

**Ambulatory Emergency Care Service
First Seizure Pathway**

First seizure in adults – assessing suitability for the AEC Service

For use when the likely diagnosis is a **first** seizure, not related to alcohol dependency.
For use **after** hypoglycaemia has been excluded.

History and Examination

- An episode of loss of consciousness with or without convulsive movement, with or without spontaneous recovery and no apparent trigger or cause
- Obtain and record a description of the episode from the patient
- Obtain and record an eyewitness account, if possible, with contact number
- Establish any history of previous episodes of loss of consciousness or altered behaviour
- Establish any history of:
 - early morning jerks
 - possible absence episodes
 - previous history of treated epilepsy

Look for evidence of vasovagal episodes, cardiac arrhythmias and hypoglycaemia

History suggests focal onset/focal neurological abnormality / history of malignancy / recent head injury?

Yes

No

- Investigations:**
- Urgent CT head
 - FBC, U+E, Glucose, Ca²⁺
 - ECG and CXR

- Investigations:**
- FBC, U+E, Glucose, Ca²⁺
 - ECG

Admit to AAU

Blood results abnormal?

Yes

No

No

Review by SpR or above. Happy for patient to be discharged?

Yes

- Immediate treatment :**
- None required for solitary seizure
 - Inappropriate use of diazepam may result in unnecessary admission if the seizure had already resolved spontaneously, and cause respiratory depression
 - Do not start anticonvulsant therapy without advice from neurology consultant
 - Discharge patient with appropriate advice (see below)

- Discharge Policy:**
- Advise patient to stop driving and inform the DVLA. Record on casualty card and in notes
 - Advise patient to return to A&E if a further episode occurs
 - Fill in First Fit referral proforma
 - Arrange **MRI** scan and **EEG**. Ensure requests are marked **FIRST FIT PATHWAY with AAU secretaries for urgent review of abnormal findings.**
 - Neurology clinic review with results and on-going plan

NB: Ambulatory Care Unit to complete all on-going referrals, where required, where initial referral will be classed as First Appointment.