



Cut out these cards and stick them on to a piece of cardboard. On the reverse side of the English version **CLEARLY PRINT** your name and home address. On the reverse side of the French version **PRINT** your name, contact address and telephone number in Canada.

For use at home/Canada

## I HAVE EPILEPSY

If I am found unconscious this is not because I have been drinking or taking drugs but probably because I have just had an epileptic seizure.

### If I should have a seizure...

- Do not move me unless I am in danger.
- Leave a clear space around me, loosen my collar and put something under my head.
- Do not restrict my movements.
- Do not lift me up.
- Do not force anything between my teeth.
- It is not necessary to call an ambulance, the police or a doctor unless I do not recover consciousness in a few minutes.

For use in French speaking Canada

## JE SUIS ÉPILEPTIQUE.

Si on me trouve inconscient ce n'est pas parceque j'ai bu ou pris de la drogue, mais certainement parceque je viens de faire une crise d'épilepsie.

### Si je doit avoir une crise ...

- Ne me bougez pas sauf en cas de danger
- Laissez de l'espace autour de moi, dégrafer mon col et poser quelque chose sous ma tête.
- N'entraver pas mes mouvements
- ne me soulevez pas
- N'essayer pas d'enfoncer quelque chose entre mes dents ( dans ma bouche )
- Ce n'est pas la peine d'appeler une ambulance, la police ou un docteur, sauf si je nereprends pas connaissance d'ici quelques minutes

**If you are travelling with a child**, use the cards shown below and give them to the child to carry, carefully explain to him or her that if you do have a seizure and are surrounded by strangers the card should be shown to an adult. Make sure that both your name, address and the child's name and address are clearly written on the reverse side of the card.

## My parent has Epilepsy. Please do not panic. This is how you can help us

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Do.</b>  | <b>Do not:</b>                         |
| • Keep calm.                                      | • Panic.                               |
| • Provide gentle protection from obvious dangers. | • Try to stop the seizure.             |
| • Let the seizure run it's course.                | • Place anything in the mouth.         |
| • Telephone this number                           | • Send for an ambulance unless         |
| .....   | One seizure follows another.           |
| and tell the person who answers                   | The seizure lasts longer than 5-6      |
| what has happened.                                | minutes.                               |
|   | Consciousness is not regained after 10 |
|   | minutes or there is obvious injury.    |

For use at home/Canada

## Mon parent est épileptique. Ne paniquez pas. Voila comment vous pouvez nous aider.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>ce qu'il faut faire :</b>                 | <b>Ne pas faire :</b>                 |
| • rester calme                               | • Paniquer                            |
| • protéger de tous autres dangers extérieurs | • essayer d'arrêter la crise          |
| • Laisser la crise se calmée                 | • Mettre quelque chose dans la bouche |
| • Appelez ce numéro                          | • Ne pas appeler d'ambulance sauf si  |
| .....  | les crises se succèdent, la crise     |
| et dites à la personnes qui                  | dure plus de cinq ou six minutes, je  |
| réponds ce qui c'est passé                   | ne reprends pas connaissance          |
|  | après dix minutes, ou si vous voyez   |
|  | que je suis blessé.                   |

For use in French speaking Canada

## Some useful phrases to write down and take with you....

### **I have epilepsy.**

Je suis épileptique.

### **I take my medication once / twice / three or four times a day.**

Je prends mes médicaments une / deux / trois / quatre / fois par jour.

### **I take the following drugs for my epilepsy.**

Je prends les médicaments suivants pour mon épilepsie...

### **I don't usually lose consciousness during a seizure.**

Généralement je ne perds pas connaissance lors de mes crises.

### **I always lose consciousness during a seizure.**

Je perds toujours connaissance lors d'une crise.

### **My seizures usually last several minutes.**

Mes crises durent généralement plusieurs minutes.

### **After a seizure it takes me several minutes/ hours to become fully aware.**

Après une crises je mets plusieurs minutes / heures avant de reprenretotalement mes esprits.

### **Will you please take me to my hotel?**

Pouvez vous me condui à mon hôtel s'il vous plait ?

### **Will you please call a taxi?**

S'il vous plait pourriez vous m'appeler un taxi ?

### **Where is the nearest hospital?**

Pourriez vous m'indiquer l'hôpital le plus proche ?

### **Where is the nearest doctor's surgery?**

Pourriez vous m'indiquer le cabinet médical le plus proche ?



Take a supply of your medication with you to Canada. If you should unfortunately lose or mislay your tablets the following table may be useful to you. It is very important that you should know the generic (chemical name) of your drug.

The International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) is an organisation which promotes the interests of people with epilepsy throughout the world by offering non medical advice and by lobbying opinion to influential international bodies including governments. It is widely respected and has a powerful voice in the international field of epilepsy.

The member in Canada is:-

Epilepsy Canada  
National Executive Director,  
1470 Peel Street, Suite 745,  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1T1,  
Canada  
Tel (from UK): 00 1 514 845 7855  
Fax (from UK): 00 1 514 845 7866  
Email: crepin@epilepsy.ca

## Emergency Medical Treatment

Canada does not have any health care agreement with the UK and so to get even basic medical treatment you are very strongly advised to take out comprehensive medical insurance.

## Healthcare Insurance

To get even basic medical treatment you are very strongly advised to take out comprehensive medical insurance which carries a high level of cover as you may well find yourself paying large sums of money for what you would consider relatively minor treatment.

Different insurance companies offer different levels of cover at widely differing costs and restrictions. A good starting point is to get a quote from your local Post Office, by calling free on 0800 169 9999 or online at [www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk).

Generic (chemical) name	Brand name(s) in the UK
carbamazepine	Tegretol ®, Tegretol Retard ®
clobazam	Frisium ®
clonazepam	Rivotril ®
ethosuximide	Zarontin ®, Emeside ®
gabapentin	Neurontin ®
lamotrigine	Lamictal ®
levetiracetam	Keppra ®
phenobarbitone	Gardenal ®
phenytoin	Epanutin ®
primidone	Mysoline ®
valproate	Epilim ®, Epilim Chrono ®
vigabatrin	Sabril ®
tiagabine	Gabitril ®
topiramate	Topamax ®

## Taking Medicines into Canada

You should not have any problem taking your prescribed drugs into Canada but it is wise to take with you a letter from your doctor or Epilepsy Specialist Nurse giving details of your prescription just in case you are challenged through Customs.

## Time Difference

There is a significant time difference between UK and Canada ( GMT -3.5 to -8 hours ) and this can affect the effectiveness of your medication. Remember to take your tablets at the interval(s) you are used to.