

Title of Document	Vagus Nerve Stimulator
Name of Department	Clinical Team

What type of document is this?	Work Instruction (WI)	This is a simple guide to follow in order to complete a particular task	
Which Helping Hands policy/SOP does this WI relate to?	N/A	Index number of policy/SOP	N/A

Which Operational Priority/Priorities does this document link to?	Governance Framework	Superior Client Care	People, Performance & Culture	Business Growth

Custodian of document	Clinical Team	Committee/Group responsible for this document	Quality & Governance Committee
Approval date and committee chairperson signature	10.11.23	When is its next scheduled review?	10.11.26

Who does it apply to?	All staff at the facility / All staff working with clients					
	Does it apply to bank workers?	Yes	Does it apply to agency staff?	No	Does it apply to third party contractors?	No

Purpose of the Work Instruction	To ensure that all staff who work with customers have competency and knowledge to deal with a vagus nerve stimulator.
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Vagus Nerve Stimulator Work Instruction

1.0 Purpose



A Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS) is a device which can reduce the severity or frequency of epileptic seizures. VNS Therapy consists of a small device that is implanted under the skin in the chest and connected to the left vagus nerve in the neck with a thin wire lead.

A VNS has 3 modes:

- Normal mode which delivers stimulation at regular intervals all day every day to prevent seizures.
- Auto stim mode which detects a rapid rise in heart rate and delivers an extra dose of stimulation.
- Magnet mode which is an optional feature where the customer or carer can manually deliver an additional dose of stimulation on demand.

2.0 Process

- 2.1 Ensure that the magnet is always available for use, in and out of the home.
- 2.2 Follow the customer's Epilepsy Treatment Plan which gives guidance as to when the handheld magnet should be used in the to prevent or in the event of an epileptic seizure.
- 2.3 If used the magnet should be swept over the pulse generator site in a X shape across the upper left chest area.
- 2.4 Follows the advice on the Epilepsy Treatment Plan or dials 999 for an ambulance if the seizure does not stop.
- 2.5 Fully document the procedure in the carer activity notes and completes the 'ad hoc' activity schedule and reports each episode of seizure and if the magnet has been used to either the HVS branch staff or the LICM.

3.0 Training

Sign off training can be achieved by the carer completing the online Academy epilepsy and vagus nerve stimulator module followed by training from the Regional Clinical Lead using the epilepsy PowerPoint and assessment followed by a simulated observational competency.

Note – Equality Impact Assessments are not required for Work Instructions

What was the previous version number of this document?	Version 01	
Changes since previous version	Review of original version 01	
Author of the document	Clinical Team	
Who was involved in developing / reviewing/ amending this work instruction?	Clinical Nursing Team	
How confidential is this document?	Public	Can be shared freely within and outside of Helping Hands
Associated Documents	Training & Competency Form – Academy	