

# Giving Valium rectally when your child has prolonged seizures.



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The medication called Valium is also known as Diazepam.

## Why is this medication given?

It is used to treat seizures that last longer than five minutes or come in clusters.

## The right dose for your child is:

Give \_\_\_\_\_ cc's of Valium.

## The right time to give this medication is:

- When your child has a seizure that lasts longer than five minutes.
- When your child has \_\_\_\_\_ or more seizures in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

## The right way to give this medication is:

### 1. Gather supplies:

- Ampoule of Valium
- Filter needle and a 3 cc syringe
- 3 to 4 inch length of feeding tube

### 2. Prepare the syringe:

- Check the expiry date on the ampoule of Valium. If the date on the vial has passed the medicine is too old and has expired. **Do not give it and call 911.**
- Attach the filter needle to the syringe. Leave the cover on the needle while you do this.
- Break open the ampoule of Valium. Use a paper towel or small cloth to protect your hands from the glass.
- Remove the needle cover.

- Put the needle into the ampoule and pull up on the plunger to withdraw \_\_\_\_\_ cc's of Valium and another 1cc of air.
- Put the cap back on the needle and take the needle off of the syringe.
- Attach the tube to the end of the syringe.
- Hold the syringe so that the tube is hanging down and gently push the plunger until the medication reaches the end of the tube. The air will be behind the medication.

### 3. Give the dose:

- Roll your child onto his or her side.
- Push the tube gently into the rectum \_\_\_\_\_ inches and hold in place by squeezing the bum cheeks together.
- Push the plunger down slowly while counting to ten. Make sure that the air goes into the tubing after the medication. This makes sure that all of the medication is given.

### 4. Keep your child on his or her side:

- Watch your child's breathing and colour for 20 minutes. If the child's skin turns grey or bluish, call 911. Be prepared to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if your child stops breathing.

**ALERT: Never give a second dose of Valium within 8 hours.**

## If the seizure does not stop:



Call 911. Tell the paramedic how much Valium you gave and the time you gave it.

- Stay with your child and keep her or him safe.
- Talk calmly to your child to reassure her or him.

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## Helpful hints:

- Store all supplies, including the Valium and this instruction sheet, together in a small bag.
- Carry your Valium kit with you at all times. Seizures can happen any where and at any time.
- Only people trained by a qualified health professional should give your child Valium. You can ask the clinic nurse or your family doctor to train other people who care for your child.
- Review these instructions and the expiry date on the Valium every 3-4 months. Some families find it helpful to mark the review dates on their calendar.



If you have any questions call your clinic nurse or family doctor:

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**It's good to ask!**

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