

Chart 9. How to give diazepam rectally

■ Give diazepam rectally:

- ▶ Draw up the dose from an ampoule of diazepam into a tuberculin (1-ml) syringe. Base the dose on the weight of the child, when possible. Then remove the needle.
- ▶ Insert the syringe 4–5 cm into the rectum, and inject the diazepam solution.
- ▶ Hold the buttocks together for a few minutes.

Age (weight)	Diazepam given rectally 10 mg/2 ml solution
	Dose 0.1 ml/kg
2 weeks to 2 months (< 4 kg) ^a	0.3 ml
2–< 4 months (4–< 6 kg)	0.5 ml
4–< 12 months (6–< 10 kg)	1.0 ml
1–< 3 years (10–< 14 kg)	1.25 ml
3–< 5 years (14–19 kg)	1.5 ml

^a Use phenobarbital (200 mg/ml solution) at a dose of 20 mg/kg to control convulsions in infants < 2 weeks of age:

Weight 2 kg – initial dose, 0.2 ml; repeat 0.1 ml after 30 min	}	If convulsions
Weight 3 kg – initial dose, 0.3 ml; repeat 0.15 ml after 30 min	}	continue

If convulsions continue after 10 min, give a second dose of diazepam (or give diazepam IV at 0.05 ml/kg = 0.25 mg/kg if IV infusion is running).

Do not give more than two doses of diazepam.

If convulsions continue after another 10 min, suspect status epilepticus:

- ▶ Give phenobarbital IM or IV at 15 mg/kg over 15 min;
- or
- ▶ Phenytoin at 15–18 mg/kg IV (through a different line from diazepam) over 60 min. Ensure a very good IV line, as the drug is caustic and will cause local damage if it extravasates.

■ If high fever:

- ▶ Undress the child to reduce the fever.
- ▶ Do not give any oral medication until the convulsion has been controlled (danger of aspiration).
- ▶ After convulsions stop and child is able to take orally, give paracetamol or ibuprofen.

Warning: Always have a working bag and mask of appropriate size available in case the patient stops breathing, especially when diazepam is given.