

Vagal Nerve Stimulator (VNS)

- Delivers preprogrammed electrical impulses to the vagus nerve on an ongoing basis
- Usually implanted in upper left chest or under the arm
- Stimulates the vagus nerve, which transmits electrical impulses to critical brain areas involved in seizure generation or spread
- May be stimulated manually with the use of a magnet at the onset of a seizure or if the student has an aura
- At least 1 minute between swipes
- If held over VNS for six seconds it will shut off temporarily
- VNS may be shut off temporarily to avoid side effects (ie a change in voice or coughing during activities involving public speaking or singing)
- Most common side effects: mild hoarseness and slight tingling in the neck when activated, indigestion, insomnia and difficulty swallowing
- Magnet should be kept with the student at all times
- Keep magnet away from anything that is sensitive to magnetic fields (computers, cards with magnetic strips, etc)