

# What is the Epilepsy Program?



**We are here to work with providers and clinics to ensure eligible Texas residents get comprehensive outpatient services to diagnose and treat epilepsy.**

In addition to diagnosis and treatment, comprehensive outpatient care can include:

- Management of ongoing care
- Integration of personal, social and vocational support services
- Education about the disease

## What is Epilepsy?

Epilepsy is a brain disorder that causes sudden brief attacks of altered consciousness, motor activity, or sensory phenomena, known as seizures. Epilepsy is generally diagnosed after two unprovoked seizures and can be caused by a genetic predisposition, developmental disorder, head trauma, brain tumor, stroke, or infection, though sometimes the cause is not known.

Epilepsy is found in men, women and children of all nationalities. For some people, seizures can be treated with medications, diet, devices, and/or surgery. In some cases, epilepsy requires lifelong treatment; for others the seizures stop on their own.

## Signs and Symptoms

Seizures are often diagnosed by the descriptions of others who observe the seizure. The movements, also called “motor symptoms,” of a person during a seizure vary and can include the following:

- rhythmical jerking
- muscles become weak or limp
- muscles become tense or rigid
- brief muscle twitching

Seizures can also be characterized by non-motor symptoms such as:

- staring spells
- changes in thinking or cognition

## How Can I Find Services?

You might be eligible for services if you’re a Texas resident and have been diagnosed with epilepsy or have seizure-like symptoms. For additional eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit [hhs.texas.gov/services/health/epilepsy-program](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/epilepsy-program).

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### Contact Us:

Our staff can help you find a contracted clinic and answer questions you have about applications and benefits.

**Texas Health and Human Services Commission**  
[hhs.texas.gov/services/health/epilepsy-program](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/epilepsy-program)  
800-222-3986, Ext. 4383769  
[Epilepsy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Epilepsy@hhs.texas.gov)

### Additional Resources:

**2-1-1 Texas**  
[211texas.org](https://211texas.org)

**Navigate Life Texas**  
[navigatelifetexas.org](https://navigatelifetexas.org)

**Epilepsy Foundation**  
[epilepsy.com](https://epilepsy.com)

**National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke**  
[ninds.nih.gov](https://ninds.nih.gov)

**U.S. National Library of Medicine**  
[medlineplus.gov/epilepsy.html](https://medlineplus.gov/epilepsy.html)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
[cdc.gov/epilepsy](https://cdc.gov/epilepsy)



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