# First Aid for Seizures

### for Tonic Clonic Seizures

- **b** If necessary, ease the person to the floor.
- **b** Loosen any tight neck wear.
- *b* Protect the person's head and body from injury.
- *b* Do not restrain the person.
- **b** Do not insert anything between the teeth.
- If the person starts to bleed from the mouth, do not panic. S/he has probably bitten the tongue.
- Once relaxed, turn the person onto the side to ensure an open air passage and decrease risk of aspiration.
- After the seizure, let the person sleep if needed. Suggest that s/he see a physician.
- *b* If the person has a second seizure within a few minutes, call a doctor or ambulance.

#### for Absence Seizures

*b* No first aid is required. Reassure the person.

## for Simple Partial Seizures

**b** No first aid is required. Reassure the person.

## for Complex Partial Seizures

- **b** Do not restrain the person.
- Protect the person from injury by moving sharp or hot objects away.
- *b* If wandering occurs, stay with the person and talk quietly.
- Do not be frightened if the person appears to stop breathing for a few seconds. This is common.
- If child has a seizure, the parents or guardians should be notified.
- Check for medical or emergency identification.

If a seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, or repeats without full recovery **Seek Medical Assistance Immediately**.

Although this rarely occurs, *status epilepticus* is life-threatening. It is a serious medical emergency.



308 — 1 Promenade Circle Thornhill, Ontario L4J 4P8

905-764-5099 416-229-2291 800-463-1119

fax 905-764-1231

<info@epilepsyontario>

"http://epilepsyontario.org"