

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.

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.

Care Modalities

In-person
Clinic Visit



Electronic
Consultations



Telehealth
[EEG & Epilepsy]



Epilepsy
Monitoring
Units



Surgery & Device
Implantation



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.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Epilepsy Centers of Excellence

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

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

The VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence

The VA Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE) is a network of 179 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?

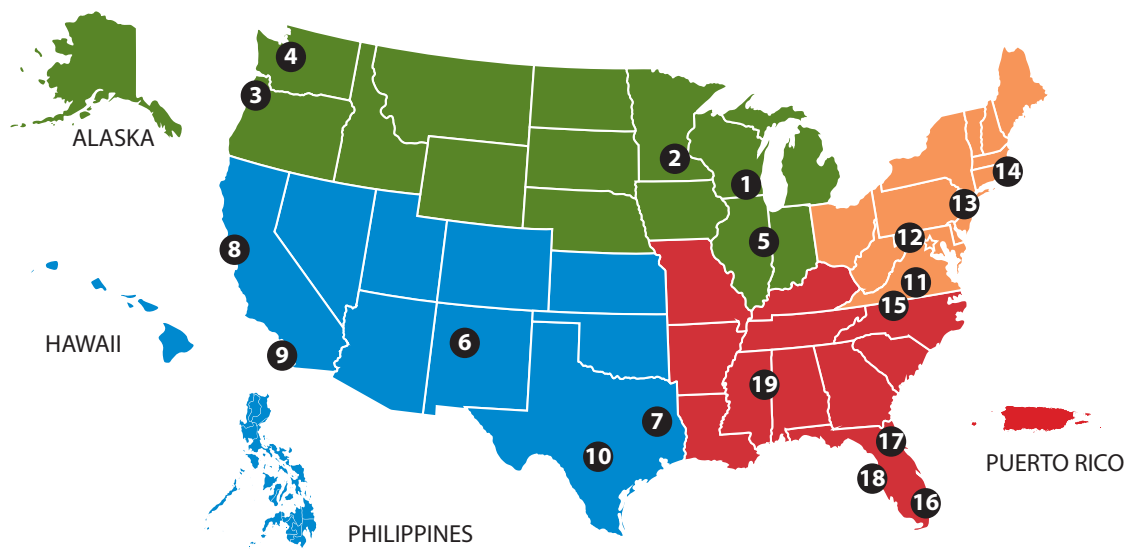
A seizure is a disturbance in the normal regulation pattern of electrical activity within the brain. This abnormal activity within the brain will usually create outward changes in the person experiencing a seizure. In general, seizures last a finite period of seconds to minutes, and then stop on their 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 x17044
2. Minneapolis	Minneapolis VAMC	(612) 467-2047
3. Portland	Portland VAMC	(503) 220-8262 x58345
4. Seattle	Puget Sound HCS	(206) 764-2021
5. Chicago	Jesse Brown VAMC	(312) 569-8387

*States covered: Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

Southwest Sites

6. Albuquerque	New Mexico VAMC	(505) 265-1711 x2752
7. Houston	Michael E. DeBakey VAMC	(713) 794-8835
8. San Francisco	San Francisco VAMC	(415) 379-5599
9. West Los Angeles	Greater Los Angeles HCS	(310) 268-3595
10. San Antonio	Audio L. Murphy VA Hospital	(210) 617-5300 x114375

*States covered: Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Hawaii, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Philippines, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah

Northeast Sites

11. Richmond	Central Virginia VAHCS	(804) 675-5000 x15127
12. Baltimore	VA Maryland HCS	(410) 605-7414
13. West Haven	VA Connecticut HCS	(203) 932-5711 x15056
14. 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

15. Durham	Durham VAMC	(919) 416-5982
16. Miami	Miami VAHCS	(305) 575-3192
17. Gainesville	Malcom Randall VAMC	(352) 548-6058
18. Tampa	James A. Haley VAMC	(813) 972-7633
19. Birmingham	VA Birmingham Health Care	(205) 933-8101

*States covered: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Puerto Rico



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