



What is Epilepsy?

Epilepsy (often called a “seizure disorder”) is a neurological condition that causes a person to have recurring seizures. A doctor may diagnose you with epilepsy if you have two or more seizures, it is likely you will have more seizures, and the seizure is not directly caused by another medical condition (such as diabetes or an infection).

Epilepsy is a spectrum disorder. The impact of epilepsy varies from person to person.

Epilepsy is not a disease, mental illness, or a sign of low intelligence. It is not contagious. Epilepsy is generally a chronic and/or lifelong condition.

What is a Seizure?

A seizure is a sudden surge of electrical activity in the brain. Seizures can alter awareness, physical movements, emotions, or actions and generally last a few seconds to a few minutes. Seizures can take on many different forms and affect people very differently.

There are many different types of seizures but they can be classified into two main categories: generalized and focal.

Generalized seizures mean that the entire brain is engaged in the seizure. The person may become unconscious or unresponsive. Generalized seizures may be convulsive or non convulsive. Types include tonic-clonic, absence, myoclonic, and atonic seizures.

Focal seizures involve only certain parts of the brain. The person may remain aware, be confused, have automatic muscle movements, and/or experience changes in taste, sight, smell, or feelings. These seizures are classified by whether or not there is a change in awareness.

Locations

Rochester

1650 South Ave, Ste 300
Rochester, NY 14620
p 585.442.4430

Binghamton

31 Adams Avenue, Ste 2
Endicott, NY 13760
p 607.340.2000

Syracuse

6493 Ridings Rd, Ste 115
Syracuse, NY 13206
p 315.477.9777

Contact Us

585.442.4430

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Epilepsy Programs & Services



FOUNDING MEMBER





Epilepsy Alliance of West Central New York, the epilepsy services division of Empowering People's Independence (EPI), is dedicated to supporting those impacted by epilepsy in local communities by confronting the spectrum of challenges created by seizures.

EPI serves more than 6,000 children and adults in 22 counties in Upstate New York.

For more than 40 years, we have been providing epilepsy services to our communities, including education, support, training, advocacy and tailored support to meet the physical, behavioral and social needs of each person we serve.

EPI is a founding member of the Epilepsy Alliance America, a new, national organization dedicated to providing support, care, and service to those with epilepsy.



Our Programs and Services



Camp Programs

We offer two annual sleepaway camps for kids and young adults with epilepsy. *Camp EAGR* is a week-long camp for kids age 8 to 17 with epilepsy and their siblings. *Camp COAST* is for young adults aged 18+ with epilepsy and other disabilities. The camps provide connections with peers and respite for parents. Both camps have on-site, 24-hour neurologist support.



Community Education

We host conferences, workshops, webinars, and more to teach people about epilepsy and how to help their friends and neighbors that are affected by seizures. We offer Spring and Fall educational weekends specifically designed for teens.



Individual/Family Consultation

We provide customized one-on-one support to anyone affected by epilepsy, based on the needs that are shared with our knowledgeable staff.



Information and Referrals

We provide information about epilepsy and connect people with other community resources and organizations which can provide additional support; including information about ketogenic diet, Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS), or Responsive Neurostimulation (RNS).



Legislative Advocacy

We can help you make sure your voice and your story are heard, by connecting you with your local legislators.



Service Access Assistance

We provide case management, arrange for respite care services, and can help you find a local neurologist or epileptologist.



Medication Assistance

We provide medication assistance for individuals and families who cannot afford their anti-seizure medications.



Networking/Social Events

We host networking groups and social events for people of all ages, providing opportunities for those impacted by epilepsy to meet others who are confronting similar challenges.



Residential Services

We provide a safe home for some individuals who are severely impacted by epilepsy and other coexisting conditions.



Seizure First Aid Training

We train school staff, including nurses, teachers, and support staff, and students of all ages how to recognize and respond to seizures. We also provide training for first responders and other community organizations.



Seizure Movement Monitor Assistance

We can help you decide if a movement monitor might detect your seizures and connect you with resources that may be able to provide a monitor for free.



Special Education Advocacy

We can teach you about the rights of children with epilepsy in school and assist with special education services like Seizure Action Plans, 504 Plans, and Individualized Education Plans.



Support Groups

We host a variety of support groups for children, teens, adults, and parents impacted by epilepsy. These include groups that meet locally, as well as online groups. We also offer program UPLIFT, which teaches stress management skills.



Telephone Support

Even if you are not sure what help you need, call us at (585) 442-4430 and we can talk through the programs, services, and community resources that might be right for you.

