

Referral Guidelines

Episodic Loss of Consciousness

Referring provider's initial evaluation and management can include:

- A thorough history and examination. As usual, this guides the remainder of the evaluation.
- Breath-holding spells, vasovagal syncope, orthostatic hypotension and hyperventilation syndrome should be considered in the differential.
- If breath-holding spells are high in the differential, laboratory studies including hematocrit, serum iron and serum ferritin may be considered.
- Seizures should be in the differential as an explanation for paroxysmal and episodic altered mental status. Typically, they would not be preceded by a prolonged prodrome and may be followed by a more prolonged period of confusion and disorientation. In that instance, a routine, sleep deprived EEG should be considered.
- Cardiac causes need to be considered in all patients with loss of consciousness. EKG to assess for prolonged QT interval should be performed in all patients. Cardiology consult should be obtained in all patients with loss of consciousness during exercise or in atypical cases.

When to initiate referral:

- When the episodes are recurrent and interfere with quality of life, referral to a neurologist is appropriate.
- If a thorough history and examination perhaps supplemented by laboratory studies fail to reveal a clear-cut etiology, it is appropriate to refer to a neurologist.

What records can referring provider send?

- Copies of all medical records pertaining to the incidents including ED reports and laboratory studies.
- Copies of imaging or EEG's previously obtained should be sent on optical media with the patient.

Children's Colorado's workup will likely include:

- Detailed medical history, family history, social history and a very detailed history of the events will be obtained.
- A general medical examination and neurologic examination will be performed. If seizures are in the differential and an EEG has not previously been obtained, that can be scheduled at the same time as the neurology consultation.
- EEG

Who to refer to:

- Patients with episodic loss of consciousness can be evaluated by any of our general pediatric neurologists.
- **Please call 720-777-6895 to make an appointment.**
- Our neurology staff practice throughout metro Denver and appointments are available at our St. Joseph's, Parker, Broomfield, Littleton and Wheat Ridge locations.

Want to provide information to your patients and families?

Tell them to visit childrenscolorado.org/Neuro

Contact the Neurology Department

A Children's Hospital Colorado Pediatric Neurologist is available at all times for consultation and can be reached through OneCall at 720-777-3999 or toll free at 800-525-4871 or by calling the Neurology department directly at 720-777-6895, option 2.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 720-777-6895.

Medical Records: Medical records needed for upcoming appointments in Neurology can be faxed to 720-777-7197.

