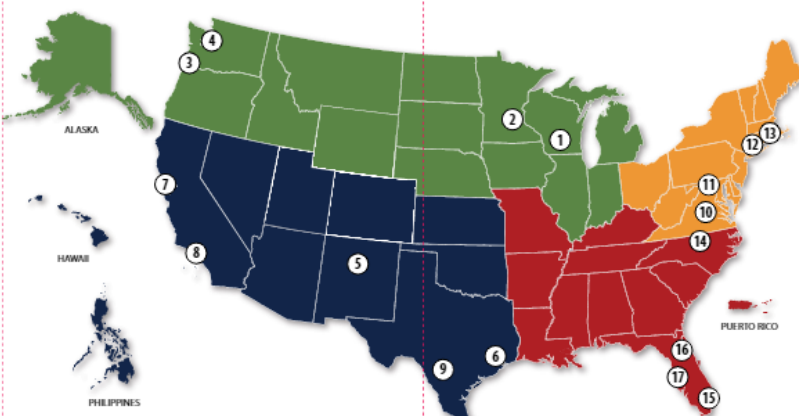
What are seizures?

A seizure is a disturbance in the normal regulation pattern of electrical activity within the brain. This abnormal activity within the brain will usually create outward changes in the person experiencing a seizure. In general, seizures last a finite period of seconds to minutes, and then stop on their own.

Signs and symptoms:

- » Muscle spasms
- » Mental confusion
- » Loss of consciousness and/or uncontrolled or aimless body movements

Epilepsy Centers of Excellence Regional Map



Northwest Sites		
①	Madison	William S. Middleton Memorial VA (608) 256-1901 x17728
②	Minneapolis	Minneapolis VAMC (612) 467-2047
③	Portland	Portland VAMC (503) 220-8262 x58334
④	Seattle	Puget Sound HCS (206) 764-2021
*States Covered: Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.		
Southwest Sites		
⑤	Albuquerque	New Mexico VA HCS (505) 265-1711 x2752
⑥	Houston	Michael E. DeBakey VAMC (713) 794-8835
⑦	San Francisco	San Francisco VAMC (415) 379-5599
⑧	West Los Angeles	Greater Los Angeles HCS (310) 268-3595
⑨	San Antonio	Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital (210) 617-5300 x14372
*States Covered: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Philippines		

Northeast Sites		
⑩	Richmond	Central Virginia VA HCS (804) 675-5000 x2531
⑪	Baltimore	VA Maryland HCS (410) 605-7414
⑫	West Haven	VA Connecticut HCS (203) 932-5711 x4724
⑬	Boston	VA Boston HCS (857) 364-4750
*States Covered: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and District of Columbia		
Southeast Sites		
⑭	Durham	Durham VAMC (919) 416-5982
⑮	Miami	Miami VAHCS (305) 575-3192
⑯	Gainesville	Malcom Randall VAMC (352) 548-6058
⑰	Tampa	James A. Haley VAMC (813) 972-7633
*States Covered: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico		