EPILEPSY

Diagnosis

Primary partial seizures

Start with phenytoin or carbamazepine or sodium valproate or valproic acid or phenobarbitone

Not tolerated or controlled?

Alternatives: Phenytoin or carbamazepine or sodium valproate or valproic acid or lamotrigine or topiramate or oxcarbazepine

Ongoing seizures?

Add second drug
Suggested combinations: Carbamazepine and sodium valproate or valproic acid, Phenytion and sodium valproate or valproic acid, Sodium valproate or valproic acid and lamotrigine, Anticonvulsant and topiramate

Uncontrolled seizures
Review for further management

Primary generalised seizures

Start with sodium valproate or valproic acid

Not tolerated or controlled?

Alternatives and/or addition:
For absent seizures: ethosuximide
For myoclonic seizures: clonazepam
For tonic-clonic seizures: carbamazepine or phenytoin or lamotrigine or topiramate or oxcarbazepine

Ongoing seizures?

Add second drug:
If taking sodium valproate or valproic acid for absent seizures add ethosuximide,
If taking sodium valproate or valproic acid for myoclonic seizures add clonazepam
If taking sodium valproate or valproic acid for tonic-clonic seizures add lamotrigine

Uncontrolled seizures
Review for further management

Disease identification card or disc recommended
Applicable ICD 10 Coding:

- G40 Epilepsy
  - G40.0 Localization-related (focal)(partial) idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with seizures of localized onset
  - G40.1 Localization-related (focal)(partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with simple partial seizures
  - G40.2 Localization-related (focal)(partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures
  - G40.3 Generalized idiopathic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes
  - G40.4 Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes
  - G40.5 Special epileptic syndromes
  - G40.6 Grand mal seizures, unspecified (with or without petit mal)
  - G40.7 Petit mal, unspecified, without grand mal seizures
  - G40.8 Other epilepsy
  - G40.9 Epilepsy, unspecified

- G41 Status epilepticus
  - G41.0 Grand mal status epilepticus
  - G41.1 Petit mal status epilepticus
  - G41.2 Complex partial status epilepticus
  - G41.8 Other status epilepticus
  - G41.9 Status epilepticus, unspecified

Note:

1. Medical management reasonably necessary for the delivery of treatment described in this algorithm is included within this benefit, subject to the application of managed health care interventions by the relevant medical scheme.

2. To the extent that a medical scheme applies managed health care interventions in respect of this benefit, for example clinical protocols for diagnostic procedures or medical management, such interventions must –
   a. not be inconsistent with this algorithm;
   b. be developed on the basis of evidence-based medicine, taking into account considerations of cost-effectiveness and affordability; and
   c. comply with all other applicable regulations made in terms of the Medical Schemes Act, 131 of 1998

3. This algorithm may not necessarily always be clinically appropriate for the treatment of children. If this is the case, alternative paediatric clinical management is included within this benefit if it is supported by evidence-based medicine, taking into account considerations of cost-effectiveness and affordability.