Living with Epilepsy.

How Does Your Role as a Pharmacy Technician Affect Me?
Gary Anderson

• I have epilepsy
• Gifted with wonderful parents
• Happily married for 40 plus years
• Father of two, Grandfather of 2
1959

- Very little known about Epilepsy
- Every case is different and needs to be handled individually
When in school:

• Kids can be mean and many where mean to me, whether out of fear about my being different or just making fun of me because I was different.

• My parents knew there was something wrong with me, had been taking me to specialists but could not figure out what it was.

• In 1967 my shop teacher told my parents I had epilepsy.

• Once finally diagnosed, I was started on Phenobarbital as that was one of the only drugs available.

• Even obtaining my drivers license was a difficult situation for a 16 year old.
What do they think cause my condition

• High fever from the measles caused scar tissue on the brain
Seizure free?

• Completely off the medication for over 15 years
• It was thought I had outgrown the condition
• In my 30’s I suffered back to back Grand Mall seizures which caused me to be hospitalized.
• Started medication Dilantin, which seemed to work.
• Different types of seizures, I suffer from Grand Mall, Petit Mall and Complex Partial
Once seizures returned, restriction followed;

- Limitations at work
- Lost drivers license
- Unable to operate power tools
- Eventually let go from job
How this affects my life

• Struggle with short term, long term memory loss
• Depression
• Irritation
• Financial issues
• Health issues (coma)
• Limitations
Epilepsy today

• More information available
• More drugs to help control the seizures
• More technology (vagus nerve stimulator)
What is your role in serving me?

- Understand the importance of having my drug available when I need it
- Understand why I may be impatient or difficult
- Understand the types of seizures and be prepared to assist me if I have a seizure when waiting in line
- Understand how my health issues are such a huge barrier to my life and have patience with me
- Make sure your pharmacist does a drug review when I have other medications to review potential side effects
- When started on a new medication, notify me of the cost before processing, I might not be able to afford
Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.
The courage to change the things I can;
And the wisdom to know the difference.
thank you!
Questions ??????